



## West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Draft Minutes

10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Council Chambers, County Hall, Wakefield

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council (Chair)
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Mark Thompson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Barry Anderson	- 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	
	Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
	Erica Doran	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	John Robins QPM	- Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police
	Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
	Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
	Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council
	Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority

## 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jacqui Williams, Sophie Whittaker and Amanda Carter, and from Mayor Tracy Brabin. Councillor Barry Anderson of Leeds substituted for Cllr Carter.

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

2.1 The following corrections to the minutes, after which they were agreed as a correct record:

- At 5.16 the Calderdale Road Safety project is called Operation Hawmill

- At 6.6 the reference to West Yorkshire Casualty Partnership should read West Yorkshire Casualty **Reduction** Partnership.

There were no matters arising.

### **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 made.

### **5. Delivery Quarterly Report Q1**

5.1 The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) introduced the Q1 report, highlighting the following:

- Discussions had taken place around the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, in the light of rising numbers of orders. There is now an online option to make it easier for victims to request a disclosure.
- Mental Health training for police officers - an inspector in the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit is assessing the current approach to this, and progress has been made towards giving health partners access to suicide data from West Yorkshire Police.
- Current crime trends include a positive reduction in serious acquisitive crime, however other areas have seen an increase. High numbers of crimes such as harassment and violence without injury were evident from the statistics.
- Anti-social behaviour will be given a renewed focus going forward.
- Data from the Your Views survey was lacking in this quarter due to the pandemic restrictions, however a new survey was released on 1<sup>st</sup> September and the public are being urged to complete it.
- Missing persons case figures have improved since 2019 but continue to take up a substantial amount of resources.
- There is a continuing rise in positive outcomes for rape cases.
- Child sexual abuse and exploitation cases have increased this quarter – possibly as a result of delayed reporting due to lack of third-party access (such as schools) to report concerns during the pandemic.
- Domestic abuse continues to be a focus for the Force, and the Liaison and Diversion service continues its work diverting individuals away from crime and into health, social care or other support organisations.
- Hate crime – meetings have taken place with community groups to discuss their experiences.
- An increase in Victim Support referrals has been seen in this quarter, and victim satisfaction is showing an upward trend.

- 5.2 Discussion took place around figures on child sexual exploitation and what actions West Yorkshire Police (WYP) were taking to address the increase in reported crime. The DMPC responded that both she and the Mayor, has taken part in extensive safeguarding meetings with WYP and were reassured that all possible action was being taken to tackle child sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.
- 5.3 Panel's ability to monitor statistics for each outcome area was highlighted. An action tracker was suggested for each area to enable the Panel to understand what the Mayor is doing to tackle the issues and more accurately compare progress against targets. The DMPC agreed to look at providing a more user friendly version of the quarterly statistics, although a concern was raised that providing a new way of reporting would take officers time away from their normal duties. The Panel assured the CC that this was not what they wanted, and the DMPC said that she would consider how the request could be managed with the minimum diversion of duty for police officers.
- 5.4 The ability of Panel to compare statistics over the previous two years was highlighted as an issue, because of the very different contexts under which the police has operated over those years. In addition, Panel urged the Mayor and DMPC to work with the Police to continue to look for a solution to enable comparable reporting of crime across all Forces.
- 5.5 Because of difficulties with interpreting performance statistics, the DMPC stressed the importance of having multiple ways to test public satisfaction in addition to official statistics, for example anecdotal evidence from councillors, public surveys, and consultations.
- 5.6 A question was asked about the reasons for the low rape conviction figures. The DMPC replied that the reasons are complex and include lack of confidence in the criminal justice system, recent CPS reforms, police responses and failures across other agencies.
- 5.7 Assurances were sought regarding strategic linking and monitoring of areas such as drugs, speeding and anti-social behaviour, and also of child sexual abuse and sexual assault. Panel were assured that oversight and linking of these areas is closely monitored. The DMPC also updated Panel on progress towards securing better access to and influence over speeding and road safety decisions in West Yorkshire.
- 5.8 A question was asked around managing and sharing best practice across the county around managing missing persons. The DMPC assured Panel that this is happening, and that successful community projects are in place to support children who regularly go missing.

**5.9 RESOLVED**

- 5.9.1 Panel noted the report and welcomed the work being done to address issues highlighted by Q1 DQ figures.

**6. Covering Report and Annual Report – West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021**

- 6.1 The DMPC introduced the Annual Report for the Police and Crime Plan. Panel noted that the period of the annual report covers the activity under the previous PCC and before the Mayor and DMPC were in their current positions.
- 6.2 Panel congratulated the author and editor of the report for a well written and accessible document which clearly sets out each of the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan with a summary of the key actions that have been taken and provides examples of projects tackling the specific objective.
- 6.3 Overall, Panel felt that the draft Annual report was easy to read and fits alongside the Commissioner's outgoing Police and Crime Plan. Generally, it is quite easy to cross reference the aspirations in the Police and Crime Plan with what has been delivered during 2020/21 although there are some examples that do not clearly explain the difference they have made. The report also clearly demonstrates working in partnership to deliver against outcomes and priorities and provides further information of how the PCC and his office has worked to adapt and deliver against the plan during the COVID Pandemic
- 6.4 It was highlighted that there is no reference to the Dynamic Framework for the Probation Service, and also about work that might be being undertaken with local authorities on drug and alcohol services and that it would be helpful to include detail about the wider role of the Chair of the local Criminal Justice Board.
- 6.5 It was felt that the report focused on police statistics, and didn't make due reference to other actors in the criminal justice system, for example, the volume and throughput of CPS cases. It was suggested that more data could be published through this report, it being the only substantive public facing annual document which details crime figures, and that this data could be presented in a comparable and accessible format, such as in pie charts or graphs.
- 6.6 Panel also suggested that it might be helpful to include a piece on "what went well" and "what didn't go well" which might help the public further understand the implications of the report.
- 6.7 Panel and the DMPC agreed that the annual report was a fitting recognition and celebration of the work undertaken during the term of Mark Burns-Williamson.
- 6.8 The DMPC agreed to look at incorporating all of the points made by Panel members and to pass on their thanks to Neil Flenley for compiling the draft report.

## **6.9 RESOLVED**

6.9.1 Panel welcomed the report and the DMPC's commitment to take on board Panel's constructive comments.

## **7. Update on the development of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024**

- 7.1 The DMPC took the Panel through the progress towards the next Police and Crime Plan, drawing attention to the draft "plan on a page" which shows how the strategic

overview fits together; this will be revised after consultations with stakeholders. There are currently four draft priority areas, and three cross cutting themes, detailed in the report. There is an online public survey which was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> September to consult on the plan and this is being publicised through social media, radio and TV. Accessible versions have been provided and the Mayoral team are making great efforts to consult with groups and communities that have been hard to reach in the past.

- 7.2 Panel congratulated the DMPC on the dynamic and representative feel of the draft report, and asked how the Mayoral team were ensuring that all minority communities are getting their voices heard. Panel were assured that an Engagement Manager had been working through all contacts and agencies across WYCA and partner organisations to reach as many groups and communities as possible and examples of this were given. The team are utilising all knowledge bases to ensure wide access to the consultation, and asked Panel members to share the information widely within their own networks.
- 7.3 A question was asked about whether the Plan could include a greater emphasis on criminal justice collaboration and agency working. The DMPC agreed, and assured Panel that she and the Mayor are committed to the need to understand what services are being commissioned across West Yorkshire in order to fully understand efficiencies and improvements that can be made.
- 7.4 The DMPC was asked if the Plan could give more emphasis to addressing drug issues with a view to improving the strategy across services in West Yorkshire, given that a high proportion of crimes are committed to fuel drug addiction. The DMPC agreed that understanding and holding to account the organisations that are commissioned to run these services was critical.
- 7.5 A question was asked around the Mayor's intentions to support the safety of men and boys in the Plan, in addition to that of women and girls. The DMPC assured Panel that the Plan is for ALL victims, including men and boys. The focus on women and girls has been made a priority because of the amount of violence recorded against them, and in an attempt to change poor outcomes. Many projects and organisations work with male victims and these are supported fully by the team.
- 7.6 A question was asked about how sex working is addressed in the Plan, particularly since the closure of the managed area in Leeds. Panel heard that this area would be covered under Priority 4 of the Plan, due to the complex and multiple needs of the women involved.
- 7.7 As a point of note, the Chief Constable asked that the Panel and the public of WY understand that WYP also have guidance and priorities that they must adhere to from the Home Office and a number of other operational policing bodies, and these have to be managed alongside the Mayoral pledges and the Police and Crime Plan.
- 7.8 A question was asked about whether a communications and social media strategy would be included in the Plan. The DMPC replied that WYP communications is independent to the Police and Crime Plan, but that the Mayor's office does work closely with the Comms team, in a 'critical friend' type of partnership.

7.9 A request was made for the Plan consultation to reach out to traveller groups.

#### **7.10 RESOLVED**

**7.10.1** Panel noted progress on the report and agreed to share the consultation as widely as possible in their local areas.

#### **8. Briefing on the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and the implications for West Yorkshire**

8.1 Panel were updated on the progress of the Bill, and were referred to a report detailing the Mayor's views on the impact of the Bill on West Yorkshire.

8.2 Discussion took place around how the Bill affects both minority communities and the residents of West Yorkshire.

#### **8.3 RESOLVED**

**8.3.1** Panel noted the progress of the Bill, and the potential implications for West Yorkshire.

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

9.1 The DMPC updated Panel on a successful Roundtable event which had just taken place as part of a wider consultation on the Police and Crime Plan.

9.2 The DMPC also informed Panel about a recent meeting with the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse, in regards to the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The push for a three year settlement continues and whilst there was an indication that this might be achieved, there still remains uncertainty on this position. Assurances that additional funding for the upcoming NI rise will be incorporated into the settlement have also been sought.

9.3 Panel noted that police officers were the only emergency service to not receive a pay increase this year, and concern was raised regarding the financial impact of the upcoming rise in NI on morale and recruitment.

9.4 The DMPC informed Panel that her and the Mayor would be closely monitoring the progress of the national Funding Formula Review and any impact this might have on WYP funding, although there is still no confirmed timetable for this.

9.5 The DMPC updated the Panel on a recent successful funding bid and referenced a number of upcoming bid outcomes that were expected imminently.

#### **10. Published Key Decisions**

10.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions

**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. Panel Budget Outcome 2020/21 and Draft 2020/21 Budget**

13.1 The Panel Budget Outcome report was noted.

**14. 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 A question was asked about access to figures showing the current retention rate of police officers, to enable a full understanding of the net growth of police officers and staff. The DMPC replied that work is ongoing to get these figures and they should be available to the Panel at the next meeting.

18.2 A further question was asked about the current situation in Afghanistan, and what work was ongoing to keep women and girls safe in the UK and Europe. The DMPC assured Panel that counter terrorism work across Europe was ongoing, and that local businesses and communities are asked to report suspicious behaviour to the police.

18.3 The Chief Constable informed the Panel that a HMICFRS report was due before the next Panel meeting.

18.4 The two Independent Panel members have come to the end of their term of office. Panel thanked Roger Grasby and Jo Sykes for their enormous contribution to the Panel, and acknowledged the retirement of Roger Grasby, wishing him well for the future.

**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, 12th November 2021 in the Council Chamber, Wakefield County Hall.