



**REPORT FOR THE WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
COVER REPORT FOR THE WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
AND OUTCOMES PAPER**

KEY INFORMATION

Date: 16th July 2021

Subject: Cover report for the West Yorkshire Police Investigations
and Outcomes Paper

Report of: Tracy Brabin – Mayor of West Yorkshire

OVERVIEW

1.1 The enclosed report from West Yorkshire Police gives an update to the Police and Crime Panel on Investigations and Outcomes. The report is a follow on and update report to the paper the Panel received in November 2020 providing further information on the following areas:

- National Police Recorded Crime Outcome Framework
- West Yorkshire Police's current performance to recorded crime outcomes with specific reference to:
 - o Outcome 15 - A suspect had been identified, victim supports action but insufficient evidence to prosecute;
 - o Outcome 16 - A suspect has been identified but the victim declines to prosecute;
 - o Outcome 1 - Charged/summonsed.
- An update on the HMICFRS PEEL Inspections 2017 and 2019 in relation to the investigations pillar and the subsequent causes of concern and areas for

improvement.

- The forces response to the inspection reports in terms of the 'Victims Journey' review and 'Investigations review'.
- The use of out of court disposals and the overview and scrutiny approach.

1.2 Of note to the panel, I have asked West Yorkshire Police for further information on the outcome 15 and 16 performance in light of the recent HMICFRS Interim report (published 07/07/2021) into how effectively the police engage with women and girls and the following concern from the HMICFRS report:

"What is of particular concern with Violence Against Women and VAWG offences is the number of cases the police close as requiring no further action (NFA). This is most commonly due to:

- *the Home Office-defined outcome 15, where the victim wants to proceed but the police consider there is insufficient evidence to do so; or*
- *outcome 16, where the victim no longer wants to proceed with the case, resulting in there being insufficient evidence to proceed.*

In our earlier reports, we expressed concern about the number of reported domestic abuse crimes the police decide NFA. Recent figures show the police now decide not to continue to investigate three in every four domestic abuse crimes reported to them.

This will be the right decision in some cases – in some historic cases, for instance. But there is variation among forces in their use of outcomes 15 and 16, and many forces are unable to explain why these figures are so high.

In our Review of policing domestic abuse during the pandemic we asked all forces to take immediate action to review their use of outcome 15, outcome 16 and evidence-led prosecutions. This was to make sure that:

- *domestic abuse investigations guaranteed that all attempts to work with victims were explored and all lines of evidence considered, so that, in all cases, the best possible end results for victims were achieved;*
- *there was regular and effective supervision of investigations; and*
- *the use of outcomes 15 and 16 was appropriate, and the reasons for using either of them, including auditable evidence of working with victims, were clearly recorded.*

RECOMMENDATION

That the Panel:

- Note the report and provide any questions.