

## Item 8



**West  
Yorkshire  
Policing  
& Crime**

**Tracy  
Brabin  
Mayor of  
West Yorkshire**



**Alison Lowe  
Deputy Mayor for  
Policing & Crime**

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<b>Report to:</b>	Police and Crime Panelsafe
<b>Date:</b>	01 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>West Yorkshire Safety of Women and Girls Update</b>

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<b>Report of:</b>	Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire
<b>Author:</b>	Eran Sandhu, Policy Manager

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

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- 1.1 To provide an update on the delivery on the Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girl's Strategy.
- 1.2 To enable the Police and Crime Panel to provide feedback on the delivery from West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police.

## 2. Overview

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- 2.1 The Mayor made ten pledges as part of her election manifesto. One of the Mayor's pledges was to put women and girls at the heart of policing. This pledge was embodied with the publication of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 in March 2022.
- 2.2 The focus for the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy is to deliver long-term societal change to improve the lives of women and girls, and therefore for all people in West Yorkshire.
- 2.3 The Mayor has begun delivery against the four mayoral priorities, and cross cutting themes identified in the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.
- 2.4 The aims and objectives of the projects and campaigns referenced in this report include (but are not limited to): improving the perception and feeling of safety in the West Yorkshire region, increasing trust and confidence, especially for women and girls, generating a broader understanding and commitment across communities around the safety of women and girls and reducing sexual violence, harassment, and intimidation.
- 2.5 Mobilisation of the projects and interventions referenced in this report will continue

beyond the date of publication for this paper.

### **3. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

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- 3.1 The Mayor is aware of the intersectional issues that women and girls who, for example, have a disability, who are from Black African/Caribbean, Southeast Asian, Minority Ethnic, or who are LGBTQIA+ can face in being disproportionately targeted for violence and abuse.
- 3.2 Funding and projects delivered to support the safety of women and girls are assessed against EDI objectives, equality impact assessments, and are viewed with an EDI lens to ensure we are supporting the diverse communities we serve.
- 3.3. In February 2023 we successfully commissioned LimeCulture to undertake work to support scoping of the Safety of Men and Boys, including consulting on the priorities of the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan in relation to the safety of men and boys, and undertaking desk-based research that includes both national and local context. The full report can be accessed here: [Scoping to support the development of a Safety of Men and Boys Strategy for West Yorkshire](#).

### **4. Implications for young people in West Yorkshire**

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- 4.1 The delivery of the projects and interventions listed in this paper are not limited to a specific age group. Together, with the Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police, The Mayor has invested in young people to ensure we deliver on the safety of women, girls, and all positionalities across West Yorkshire. The strategic aims of the Strategy consider the implications for young people in West Yorkshire.

### **5. Financial Implications**

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- 5.1 There are no financial implications to be considered in this paper.
- 5.2 Please refer to the [Commissioning - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](#) for further information on the Mayor’s vision to commission safe, just, and inclusive community-based services and activities. It highlights our commitment to supporting our region’s Third Sector, to ensuring value for money, and to providing the highest quality services for our communities and those impacted by crime.

### **6. Legal Implications**

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- 6.1 There are no legal implications to be considered in this paper.

### **7. Supporting papers**

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- **Appendix 1** - West Yorkshire Safety of Women and Girls Update Paper
- **Appendix 2** - Violence Reduction Partnership Key VAWG Updates
- **Appendix 3** - [Policing and Crime Plan](#)
- **Appendix 4** - [Mayor of West Yorkshire’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#)
- **Appendix 5** - [Just Don't Campaign](#)

## 8. CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Appendix 1 - West Yorkshire Safety of Women and Girls Update

### 1. Purpose of the Report

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- To provide an update on the delivery on the Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girl's Strategy.
  - To enable the Police and Crime Panel to provide feedback on the delivery from West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police.
- 1.1. This strategy, following on the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24, outlines how the Mayor will work with stakeholders in West Yorkshire, as well as at a regional, national, and international level, to deliver change, seeking support from third sector, the private sector, local communities and most importantly, listening to the voices of women and girls, to improve the lives of people across our region.
- 1.2. Since the launch of the strategy, the Mayor has commissioned and, alongside stakeholders, delivered interventions, campaigns, and projects throughout the five districts to ensure the safety of women and girls is prioritised.

### 2. Overview

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- 2.1. The Mayor made ten pledges as part of her election manifesto. One of the Mayor's pledges was to put women and girls at the heart of policing. This pledge was embodied with the publication of the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 in March 2022.
- 2.2. The focus for the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy is to deliver long-term societal change to improve the lives of women and girls, and therefore for all people in West Yorkshire.
- 2.3. The Mayor has begun delivery against the four mayoral priorities, and cross cutting themes identified in the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.
- 2.4. The aims and objectives of the projects and campaigns referenced in this report include (but are not limited to) - improving the perception and feeling of safety in the West Yorkshire region, increasing trust and confidence, especially for women and girls, generating a broader understanding and commitment across communities around the safety of women and girls and reducing sexual violence, harassment, and intimidation.
- 2.5. Mobilisation of the projects and interventions referenced in this report will continue beyond the date of publication for this paper. The Mayor will also continue to review a series of indicators, from the Police and Crime Plan, that will be used to measure performance. Including, and not limited to:
- Increase positive outcomes for victims of domestic and sexual abuse and violence
  - Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse
  - Increase the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Domestic Violence Protection Notices
  - Increase the use of Stalking Prevention Orders
  - Increase the % of female officers.

- 2.6. The sustainability of governance and management of the interventions and projects listed in this report are reviewed through various steering groups, partnership boards and thematic district Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Groups. The delivery of these projects will also be reviewed through quarterly monitoring returns.
- 2.7. In February 2023 we successfully commissioned LimeCulture to undertake work to support scoping of the Safety of Men and Boys, including consulting on the priorities of the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan in relation to the safety of men and boys, and undertaking desk-based research that includes both national and local context. The full report can be accessed here: [Scoping to support the development of a Safety of Men and Boys Strategy for West Yorkshire.](#)
- 2.8. Since publication in April 2023, progress has been made in several areas, including:
  - Consultation with key partners to get initial feedback on the content and conclusions of the report, including any concerns raised.
  - Embedding key considerations for men and boys into Commissioning work.
  - Including a focus on men and boys, as well as women and girls, in the most recent grant round of the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund. This has resulted in grants for work specifically to support men and boys.

### **3. Key VAWG Delivery Updates (2023 - 2024)**

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- 3.1. The sustainability of governance and management of the interventions and projects listed in this report are reviewed through various steering groups partnership boards and thematic district VAWG Groups. The delivery of projects will also be reviewed through quarterly monitoring returns.

#### **New Mayor’s Women and Girl’s Safety Unit**

- 3.2. **Timeline**
- 3.3. In December 2021 West Yorkshire Police (WYP) launched the strategy for the new national project to tackle VAWG. As one of the Forces who collaborated nationally on the strategy, WYP was identified as an exemplar Force and started a healthy programme of activities under the three pillars to improve trust and confidence, improve outcomes and create safer spaces.
- 3.4. In November 2022, the Mayor launched The Mayor of West Yorkshire’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy. The Strategy was co-produced with partners and stakeholders across West Yorkshire. The Mayor will continue to work with the police, partner agencies, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and victims and survivors to ensure we deliver for those who are most vulnerable, putting them at the heart of our response. Mayoral priorities include education and prevention, behaviour change, safe spaces and supporting the sector.
- 3.5. In April 2023, WYP joined the national programme of Operation Soteria Bluestone (Op Soteria), to embed the national operation model (NOM) to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape cases.
- 3.6. In May 2023, VAWG was added to the national Strategic Risk Assessment (STRA), highlighting VAWG as one of the six other national threats along with counter terrorism and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

**3.7. Establishment of the Unit**

- 3.8. We recognised the duty to collaborate, noting that VAWG remains a prominent strategic issue nationally. To combat VAWG, we wanted to combine our resources and ensure strategic delivery could make a difference to all in West Yorkshire and beyond. The purpose of this Unit is to establish a dedicated team to support the Mayoral pledge support women and girls, and all communities of West Yorkshire. The group will also build on the collaboration of Police and staff from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA).
- 3.9. The unit will be formed by a collaboration between the Mayor’s Policing and Crime Team and Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) and WYP to deliver the Mayor’s pledge for the safety of women and girls (and strategic actions in the Mayor’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy), including improving performance against the metrics in the Police and Crime Plan, and to support the delivery of the Strategic Policing Requirement relating to VAWG.
- The additional resource will provide the structure to support, embed and report on the performance of West Yorkshire Police against the Operation Soteria national operating model (to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape cases).
  - The Mayor’s responsibilities to hold the Chief Constable to account, to reduce serious violence, to convene partners and engage with and inform communities will be supported through the collaboration.
  - We will deliver actions lead by the Strategic Lead of West Yorkshire Police, and the Policy Manager in Policing and Crime, leading the workstream for the safety of women and girls to improve outcomes for victims and confidence in policing.
  - It is proposed that this new unit will be a pilot for 12 months, starting as soon as possible with evaluation at 6 months and 12 months. These evaluation phases will allow us to determine the progress against the strategic actions set out in the Mayor’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy. We will seek to review the delivery, in conjunction with metrics determined in the Police and Crime Plan.
- 3.10. The Policy Manager and Assistant will continue to elevate the work of the Mayor’s Unit nationally as good practice, through national networks, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), and providers and via the APCC, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC), and locally for community reassurance.
- 3.11. The sustainability of governance and management of the Unit will be reviewed through a nominated unit meeting. Feedback from this meeting will be shared with various steering groups, partnership boards and thematic district VAWG Groups to ensure a ‘joined up’ approach. The delivery of these projects will also be reviewed through quarterly monitoring returns.
- 3.12. The projects ongoing in districts and departments across West Yorkshire will represent the wider Safety of Women and Girls Policy outcomes.
- 3.13. In addition to current internal and external engagement through communities of West Yorkshire, partners, CSPs and the force Independent Advisory Group (IAG), the methodology will deliver actions lead by the Strategic Lead of West Yorkshire Police, and the Policy Manager in Policing and Crime, leading the workstream for the safety of women and girls to improving outcomes for victims and confidence in policing.

3.14. **#Justdont Campaign**

- 3.15. In an increasingly challenging world for younger people, where online presence is just as relevant as the real world, we understand that gaps have been identified around specific targeting of male behaviours, and we want to be teaching, challenging, and encouraging individuals to speak out and recognise when certain behaviours are not acceptable.
- 3.16. To empower and encourage progressive views and healthy attitudes towards women and girls, we wanted to provoke peer to peer conversations amongst men of all ages, which will begin to create shifts in societal behaviour.
- 3.17. The value that behavioural change programmes and initiatives have is powerful. The Mayor wanted to make a difference working across West Yorkshire to ensure women and girls are no longer harassed and abused online, in person, at home or in their work environment.
- 3.18. We commissioned Storycatchers, to create a video campaign to generate male behaviour change within the Safety of Women and Girls agenda through engaging with men and boys in West Yorkshire. This was to support delivery under the theme of behaviour change, and delivery of the Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.
- 3.19. The focus of the content was to influence young men and boys aged between 14 and 21, with the ambition of reaching a wider audience. The video would bring attention to, and positively impact on, inappropriate male behaviour towards women and girls in public and in digital spaces. We wanted to use this video on multiple platforms and channels, highlighting behavioural change themes.
- 3.20. Following this, creative proposals were submitted for consideration, and research was conducted with the target audience. This testing was used to support the decision on which proposal to select and to drive the campaign to ensure it was evidence led.
- 3.21. We tested key words, comments, tones, and the messaging of the campaign to encourage interactive engagement following the launch of the video.
- 3.22. The research identified several key points, including:
- We need men to be talking to men, and that is why the focus of the video is on men.
  - Men didn't appreciate or weren't aware of the scale of the problem, so awareness raising of that point specifically became an important aim.
  - Men can disassociate themselves from depictions of more serious behaviours and can have a "that isn't me" type reaction.
  - The cast of the video is late teens to early 20s as younger males view older males as role models. However, as we have noted, the content resonates with all audiences from all backgrounds.
- 3.23. To support the development of the campaign, we reported the 86% of women aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed. This data was from Prevalence and reporting of sexual harassment in UK public spaces - A Report by the APPG for UN Women. 'Public space' was defined in UN Women UK's 2021 YouGov survey as any of the following: Public transport (buses, trains, etc.), hospitality venues (pubs, clubs, bars, etc.), public events (concerts, sports games, festivals, etc.), streets, parks, commons and other public recreational spaces and online spaces

(e.g. social media).

- 3.24. To align to the strategy, the Mayor ensured that the campaign had a West Yorkshire angle and represented different communities in the county through the reflection of different demographics and colloquial language.
- 3.25. Filming for this campaign took place in various locations across West Yorkshire, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023. The concept was then edited and launched in person at Leeds City College on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, with the support of all partners across West Yorkshire. Local organisations have supported the #Justdont campaign, including sporting clubs Leeds United, Huddersfield FC, and Leeds Rhinos.
- 3.26. **Campaign Video:**  
<https://youtu.be/EN6fHDQ6IZQ>
- 3.27. **Behind the Scenes Video:**  
[The Making of the #JustDont Campaign \(youtube.com\)](#)
- 3.28. **Campaign Launch:**  
[#JustDont Campaign Launch Event in Leeds \(youtube.com\)](#)
- 3.29. **Allyship from Men and Boys sports teams:**
  - [Leeds United support campaign against sexual harassment - Leeds United](#)
  - [CLUB SUPPORT #JUSTDONT CAMPAIGN FIGHTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - News - Huddersfield Town \(htafc.com\)](#)
  - [#JustDont Launch Event - Leeds Rhinos reaction to the campaign \(youtube.com\)](#)

## Organic performance Main campaign video

**@MayorOfWY**

September 19th- 4th December 2023



1.2M views  
85.5K likes  
8535 Saves  
1828 comments



1.1M views  
15.1K shares  
198.5K likes  
1734 comments



315.1K views  
781 reshares  
1.1K likes  
204 comments



878K views  
4.4K reshares  
6.3K likes  
410 comments



13K views  
336 reshares  
561 likes  
64 comments

Total organic video views: 3.56 Million

### **3.30. National Day of Memory - Karma Nirvana**

- 3.31. The Mayor attended the Day of Memory conference on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. The conference marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Karma Nirvana, and was a powerful and inspiring event that brought together survivors, activists, and advocates from around the UK to reflect on the past and look to the future.
- 3.32. It was an opportunity to honour the legacy of those affected by Honour Based Abuse and to renew our drive to continue the hard work to challenge Honour Based Abuse in our own lives. The event was attended by the Mayor, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and other national figures to support the Safety of Women and Girls.



3.33. The national honour-based abuse helpline receives an average of around 2,500 cases every year, and to support this helpline, the Mayor has provided £71,453.16 (2022-2025) to the service.

3.34. **Tackling VAWG in Public Spaces**

3.35. The Mayor will continue to work with WYP to pursue perpetrators to ensure public, private and digital spaces are safe. The Mayor's Strategy also addresses how we need to be influencing at national, regional, and local level to ensure the women and girls' sector, across statutory, non-statutory and voluntary groups have the resources, skills, and reassurance they need to deliver services.

3.36. On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor of London for Policing and Crime, hosted a 'Tackling VAWG in Public Spaces' good practise event. This was attended by the Strategic Lead for VAWG from West Yorkshire Police. Colleagues were asked to present their good practise on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), and the use of these for street-based harassment in Bradford.

3.37. This intervention utilised a variety of tactics including uniformed for reassurance and engagement, and plain clothes officers to witness behaviours such as harassment, and obtain wider intelligence picture of what is happening - all of which was supported by marked vehicles to deal with any offences captured.

3.38. As a result of this intervention, 29 breaches for PSPOs have been identified, nineteen of these were in relation to inappropriate behaviour towards women and girls.

**3.39. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) awareness event**

3.40. We are aware that violence, abuse, and harassment violations are deep-rooted in gender inequality, as are subconscious biases which have developed over generations of negative cultural attitudes towards women and girls. Despite the encouraging shift in societal conversations, challenging these behaviours and attitudes can remain problematic in communities and must remain a priority.

3.41. To support communities, colleagues attended the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – an awareness event hosted by partners and at Bradford City Hall. At this event, Policy staff from the Policing and Crime Team spoke on the expert panel about this issue, highlighting the need to raise awareness through education, health and continue partnership working. attendees also had the opportunity to sign Bradford District's zero tolerance pledge towards FGM.

**3.42 Active Bystander Training – 'Stand Up to Harassment'**

3.43 It was recommended in consultation for the Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy that 'more emphasis needs to be put on private/public organisations to champion the VAWG Strategy in the workplace'. The Mayor committed to delivering focused training to support the sector.

3.44. Using the Mayor's voice with businesses, we want to influence employers to understand what they can do to support women's safety and support industries to be more gender inclusive. For this reason, the Mayor hosted 'Stand Up to Harassment' training, delivered by the Suzy Lampard Trust and L'Oréal. This training was delivered for WYCA employees during national Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

3.45. The training helped to drive awareness of harassment, as well as upskilling and empowering bystanders in settings such as public transport, educational institutions, festivals, public spaces, and workplaces, to help defuse situations, discourage harassers, and support victims. It enables those who witness street harassment to feel confident to intervene and provide support to those being harassed.

### **3.46. Bus Safety Tool**

3.47. The Mayor has put keeping women and girls safe at the heart of her Police and Crime Plan and the Bus Safety Feedback Tool, available on the MCard app and website, allows passengers to tell us what types of things are making them feel unsafe and where and when that is happening.

3.48. The Combined Authority uses the data to work with the police and our bus network partners to make improvements.

3.49. Many women and girls feel unsafe when travelling alone, which is why we urge them to report any instances where we could do more to help them feel safer. Although most bus journeys are completed safely, it doesn't mean people feel entirely safe while waiting or making their journey. The feedback tool is aimed at ensuring that public transport networks are safer, inclusive, and welcoming.

3.50. The tool seeks to encourage passengers to report their experiences on the region's bus network, whilst maintaining the social momentum of supporting the safety of all on public transport. The Combined Authority will launch a new campaign to support this tool.

3.51. The feedback will help understand where things are going well and pinpoint any areas where we can make improvements. The current data shows that about 70% have claimed they feel quite safe/very safe but of those stating they feel unsafe, most respondents were female.

3.52. The use of the tool can ensure the Combined Authority can work with the police and our bus network partners to make improvements. The tool's location dropper allows the PCSO's to be proactive and pinpoint areas where more feelings of unsafeness are reported- using resources effectively and efficiently.

3.53. Department of Transport provided the following recommendations to support in making transport networks safer for women and girls:

- Improvements in the collection of gender disaggregated data - offences reporting for decision making.
- Undertake research to understand how gender impacts people's experience of transport.
- Improve data available to inform policy decisions.
- Appropriate surveys conducted by DfT to include questions on personal safety.
- Better understanding of the issues and potential solutions required for the police.

*The bus safety tool achieves this DfT aim, as it aims to collect gender disaggregated data, to understand how women may be adversely impacted on public transport. This improved data collection can inform decisions of where PCSO's are best to be allocated.*

- 3.54. The bus safety tool will be presented to the Department of Transport on 22 February 2024, by the Policy Manager, and Lead Policy and Performance Manager with colleagues in Research and Intelligence, and Transport.
- 3.55. **Supporting the Sector**
- 3.56. The new Mayor's Women and Girl's Safety Unit will use the existing Fair Work Charter, as referenced in the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy, as leverage for businesses, to promote and recognise the positive impact of fair work on businesses and their people.
- 3.57. The new Unit will share headlines of delivery, that would be applicable for businesses to be sighted of, for example new and existing campaigns, training, or events.
- 3.58. The Unit will present a knowledge share session with West Yorkshire Business Board. This meeting will seek to inform business of the Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy, and to influence employers to understand what they can do to support women's safety, support industries to be more gender inclusive, and help the Unit deliver interventions.
- 3.59. **Safety of Women and Girls and Mass Transit**
- 3.60. West Yorkshire's Mass transit vision identifies that it must be designed to be safe and secure. Ensuring the safety of all users will be at the heart of how Mass Transit is designed and operated. There will be particular consideration of the safety of women and girls through the design. Vehicles and stops will be monitored by CCTV, will be well lit and designed to be welcoming for all. This is a positive step to influence how the safety of women and girls is broader than policing and crime, and how colleagues across the Combined Authority, and partnerships will ensure systems are designed to be safe, just and inclusive for all.
- 3.61. **West Yorkshire Police Strategic VAWG updates**
- 3.62. Violence Against Women and Girls is now very much a concept that touches all areas of policing from the first call that is reported to the Police, through the "victim's journey" to an outcome, as well as strategically with planning policy, working collaboratively with partners in the community on numerous projects and ensuring women and girls are safe and feel safe. VAWG is now embedded as a business as usual with planning of public events such as Leeds Festival and Chapeltown Carnival.
- 3.63. As an exemplar force, to be pathfinders in innovation and accelerate the embedding of the VAWG Framework, West Yorkshire Police continue to lead in many new trailblazing initiatives.
- 3.64. When calling the Police for a VAWG-related matter, the victim may be offered to have a preference of gender of attending officer which will be supported once a risk assessment has been carried out.
- 3.65. Using powers to innovatively tackle VAWG-related public order offences not only ensures positive outcomes for all but is helping to change culture. In addition to the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) previously highlighted, VAWG has been used to issue a football banning order, which was a first national example for VAWG-related sexual harassment. In another case, a CBO (Criminal Behaviour Order) was added to a sentence for a perpetrator who was sexually harassing women in a bus station, ensuring further prohibitions and restrictions to his movement and behaviours for five years.
- 3.66. These small, but nevertheless, important innovative ways of using current

legislation, means that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims can have confidence and satisfaction in the Police.

- 3.67. Working with partners is a priority and as well as the connection to local support groups, we are also working closely with Karma Nirvana who have just delivered training to officers. We are also supporting the WalkSafe APP, helping in its development to help make women and girls be safe when out in West Yorkshire towns and cities whether it be for work, social, health or any other reason.
- 3.68. Op Soteria Bluestone (Op Soteria) is now supported in WYP with a team of subject matter experts for each of the pillars:
- 3.69. **Pillars:**
- Suspects
  - Repeat offenders
  - Victims
  - Learning, development, and wellbeing
  - Data and performance
  - Digital forensics
- 3.70. Throughout 2024 the team will be working to introduce a National Operating Model (NOM). Over the last few months of 2023, the team worked together on a Force self-assessment set by the national team involving answering strategic questions in the 6 pillar areas as well as a deep dive case review of 45 rape investigations.
- 3.71. There is some promising practice having invested further resources into Safeguarding teams, reduced workloads and a process to minimise impact on victims when downloading evidence from phones. However, there is still lots of work to improve how and when we update victims, better supervision of investigations and earlier engagement with the Crown Prosecution Service.
- 3.72. The results have been shared with the Chief Officer Team and the DMPC. The next quarter will involve the team reviewing the results to create an action plan and designing an implementation plan for the NOM.
- 3.73. **Operation Soteria Symposium**
- 3.74. To support this work, WYP hosted a symposium in February to bring together police officers and staff, statutory and non-statutory partners, and most importantly, victims and survivors with lived experience. Various workshops will also be run to ensure voices are listened to in helping review and design future policy and processes.
- 3.75. **Walk & Talk**
- 3.76. Another VAWG project launched in January 2024, is Walk and Talk. A simple, but needed initiative, started in the Metropolitan Police, female members of the public can request to have a walk with a uniformed officer and have a meaningful conversation around what makes them feel unsafe as a woman within their local area. This was devised to boost trust and confidence in policing and enhance the policing response under pillar 3 of the national policing VAWG strategy of creating safer spaces. It is now being adopted by several forces following the Metropolitan Police having conducted over 1,000 walks/interactions with women in their force area, and the scheme being recognised nationally at VAWG related good practice.
- 3.77. The pilot will focus on two suburban areas of Leeds: 1. Farsley/Pudsey, and 2.

Headingley/Hyde Park/Woodhouse.

- 3.78. The intention is that this will shine a light on the suburban areas of West Yorkshire in addition to the excellent work by all services that focusses quite significantly on city and town centres. It is hoped that this can tease out issues that cause women to feel unsafe perhaps during their commute to/from transport hubs, during time spent on town streets at commercial premises, and whilst exercising in public spaces. It is hoped that these two geographical areas will together encompass large groups of society and include many under-represented groups.
- 3.79. There will be an evaluation of the pilot to share learning before launching Force-wide later in 2024.
- 3.80. **Cut it out Campaign**
- 3.81. The 'Cut it Out Campaign' is used as an innovative way to build an alliance with the private sector and WYP, and partners, promoting the Safety of Women and Girls in salons.
- 3.82. The #CutItOut brand originated in Norwich, Norfolk, following a tragic murder. In 2017, weeks after confiding in her hairdresser Annie Reilly, Kerri McAuley was killed by an abusive partner. As a result of this, the campaign, which has since seen success in Rochdale too, was developed.
- 3.83. We want to expand this campaign across the five districts in all communities, to maximise impact and ensure it is consistent across the districts. Currently, colleagues from WYP in the Women and Girl's Safety Unit are mapping with Chief Inspectors. The Women and Girl's Safety Unit will be planning how to raise awareness of this campaign with beauty salons, hairdressers to spot the signs of abuse, and report when information has been shared.
- 3.84. **#Jog on Campaign**
- 3.85. Harassment of women and girls whilst running has been identified as a national issue and concern. Below is a link to a survey by Runner's World, which highlighted from its survey that 60% of female runners had experienced harassment, particularly from men in cars.  
<https://www.runnersworld.com/uk/training/a36278390/reclaim-the-run/>
- 3.86. Following this report, the College of Policing commissioned Dr Miles of Manchester University with undertaking research into this issue. Whilst not published yet, WYP have obtained an initial draft of this paper. They have since engaged with a number of park runs and running clubs in Bradford District and have identified that the experiences and concerns nationally are most definitely felt in Bradford. This engagement has gone down well with the running community as they feel isolated and did not want to bother the Police with their issues and concerns.
- 3.87. A number of female runners have identified concerns around feeling unsafe and not wanting to run after dark. They have provided hotspot locations where issues are more prevalent. A number of individuals we spoke with were more than willing to talk about their issues with WYP when they had been subject to harassment, derogatory comments up to and including assaults.
- 3.88. Male runners also provided examples of harassment they had experienced and were appalled by what they had witnessed and fully understood why females feel scared. There was clear misunderstanding and generally these behaviours had become the accepted norm and not something they felt the Police would either be interested in or be able to take any action in relation to.

3.89. In Bradford we are in a unique position that we already have a Public Space Protection Order which prohibits: “Shouting or swearing at, or abusing, threatening or otherwise intimidating (including by the use of sexual language or making sexual suggestions) to another person”.

3.90. Therefore, utilising this, WYP have developed a four-phase approach to tackle the issues:

1. Enforcement
2. Engagement
3. Education
4. Environment.

### 3.91. **VAWG Week of Action**

3.92. March will see the bi-annual VAWG Week of Action – a week of even more additional focus on VAWG-related activity in Districts and departments working with partners on learning, development, increased arrests and many other exciting local projects. This will be between 4-10<sup>th</sup> March 2024, coinciding with International Women’s Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### 3.93. **Safer Travel Team**

3.94. Safer Travel provision for the bus network has been in operation since 2011 and comprised of five Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). It was formed with the objective of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour on the bus travel network and within associated bus interchange infrastructure across West Yorkshire.

3.95. WYCA allocated a total budget spend of £1,572,500 to fund a 3-year Safer Transport Team that includes a dedicated Sergeant and ten PCSO’s in addition to the original five. There are currently thirteen PCSO’s in post with the remaining two due to start at district in March 2024 after completion of their initial training.

3.96. Three PCSO’s will then be aligned to a Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) at each district to be deployed solely in bus transport hubs and/or on buses focusing on preventing crime, ASB, serious youth violence, knife crime and VAWG. WYP have improved visibility and engagement, continue to increase trust and confidence of members of the public using the bus network.

## **4. Violence Reduction Partnership Key VAWG updates**

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4.1. The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) brings together organisations across local communities to tackle the underlying causes that contribute to serious violent crime. The remit of the VRP explicitly includes the safety of women and girls; the definition of serious violence it works to states:

4.2. “Violence and serious violence include specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.”

4.3. The recent West Yorkshire Response Strategy Refresh 2024 notes that:

4.4. “The specific crime types included in West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, organised crime, sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse. The definition will focus on geographic areas of criminality and specific groups where serious violence, or its threat or

impact, is evident; this is children, young adults, women and girls, public places, the nighttime economy, gangs, and organised crime groups.”

4.5. Accordingly, the VRP deliver a range of interventions on VAWG, across the areas of:

- Education and Prevention
- Behaviour Change
- Supporting the Sector
- Safe Spaces

4.6. Much of the current delivery (regardless of the funding stream) is being driven by the VRP and strategic Serious Violence duty holders at the place level, such as CSPs in conjunction with VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) organisations. This demonstrates the VRP’s partnership approach, focusing on early intervention and prevention. It also highlights how this area continues to be a key priority across the system.

4.7. More detail on recent delivery is included in Appendix 2.

## 5. CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Appendix 2

### Interventions that focus on or feature responding to VAWG:

- Education and Prevention
- Behaviour Change
- Supporting the Sector
- Safe Spaces

### Funded through the VRP Core Funding (whole or part)

Project Title and Delivery Partner	Description	Where	No. of YP in 2023-24
Reducing young women offending and violence against women – Getaway Girls	A lead worker who will focus on direct support for young women at risk of offending through individual support and group work programmes and a support worker who will co work with the groups , in addition there will be a volunteer/peer educator who has completed the leadership programme	Leeds District (Gipton & Harehills, Killingbeck & Seacroft)	22
Street Safe-wrap around support at street level – The Youth Association	This project has 4 key elements, street based (1)workshops on topics such as toxic masculinity drugs awareness knife crime alongside the Us Girls and Future Man sessions as a way of tackling violence against women and girls , (2)creative media, (3) recreational activity and (4) targeted sessions. This project is delivered in the BRH ward and Halton Moor	Leeds District (Burmantofts and Richmond Hill ward & Halton Moor)	240
Education Inclusion – Mentoring Programme – Various	Mentoring programme in secondary schools which includes work with YP and the whole family to help support and develop healthy relationships (as part of a wider programme aimed at improving engagement with education and a reduction in risk taking behaviour)	Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds	1,000+
Men & Masculinities Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Group Programme – Craunston	The programme is a 24-week domestic abuse perpetrator intervention aimed at those at a standard or medium level of risk. Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Psycho-Educational and Psycho-Drama techniques are all used to support self-awareness and genuine behaviour change.	Wakefield	60



Mobile Treatment Centre – St John’s Ambulance	Mobile Treatment Centre to provide additional safety measures in the run up to/over the festive period, on Saturday nights over 6 weekends, in Leeds. This is based on a presence every Saturday night from 21:30-03:30. Providing first aid and welfare care to those attending and responding to calls within the footprint of the city centre.	Leeds	45
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**Funded through Serious Violence Duty Funding (whole or part)**

<b>Project Title and Delivery Partner</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>No. of YP in 2023-24</b>
NTE Safe Space – Change, Grow, Live	It will provide a recognised safe space for a large student population and women and girls during the NTE to use to seek help, support, harm minimisation advice on substance misuse and sexual assault and links to partner agencies (Police/Street Marshalls/CCTV/Street Angels) via the town centre radio.	Kirklees wide	200
Sexual Violence Prevention Project – Kirklees, Calderdale, Wakefield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	The project aims to educate and inform children and young people about VAWG, healthy relationships and consent	Wakefield and Castleford	1,000
Anti-violence month – Various agencies with the Local Authority	Multi activities and media aimed at reducing violence in the Bradford district and under the theme of healthy relationships.	Bradford	1,000 (estimate)