



West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Draft Minutes

14th July 2023, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield

PRESENT:	Councillor Eileen Taylor	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Neil Buckley	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Nicole Sharpe	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Hassan Khan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Helen Brundell	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Habiban Zaman	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Usman Ali	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Jackie Ferguson	- Wakefield Council

In attendance

Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Julie Reid	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Simon Jessup	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Eran Sandhu	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Fatima Khan-Shah	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Chief Constable John Robins	- West Yorkshire Police
Chief Inspector Gary Panther	- West Yorkshire Police
Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Paul Sullivan, Ann Kingstone, Robert Thornber, Anthony Smith and from Jo Sykes and Trevor Lake. Councillor Helen Brundell substituted for Councillor Ann Kingstone.

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 9th June 2023.

2.1. The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting. 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.

5. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

5.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which details the work undertaken by the Mayor's Office to hold West Yorkshire Police (WYP) to account in the implementation of their responsibilities under equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). It also provides an update on the work in this area by the Mayor's Policing and Crime Team (such as the Safer Communities Fund), and on the national role of the Deputy Mayor as Lead on Race Disparity, Equality and Human Rights for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

5.2 Discussion took place around statistics for stop and searches, and the spread of these throughout ethnic groupings. The Deputy Mayor added that there is no issue with stop and search itself, as an effective method of crime prevention - her concerns have always been around the reasons and proportionality of the method, and she regularly holds the Chief Constable to account for this in the Community Outcome Meetings (COMs). By way of background information, the Chief Constable informed Panel that stop and searches in WYP have a 30% positive outcome rate, which compares well to other forces. To measure the success of stop and search, he suggested looking at the 'find rate' rather than convictions, the latter being outside the control of the police and in the hands of the wider criminal justice system.

5.3 A question was asked about the grounds to conduct a stop and search and whether any type of profiling is used. The Chief Constable explained that stop and searches under usual conditions are not random; they are carefully planned based on intelligence. Stop and searches can only be conducted randomly under terrorist legislation or through Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

- 5.4 The Deputy Mayor was asked if it was possible to see stop and search data for the age group 14-20, due to concerns around anecdotal reports heard by Panel members from this age group. The Deputy Mayor committed to providing this data. The Chief Constable added that confusion sometimes occurs when young people are stopped and spoken to, rather than stopped and searched and asked Panel members to bear that in mind when hearing reports from the public. He asked them to direct people to the WYP website if they think they have been stopped without good reason. All police officers wear body worn cameras, and members of the public who are stopped can see the footage from their stop, here - [Stop and Search | West Yorkshire Police](#)
- 5.5 In terms of the disproportionality between ethnic groupings shown in the statistics, the Chief Constable added that fully definitive reasons for the disparity are unknown, that unconscious bias may be one (this is addressed continually through training), however the high levels of stop and searches for specific ethnic minority populations often reflect the population in the areas where police officers concentrate their efforts – usually deprived neighbourhoods with high levels of knife crime.
- 5.6 A further question was asked around training for police officers on all areas of EDI, and the Chief Constable confirmed that training is ongoing in many areas - in addition to unconscious bias, training undertaken in areas such as neurodiversity and LGBTQ+ awareness.
- 5.7 Discussion took place around the Race Action Plan and the work of WYP to implement it. Training for officers has been developed with the Northern 8 Universities, and includes learning around structural and societal issues, and inequalities.
- 5.8 The Deputy Mayor talked about the role of partnerships in areas such as mental health, and the importance of ensuring that the right treatment and care is given in situations where uniformed police intervention would be inappropriate. She spoke about the appointment of the Mayor's Inclusivity champion as an example of the commitment to partnership working – Fatima Khan-Shah works across and is funded by both the Combined Authority and the Integrated Care Board to facilitate greater understanding across the sectors.
- 5.9 A question was asked around domestic abuse within the traveller community, and the funding of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) and Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVAs) specifically for this community. The Deputy Mayor shared her knowledge of data around domestic violence which shows high numbers of domestic and sexual abuse victims in this community and that it is this information which feeds directly into the distribution of ISVAs and IDVAs.

5.10 RESOLVED

5.10.1 The Deputy Mayor to provide data on stop and search for the 14-20 age group.

6. West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board

6.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced the item, which gives an update on the work of the Board, progress on priorities, and the various vehicles available to deliver this agenda. The report illustrates how tackling domestic abuse is a strategic partnership issue, and how the Board is a key enabler for both this and the wider Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda.

6.2 A question was asked around the effect of lockdown on domestic abuse figures. The Deputy Mayor replied that reporting had increased after restrictions were lifted and victims felt more able to report incidents. She reminded Panel of the role of the commissioned IDVAs and ISVAs. The Deputy Mayor was asked if victims were able to request a male or female advisor. The Chief Constable responded that every effort would be made to accommodate such a request where possible, and assured Panel members that all staff are trained and have the understanding and knowledge to be able to deal sensitively with victims.

6.3 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she was aware of the difficulty faced by victims of domestic and sexual abuse in finding suitable accommodation to enable them to leave the home in which abuse has taken place. She responded that both herself and the Mayor are aware of the problem, and that they had both raised the issue with appropriate authorities.

6.4 Discussion took place around the positive contribution to the domestic abuse agenda of the CARA restorative solutions scheme, which has recently been de-funded by national government. The programme is seen as essential to the criminal justice processes for domestic abuse perpetrators and the Deputy Mayor confirmed that it will continue to be funded by the Mayor's office going forward.

6.5 A question was asked about how the 24/7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line detailed on page 6 of the background paper was being promoted. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that the helpline is a national line, however she agreed that herself and the Mayor could do more to raise the profile of the service within West Yorkshire, perhaps via a promotional video.

6.6 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she could share her knowledge around the forced marriage agenda, in particular key challenges, any projects in the pipeline, or conversations she might have had about the challenges of this issue. She replied that

the Mayor is working closely with Karma Nirvana on this issue, and that they have been contracted to deliver training to WYP.

6.7 A question was asked around safeguarding work undertaken with men in the local community, about the perception of men as abusers, and how this sits alongside the statistic that 25% of domestic and sexual violence victims are male. The Deputy Mayor shared that the WYP PoEd programme does cover this issue. A piece of work has been commissioned to understand the current landscape of support available to men and boys and to identify gaps.

6.9 The Deputy Mayor told Panel members that she has been lobbying for drugs testing to be a standard part of the investigation process in domestic violence incidents, and has written to the shadow Home Secretary to press the case.

6.10 A question was asked around stalking, and if the Deputy Mayor could share any profiling data in this area. She told Panel that around 90% of stalking incidents are related to domestic situations and agreed to include a male/female split and age profile in the next update report. She reiterated her and the Mayor's support for the stalking co-ordination service launched by WYP in October 2022, and reminded Panel of the stalking advocacy service initiated by the Mayor shortly after coming to office, which has now had over 800 referrals. Discussion took place around potential links between coercive control and domestic homicide, including the difficulty of pulling together specific data around stalking due to its categorisation under an umbrella of harassment offences. The Chief Constable assured Panel that both police officers and judges now have a greater understanding of the full and wider impact of stalking and harassment offences, and this has been reflected in sentencing. However, there is still a low conversion rate of stalking complaints into stalking prevention orders due to a complicated process under which proof is difficult to achieve.

6.11 Panel enquired about progress in managing vetting and identifying misconduct, misogyny, and predatory behaviours within WYP. The Deputy Mayor assured Panel that this work was ongoing and encouraged members of the public to report any negative incidents or behaviour to the Police Standards Department (PSD) here - [Professional Standards | West Yorkshire Police](#) - and for victims to come forward. She highlighted that there are Public Misconduct Hearings which are accessible by the public and press where appropriate, and details of these are on the WYP website here: [Misconduct Hearings | West Yorkshire Police](#)

6.12 RESOLVED

6.12.1 The Deputy Mayor to look at ways of promoting the 24/7 Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Line in West Yorkshire.

6.12.2 The Mayor’s office to provide an age and gender breakdown for stalking convictions within the next update report to Panel.

7. West Yorkshire Police and Crime Delivery Plan

7.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which summarises the structure of delivery planning for the Police and Crime Plan. She explained that the Plan is a dynamic document which constantly changes to reflect progress against the Plan and include new areas of work. Due to the moving and complex nature of the Plan, the Deputy Mayor suggested that thematic leads could be identified within Panel members, and linked with the relevant member of staff in the Mayor’s office who could take them through those individual parts of the Plan.

7.2 RESOLVED

7.2.1 Interested Panel Members to be linked to thematic leads within the Mayor’s office to enable understanding and monitoring of individual areas of the Delivery Plan.

8. Mayor’s Response to current issues

8.1 The Deputy Mayor relayed information around the recent launch of the West Yorkshire Plan, and its five missions for the region which are detailed on the Combined Authority website: [The West Yorkshire Plan - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk).

8.2 Progress was shared on the implementation of the Immediate Justice pilot scheme in West Yorkshire, and the benefit of having a Mayoral system which means that the Mayor can front fund this and start the work earlier than areas with a standalone Police and Crime Commissioner can.

8.3 The Deputy Mayor drew Panel’s attention to the latest Your Views survey, which is now live, asking Panel members to share the link to the survey as widely as possible. Intelligence from the survey informs the work of the Mayor’s office, the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and is shared with WYP.

8.4 The Deputy Mayor talked about the latest round of Safer Streets funding (round 5), under which applications would be submitted for an off-road bike to tackle ASB, and for work to keep bus stations safe, and free from criminals looking to exploit young people. In relation to the issue of ASB and motorbikes, mention was also made of the Bumpy Motorcycle Activity & Training Centre in Birstall, which aims to divert vulnerable young people away from ASB and motor vehicle crime. This project is funded by the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund.

8.5 Finally, the Deputy Mayor highlighted a recent report from the Violence Reduction Unit (since re-branded as the Violence Reduction Partnership) into neurodiversity and recommended it to Panel members.

8.6 RESOLVED

8.6.1 Panel Members to share the link to the Your Views survey within their contacts and networks.

9. Published Key Decisions

9.1 The Published Key Decisions were noted.

10. Agreed Actions Log

10.1 The Agreed Actions log was noted.

11. Forward Agenda Plan

11.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

12. Complaints Received by the Panel

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

13. Any Other Business

13.1 There was no other business.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

14.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 8th September 2023 in the Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield.