



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Al Garthwaite	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Sarfraz Nazir	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Robert Thornber	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Andrew Cooper	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Anthony Smith	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Mohan Sokhal	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Usman Ali	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Maureen Tennant-King	- Wakefield Council
	Mr Trevor Lake	- Independent
	Mrs Joanne Sykes	- Independent

In attendance

Tracy Brabin	- Mayor of West Yorkshire
Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Angela Taylor	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
CC John Robins	- West Yorkshire Police
ACC Catherine Hankinson	- West Yorkshire Police
DCI Vanessa Rolfe	- West Yorkshire Police
Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Nicole Sharpe, Paul Sullivan and Sarah Courtney.

- 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 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022.**
  - 2.1. The minutes were agreed as a correct record. 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. Mayor's Annual Report 2021-2022**
  - 5.1 The Mayor introduced the second draft of her Annual Report, which had been amended to incorporate initial feedback from the Panel.
  - 5.2 A question was asked around the figures for restorative justice in the report. It was acknowledged that victim satisfaction figures are very positive, the report doesn't show re-offending rates, which it was felt, would be a powerful additional indicator of success. It was agreed that the Mayor's office would liaise with the Chief Constable to gather this data going forward.
  - 5.3 The Mayor was asked if she had any further intelligence specifically around the numbers of young men involved in road traffic accidents, and if the Vision Zero initiative would specifically address this age group. The Deputy Mayor, who sits on the Vision Zero board, responded to say that the board is a high-level strategic board with political representation (previously requested by the Panel), which works closely with the highways department in each of the five West Yorkshire local authorities and also includes those with lived experience. The DMPC reported that all districts are currently developing their own strategies which are at different stages. When these are available it will be possible to include metrics relating to specific demographic.
  - 5.4 The Chief Constable added that the Force proactively target high risk groups, such as young men, through speed and driving awareness initiatives, and being responsible drivers is also included in the Pol-Ed programme for older school children who are about to reach driving age.
  - 5.5 The Deputy Mayor gave insight of a developing pilot working in Bradford amongst young drivers, where additional training and education would be undertaken in return for lower premiums.
  - 5.6 Panel asked for clarification around the figures on increased officer numbers, and whilst it was acknowledged as important to ensure that safeguarding teams were fully

staffed, it was felt that numbers in neighbourhood policing were struggling to be maintained. Clarification was sought around the process for allocating new recruits into different departments.

- 5.7 The Deputy Mayor commented that the Chief Constable was held to account for recruitment and allocation decisions through regular Community Outcome Meetings (COM) and through the Police Uplift Programme (PUP) and the Chief Constable added that neighbourhood policing numbers had remained steady throughout lockdown. Many are the more inexperienced officers, due to experienced officers not usually choosing to specialise in this area. He also added that new PCSO recruits will be allocated in equal numbers across West Yorkshire, although operational decisions mean that more will be placed where risk is highest. A more detailed report on recruitment will be coming to Panel in November.
- 5.8 Panel requested further clarification in the Annual Report on the process by which the Chief Constable is held to account, and the Mayor agreed to include further detail in the report.
- 5.9 A suggestion was made that performance figures could be more clearly identified in the report. The Deputy Mayor drew Panel's attention to various places in the body of the report which held performance data (for example, road deaths are covered in the Vision Zero section), whilst agreeing to re-look at how the data is presented with a view to enabling further clarity.
- 5.10 The Mayor was asked if she was satisfied with the progress of delivering her Police and Crime Plan. She said that she was, despite there still being a long way to go to achieve the outcomes she is aiming for. The Deputy Mayor commented that she was particularly very proud of the progress around VAWG, and of WYP, who had used initiative and creativity to implement innovative ways of using their limited resources to bring about change and improvement where necessary.
- 5.11 The Chief Constable clarified that the Police and Crime Plan is not a policing plan, but a partnership plan, covering the role of public health, local authorities and the wider criminal justice system.
- 5.12 A comment was made around the challenge of dealing with mental health issues as a factor in many crimes and calls to the contact centre. It was felt that whilst the NHS won't treat patients who need addiction help, this issue will not be addressed. A call was made for a national conversation on this issue. The Deputy Mayor agreed, and also commented that the region would be receiving £38m following the recommendations in Dame Carol Black's recent Independent review of drugs, and that one example of a project addressing addiction is the ADDER project in Wakefield.
- 5.13 RESOLVED**
- 5.13.1 The Mayor to liaise with the Chief Constable to acquire figures on re-offending rates with respect to the restorative justice outcomes.**
- 5.13.2 The Mayor to incorporate the further Panel feedback into the Annual Report, where possible.**

## **6. West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit – Update**

- 6.1 The Mayor introduced her paper on the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), congratulating the team behind it for their positive impact on prevention and early intervention work.
- 6.2 A question was asked regarding the increasing need for national funding to be matched by local partners – this is increasing on a sliding scale year on year. The Mayor replied that the match funding situation was frustrating, and that she has raised it with the Home Secretary. Overall, she was confident that the funding would be matched through financial and ‘in kind’ support from partners, and the work of the Unit safeguarded.
- 6.3 The Deputy Mayor highlighted the request from the new Home Secretary to increase productivity by 20% with no increase in funding. It was agreed to share the correspondence with Panel, along with the Mayor’s response.
- 6.4 A question was asked about the evaluation process for projects commissioned by the VRU, and if any had had to cease due to not meeting the criteria. The Deputy Mayor replied that although the evaluation process was time consuming, it was essential in achieving value for money, and acknowledged that some projects which were not getting the expected results had been de-funded. The Mayor added that the Safer Streets programme had been funded through a redirection of funding in this way. The evaluation outcomes are often used to persuade other partners to takeover or mainstream funding for successful projects and interventions.
- 6.5 A question was asked about the changes planned at B.4 in Appendix 2, moving the domestic abuse service into a wider VAWG focus, and whether that would affect the ability of men and boys to access the service. Panel were assured that it would not affect this, and that calls to the control room on this subject were handled in the same way for all.
- 6.6 A comment was made regarding the reference to the data included as part of the Data Hub section under A4.7 and whether the Emergency Department data also included figures from Bradford. It was agreed to revisit this and ensure that this was corrected.
- 6.7 Comments were made on the good work that is being done by the VRU and in particular the impressive figures for teachable moments.
- 6.8 RESOLVED**
- 6.8.1 The Mayor to share the Home Office correspondence relating to the governments long term strategy for Force productivity.**

## **7. Police and Crime Plan – Performance Monitoring**

- 7.1 The Mayor introduced her report, which gives an overview of all the measures from the Police and Crime plan.
- 7.2 The Mayor commented that although victim satisfaction had seen a drop in the last quarter, the domestic violence measure had seen an upturn towards the end of that period.
- 7.2 Previously, Panel has heard that due to the improved reporting and proactive action taken by WYP to tackle child sexual exploitation, this number is expected to continue to increase, as less crimes are now ‘hidden’ in the system. The Mayor was asked when she would expect to see these figures level off and what would good look like.
- 7.3 The Deputy Mayor responded that it was difficult to estimate this, and as partners and officers continue to engage in further training, the numbers were likely to increase further. The Force are examining each case individually, and not focussing on achieving specific numbers – they will however continue to interrogate and monitor numbers for their own intelligence. Work and focus on early intervention and identification by partners continues, and attention should also be given to the number of children coming off the flag system as well as going on it, when considering the outcomes of this work.
- 7.4 The Deputy Mayor and Chief Constable were asked if they were satisfied with the support received from partners in these cases. The Chief Constable told Panel that he was satisfied with partner engagement, and that relationships were very positive across West Yorkshire. He has asked the Mayor to help facilitate greater local authority support when dealing with ‘missing’ children, and with unregulated care homes. The Mayor confirmed that she had taken this to Leaders to ask for the support of their children’s services teams, and that she would continue to do so. The Mayor is also supporting this via Community Safety Fund projects. Additionally, and on behalf of the police service, ACC Hankinson is taking a national lead on this issue.
- 7.5 The Chief Constable told Panel that over 60% of police work is now safeguarding, and includes for example, covering out of hours issues at children’s homes. Safeguarding calls will always be a priority, however, with officer numbers only now back to where they were in 2010 despite the current recruitment programme, and public expectation that the police should be focussing on many other areas of crime, the situation is frustrating for WYP. The ACC added that when officers are called to these difficult situations, it can be a child’s first experience of the police, and counterproductive to the development of a trusting relationship.
- 7.6 A question was asked about the long term strategy for tackling these issues, and the Chief Constable replied that WYP Force Management Statement (FMS), which is available to the public, contains the 10 year strategy and projections for this area of policing, however the increase in cases and complexity in this area reflects a constantly

changing society. It was agreed to circulate the link to the Executive Summary for Panel members would be useful.

- 7.7 In respect of the Delivery report at 3.12, the success of Operation Jemlock was acknowledged. A question was asked about what actions were being taken to stem the flow of weapons onto the streets in the first place. The Mayor replied that knives were so readily available - in every kitchen for example - that it was extremely difficult to control access. Pressure is put on retailers where possible, especially those who sell knives online, to tighten up their age ID processes, but this is very difficult to enforce and West Yorkshire Police have no powers to close down shops selling knives. Special powers to increase stop and searches where there is increased perceived risk can be applied for, and the Force do use this power when necessary.
- 7.8 With regards to speeding enforcement, the Mayor was asked if she would look at the possibility of delegating some speed enforcement powers to local authorities, to take the pressure off the police and enable local accountability and action. The Mayor agreed that her team would look at what was possible.
- 7.9 The Mayor was asked if she could bring any more pressure to bear on the wider criminal justice system to assist the police and partners in getting convictions. The Mayor shared her own frustrations with the system and assured Panel that she is working hard to improve the mechanisms to improve waiting times by encouraging the continued use of video evidence, and supporting IDVAs and ISVAs to keep victims focussed on pushing for positive outcomes and supporting them through the process. West Yorkshire Police have been successful in keeping down the numbers of victims dropping cases, managing to keep them engaged in the process. She added that she is continuing to petition the Home Secretary to effect further change and improvements to the system.
- 7.10 The Chief Constable further commented that although magistrate courts are now in a better position in terms of processing cases, there is no time available through the Crown Courts until August 2024. Additionally, due to changes in Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) funding, police officers are now prevented from charging some offenders at certain crime scenes when CPS advice is unavailable.
- 7.11 A further question was asked around the potential timescale for a report to Panel which looks at serious incidents on roads, now that the Vision Zero partnership has been established. The Deputy Mayor thought that this would be possible within six months.
- 7.12 RESOLVED**
- 7.12.1 Panel Officer to circulate the Force Management Statement Executive Summary to Panel members.**
- 7.12.2 The Mayor's Office to look into whether it is possible to devolve some speed enforcement powers to local authorities.**
- 7.12.3 The Forward Agenda Plan to include a report on serious road traffic incidents within the next six months.**

## **8. Investigations and Outcomes**

- 8.1 The Mayor introduced the report and invited questions from the Panel.
- 8.2 The focus on wellbeing for officers who work in child safeguarding, and on ensuring that the unit is staffed to 100% capacity (achieved in September 2022) was welcomed by Panel members, and a link was made to the high numbers of victims feeling supported.
- 8.3 Through regular audits of crimes, performance improvements are evident, particularly in the use of the Victim Needs Assessment (VNA) – previously the Initial Needs Assessment (INA). All crime INA compliance was at 88% in October 2020, and as at June 2022, VNA compliance is 97%.
- 8.4 It was widely agreed that the paper showed lots of positive activity, which was greatly welcomed. Regular feedback on training, plans and activities would be useful for Panel members, to enable them to observe outcomes.

## **8.5 RESOLVED**

### **8.5.1 An item showing progress in Investigations and Outcomes to be added to the Forward Agenda Plan.**

## **9. Mayors Response to Current Issues**

- 9.1 In the light of the recent announcement on 5<sup>th</sup> October by the National Police Chiefs' Council that all home burglaries in England and Wales will be attended by the police, the Mayor wished to highlight that West Yorkshire Police already have a commitment in place to do this.
- 9.2 The Mayor wished to celebrate the success of a local West Yorkshire company, Fettle Animation, who produced the recently circulated video on domestic servitude. The video has been shortlisted for a Royal Television Society award.
- 9.3 The Mayor has seen the highest ever amount of money allocated to the Safer Communities Fund, which is financed by proceeds of crime that has been recovered by West Yorkshire Police. This increase will mean that the maximum grant applied for can be increased from £6,000 to £8,000.
- 9.4 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be supporting and celebrating Black History Month throughout October.

- 9.5 Following the recent stabbing of a school child in Huddersfield, the Deputy Mayor has been kept informed of the ongoing police investigations and community work.
- 9.6 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were asked how they could work with WYP to give assurance to parents in Kirklees that they were safe to send their children to school. The Mayor replied that she couldn't give any 100% guarantees in these situations, but stressed that both she, the Deputy Mayor and WYP were doing everything in their power to keep people and children safe. The DMPC added that it's not only the police that play a role in the safety of children – schools, partner organisations and parents themselves also have a role to play in identifying risk and educating children on right and wrong. She referred to the Pol-Ed programme, designed and funded entirely by WYP, as a resource available for schools to help with early interventions, and reiterated that everyone, including partners and communities have a responsibility to step up and provide leadership at these times.
- 9.7 The Deputy Mayor has recently become patron of ASPIRE, an innovative programme supporting black students pursuing careers in academic research and beyond.

## **10. Published Key Decisions**

- 10.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions.
- 10.2 As there are a significant number of decisions relating to evaluation work to be carried out, a question was asked about the length of time taken to obtain the outcomes and implement the decisions. Panel was informed that it depended on the specific decision and that whilst some could be actioned immediately, for others it was the start of a process of events, which may take weeks, or months.

## **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. Complaints Received by the Panel**

- 13.1 The Panel noted that there are no new recorded complaints.



**14. PCP Budget Report**

14.1 The PCP Budget Report was noted.

**15. Any Other Business**

15.1 The Chair asked the Mayor to pass on congratulations from the Panel to Fettle Animation for their Royal Television Society award nomination.

**16. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

16.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022, in the Old Restaurant, Wakefield Town Hall.