



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Al Garthwaite	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Nicole Sharpe	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Robert Thornber	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Andrew Cooper	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Mohan Sokhal	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Maureen Tennant-King	- Wakefield Council
	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
Chief Constable John Robins	- West Yorkshire Police
Chief Inspector Rick Sumner	- West Yorkshire Police
Alex Spurr	- 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 Anthony Smith and Sarfraz Nazir, and Trevor Lake.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> October 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. Supporting Safety of Women and Girls strategy**

5.1 The Mayor introduced her paper and gave examples of work undertaken to support the safety of women and girls since she took office in May 2001. These include: £14m allocated to 70 different victim support services and an Independent Stalking Advocate Service. Under the Safer Streets 3 & 4 programmes a number of projects have been commissioned, for example, physical changes to 10 West Yorkshire parks where women and girls feel unsafe or experience threats, delivery of outreach programmes, consent workshops and personal safety and active upstander training, night time economy 'safe space' hubs and bus programmes, and the Ask for Angela initiative. The Mayor also highlighted the work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to fund the SmartTag initiative, the £500,000 spent on the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Programme and the many projects funded on the Women & Girls cross cutting theme through the Mayor's Community Safety Fund.

5.2 Panel welcomed the education programmes in place within schools to encourage attitudinal change, and the Mayor was asked what plans were in place to reach older boys and men in the same way. The Deputy Mayor highlighted that the Pol-Ed programme ran in high schools in addition to primary schools, and that training programmes for older men have been developed in conjunction with Further Education providers in West Yorkshire under the Safer Streets programmes. The DMPC also reported that the Train the Trainer resource is available to any workplace or organisation and that Community Safety funding has also been directed to groups supporting older males.

5.3 The Mayor was asked how she worked with schools who, for various reasons, did not want a police presence in their grounds. She replied that although some schools (usually academy trusts) do pay for police liaison officers, most don't, and leadership on re-education of behaviours and zero tolerance comes from headteachers and senior members of staff in those instances. The Mayor re-emphasised that the Pol-Ed programme is a valuable tool for school and can be delivered by teachers as part of the curriculum, rather than by uniformed police officers, if that is more appropriate for the school. Over 600 schools in West Yorkshire have taken up the Pol-Ed offer, and the Mayor expressed her desire to keeping pushing for more to do the same. The Chief

- Constable added that all schools are in a neighbourhood, and are covered by a neighbourhood policing team, which he encouraged all to engage with.
- 5.4 Concern was raised over the current cost of living crisis, and how it might affect stress levels in families, especially those at risk of domestic violence. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor highlighted local support, including a recently announced package from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority which focuses on help with food, warmth and mental health. The Mayor also highlighted the national boards that the Deputy Mayor sits on, and the regular contact she has with the Policing Minister which help raise the pressure from, and profile of, West Yorkshire in tackling these issues. The Deputy Mayor brings learning back to West Yorkshire from national boards and meetings, such as those she attends at the IOPC.
- 5.5 The Mayor was asked when the final Supporting the Safety of Women and Girls strategy and delivery plan would be available. The Deputy Mayor replied that she had wanted to take feedback from the Panel before finalising it, and they were now hopeful that the final version could be presented before Christmas.
- 5.6 A question was asked about how the Deputy Mayor could encourage reporting of crimes which adversely affect women and girls. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor agreed that under-reporting is endemic and an ongoing concern. Examples were given of some of the work that has been done which provides more opportunities for reporting, including the 'safe spaces' for women, dedicated marshalls and Ask Angela which encourage and assist the reporting of crimes.
- 5.7 Concerns were raised regarding peer on peer abuse of girls in schools, including that some schools were not taking complaints seriously. Discussion took place around what could be done to empower and encourage girls at school and / or their parents to report offences.
- 5.8 A question was asked about how well the prison service and mental health services were on board with re-education programmes and signposting. The Deputy Mayor, who chairs the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), assured Panel that previously discussed initiatives do cover these services and that voluntary services sector are also engaged with the agenda. The LCJB had a special meeting six months ago on this subject and the Deputy Mayor continues to push the agenda. She added that partnership with the public health sector is crucial in forging a path through this, and that she will continue to work with them to embed a trauma based approach.
- 5.9 A request was made for information on the take-up and success of the Ask Angela scheme. The Deputy Mayor replied that around 680 bars / clubs had signed up to the scheme in January of this year. Evaluation was taking place through Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and she would investigate whether the number of referrals had been captured. Anecdotally, the Chief Constable added that West Yorkshire Police were certainly receiving referrals through the scheme.
- 5.10 A question was asking about action against drinks spiking, and if measures to combat this could be made a condition of granting premise licences. The Deputy Mayor replied

that local authority Licencing Committees were independent bodies, and whilst some were pro-active in this area, others were not. She drew Panel's attention to a Home Office report on spiking, published in April of this year which contained a number of recommendations to tackle the growing problem. It was suggested that the Mayor could write to all committees to encourage them to implement the recommendations of the Home Office committee.

## **5.11 RESOLVED**

**5.11.1 The Mayor to look at including the need for more reporting of crimes against women and ensuring that there are the mechanisms in place to encourage this.**

**5.11.2 That the Mayor writes to local authority Licencing Committees, encouraging them to read and implement the recommendations of the Home Office select committee report on spiking.**

## **6. Neighbourhood Crime**

6.1 The Mayor introduced her paper, noting that performance comparisons against both the national baseline (12 months to June 2019) and the previous 12 months show a significant fall in recorded crime in West Yorkshire – in particular, for neighbourhood crime - in line with the national picture. This is widely acknowledged to be in large part due to COVID restrictions, however since the removal of restrictions, most neighbourhood crime types are still showing reductions, compared to the agreed baseline of 12 months to June 2019. The Mayor reminded Panel that neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, was the second highest public priority in her recent consultation exercise.

6.2 A question was asked about the wording of paragraph 3.4 of the report, which uses seemingly unhelpful phrases to describe areas of mixed ethnic backgrounds. The Deputy Mayor told Panel that the report had deliberately used the same language as the College of Policing study on the subject for consistency, however she recognised, on reflection, that it could be worded more sympathetically.

6.3 Further information was requested at sections 3.6 and 3.8. regarding the joint problem-solving and early intervention approaches referenced. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor expanded on how the approaches were built, using the results of consultations, such as the Tell Tracy campaign.

6.4 A question was asked around the data in Appendix A of the report, which shows markedly different success rates between Wakefield and the other districts within West Yorkshire. Panel asked if the Deputy Mayor knew why this was the case, and

whether different approaches had been taken in the different districts. The Chief Constable replied that approaches taken across the districts were generally the same, although these will be adapted if a particular issue or group are influential in a certain community. In these cases, best practice is shared and resources re-distributed temporarily and appropriately to areas that need it. The Deputy Mayor added that issues such as these are often discussed in the Community Outcome Meetings (COMs) which are recorded and available to view.

## **6.5 RESOLVED**

### **6.5.1 Panel noted the report.**

## **7. Neighbourhood Policing and ASB**

- 7.1 The Mayor introduced her report, which reiterates her pledge to focus on neighbourhood policing through an increase of 750 frontline police officers by May 2024 and to maintain the number of PCSOs.
- 7.2 The Mayor commented that there are currently still 361 officers to come through the pipeline through the Police Uplift Programme (PUP). She also reminded Panel that West Yorkshire Police were graded as outstanding in neighbourhood policing in the recent PEEL report. The Mayor also acknowledged how important this area of policing is to the communities of West Yorkshire, regularly topping lists of concerns during consultations. She encouraged Panel members, and members of the public to watch discussions about innovative practice in neighbourhood policing at COM meetings which are recorded and available on the WYCA Policing and Crime website.
- 7.3 The Mayor was asked to clarify what a ‘community wealth building approach’ meant, as referenced in paragraph 3.6. It was noted that this is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which aims to redirect wealth back into the local economy and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. She gave examples such as the expansion of free education and training programmes to those on the National Living Wage, not just those on National Minimum Wage.
- 7.4 The Deputy Mayor referred to a report from HMICFRS on acquisitive crime, praising West Yorkshire Police’s work with a community in Bradford, which had resulted in a 100% success rate in reducing acquisitive crime over a 12 month period.
- 7.5 A question was asked about how the balance is struck between the experience needed in neighbourhood policing, and ensuring new recruits are able to gain experience, furthermore, how the demands on police time caused by issues with mental health in the community are being addressed. The Chief Constable responded that getting the experienced officer / new recruit balance right is a delicate task, but that he will always try to ensure that the expected level of experience is invested in neighbourhood policing. The Mayor took the opportunity to acknowledge the important role that Special Constables play in communities, and highlighted how she is supporting them by

providing £30,000 to ensure they can access Police Federation membership and it's associated support. She is also funding PCSO presence in bus stations to address anti-social behaviour.

- 7.6 A question was asked at paragraph 4.11 about how information and intelligence is shared between West Yorkshire Police and Greater Manchester Police when tackling cross border vehicle crime, and how CCTV helps in these circumstances. It was confirmed that data is shared and that high volume areas and hotspots are looked at along the M62 corridor and Manchester boundary. The Deputy Mayor referred to the Home Office grant of £306,000 awarded to a partnership bid to reduce motor vehicle crime in neighbourhood areas along the West Yorkshire M62 corridor. Local policing and CSP's are also empowered to use passported funding for local projects around ANPR and CCTV. It was also noted that CSPS are provided with a lot of information and data on this subject area.
- 7.7 The retirement of Inspector Graham Dyson of the Huddersfield Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) was acknowledged and he was congratulated for having implemented genuine partnership working in the district. The Chief Constable took the opportunity to highlight how many experienced officers who wanted to continue to work were being lost through forced retirement.

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

- 8.1 The Mayor referenced an open letter sent by the Home Secretary to all police leaders in England and Wales, setting out her priorities and asking them to cut homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime by 20%. The Mayor spoke about what she sees as the huge challenge of delivering this kind of crime reduction whilst budgets are being cut. Mention was made of the fact that other partners in the wider criminal justice, education and public health sectors have not been approached in the same way. The Mayor will circulate the letter via the Police and Crime Panel Officer.
- 8.2 The Mayor reminded Panel Members that the deadline for community groups to apply for a grant of up to £8,000 through the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund is 11<sup>th</sup> November.
- 8.3 The Mayor informed Panel that she had been approached by the mother of Poppy Devey Waterhouse, murdered by her ex-partner, to highlight issues around the sentence given to her killer, which was shorter than that for comparable crimes which happen outside of the home. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be looking at how they can support Poppy's mother in her campaign to highlight sentence disparities.
- 8.4 The Mayor was asked for her thoughts on the release of the report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) regarding vetting, misconduct and misogyny, which was commissioned in the wake of the murder of

Sarah Everard in March 2022, and released on 2nd November. The Mayor welcomed the report and assured Panel that, along with the Chief Constable, she would be working through the 43 recommendations of the report to ensure that all processes are compliant and any recommendations are adopted. The Chief Constable added that the report was focused on the Metropolitan Police (the Met), and that the issues highlighted are not as endemic across other forces, however, he accepted that isolated problems occur, and these would be dealt with appropriately. He also highlighted the additional challenges faced by the service due to some media reporting of the issues. The Mayor added that retention of women in West Yorkshire Police is high, which indicates a positive picture about how safe and valued they feel in the Force. In comparison, the Mayor said that women are leaving the Met in much higher numbers, highlighting the very issues the report was commissioned to address.

8.5 Panel were keen that the fallout from the report does not affect morale in West Yorkshire Police, and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were in agreement with this. The Mayor has recently written to the Crown Prosecution Service about, and highlighted on social media, a recent case where two police officers were assaulted by the same person in one day, but the perpetrator was not given a custodial sentence. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor both felt that decisions such as these give the wrong signal about the severity of the crime.

8.6 Following the recent report into the terrorist bombing at Manchester Arena in 2017, Panel were keen to hear how West Yorkshire Police would be responding to the recommendations. The Chief Constable assured Panel that in the aftermath of the terror attack, the Force reviewed and changed its firearms and response capabilities where appropriate, and would apply any learning from the report that has not already been implemented.

## **9. Published Key Decisions**

9.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions.

## **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.

**13. PCP Budget Report**

13.1 The PCP Budget Report was noted.

**14. Any Other Business**

14.1 There was no other business.

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

15.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.