



Item 7

Report to: Police and Crime Panel

Date: 21st April 2023

Subject: Report for the Police and Crime Panel: Early Intervention and Prevention

Report of: Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

Author: Policing and Crime Team - WYCA

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To provide members of the Panel with an overview of the current work undertaken in the Police and Crime Plan's cross-cutting theme of Early Intervention and Prevention.
- 1.2. Outline for the Panel the work of the Mayor in exercising her statutory responsibilities to scrutinise West Yorkshire Police in the work they are undertaking to prevent crime and intervene at the earliest possibility to prevent escalation.
- 1.3. Outline for the Panel the work of the Mayor in delivering on the cross-cutting theme of Early Intervention and Prevention within the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 through her work within the wider Combined Authority, Local Authority partners, the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, and other statutory and non-statutory community safety partners.
- 1.4. To provide the Panel with an overview of the partnership arrangements in place to deliver early intervention and preventative practice and how through these, improvements in practice can be identified and secured.

2. BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

- 2.1. Delivering Early Intervention and Prevention plays a critical role in policing in the United Kingdom. The role of the police, as stated by the College of Policing, has four core operational duties, with three of these duties focused on what could be described as Early Intervention and Prevention.
 - 1) protecting life and property, 2) preserving order, 3) preventing the commission of offences and 4) bringing offenders to justice
- 2.2. The prevention of victimisation through preventing crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) has self-evident benefits for individuals, as well as reducing the economic and social costs of crime to society.
- 2.3. A focus on Early Intervention and Prevention also has notable benefits for those who may be at risk of or currently committing crime and ASB, as it supports individuals to make better life choices, and reduces the chances of escalation to more serious offences.
- 2.4. The traditional approach to dealing with crime through policing and enforcement was reacting to the consequences of offending, rather than dealing with the root of the problem.
- 2.5. The work of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, based on the public health approach, has marked a change of approach in the way partners have dealt with and thought about tackling serious violence in communities, instilling a new emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and a whole system approach.
- 2.6. The devolved powers of the Mayor allow the championing and supporting of the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children, young people and families at risk of experiencing poor outcomes.
- 2.7. This includes decision making to improve some of the factors which can impact on communities and individuals, such as adverse early-life experiences, poor quality housing, exclusion from skills, or harmful social or community influences.

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 3.1. **Police and Crime Plan:**
- 3.2. The Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 was published in March 2022. Early Intervention and Prevention was one of three cross-cutting themes.

- 3.3. The Plan will build upon the principles of a public health approach to bring an early intervention delivery focus to our work with partners in the wider community safety arena. A ‘public health approach’ treats crime like an infectious disease. It suggests that policy makers should search for a ‘cure’ by using scientific evidence to identify the root causes and to find interventions that work to prevent it spreading. A public health approach involves multiple public and social services working together to implement early interventions to prevent people from becoming involved in crime.

4. PROGRESS

4.1 Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund

- 4.1.1 One of the ways in which public services in West Yorkshire are engaged to contribute to the public health approach is through support from the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund (MSCF). Through this fund, the Mayor commits resources to the hundreds of charitable or voluntary groups who make a real difference to the communities of West Yorkshire through delivering early intervention services. The MSCF has had a tremendous impact on grassroots projects’ ability to support victims and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, awarding funding in grants of up to £8,000 to voluntary and community groups, charities, and partners to support innovative community safety projects.
- 4.1.2 All projects help the Mayor/DMPC deliver the Police and Crime Plan and all applicants to the fund are required to state how they will support at least one of its cross-cutting themes. Applicants are also required to state which one of the following areas of focus their projects will address. The evidence provided in response to this section is a fundamental component to successful applications.

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burglary | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion | <input type="checkbox"/> Fraud and Cyber Crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Hate Crime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> “Honour” Based Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serious Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missing People | <input type="checkbox"/> Countering Terrorism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support for Victims and Witnesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Rape and Sexual Offences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking and Harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs and Alcohol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Street Crime (e.g., theft, violence, shoplifting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood Crime and ASB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Re-offending | <input type="checkbox"/> Support through the Criminal Justice System |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery from COVID | |

Support for housing, skills, and employment

Road Safety, Speeding and Dangerous Driving

4.1.3 Fund Performance Ground Rounds 1-3

For context, after Grant Round 3 the Mayor has awarded over £1m to 173 projects which aim to support 59,000 people. The proportion appointed to Early Intervention and Prevention projects is shown below.

Cross-Cutting Theme	No of Projects	Total Spend
Women and Girls	88	£511,716.25
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion	67	£408,634.14
Early Intervention and Prevention	122	£755,916.45

Priority 1 - Supporting Victims and Witnesses and Improving Criminal Justice Outcomes		
Areas of Focus	No of Projects	Total Spend
Support for Victims and Witnesses	29	£184,113.60
Support through the CJS	8	£50,931.12

Priority 2 - Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience		
Areas of Focus	No of Projects	Total Spend
Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	31	£181,475.50
Domestic Abuse	55	£331,475.15
Fraud & Cyber Crime	5	£26,121.16
Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery	9	£53,931.20
"Honour" Based Abuse	13	£82,755.98
Stalking and Harassment	22	£128,541.60
Rape and Sexual Offences	33	£184,924.62

Priority 3 - Safer Places and Thriving Communities		
Areas of Focus	No of Projects	Total Spend
Countering Terrorism	2	£15,973.00
Drugs and Alcohol	43	£275,530.61

Hate Crime	24	£160,638.66
Highstreet Crime	23	£131,789.00
Neighbourhood Crime and ASB	78	£486,367.63
Recovery from Covid	34	£213,620.33
Road Safety, Speeding and Dangerous Driving	11	£68,764.52
Serious Violence	34	£196,621.15
Burglary	2	£15,920.00
Community Cohesion	65	£394,105.40

Priority 4 - Responding to Multiple and Complex Needs		
Areas of Focus	No of Projects	Total Spend
Support for Housing, Skills, and Employment	27	£171,881.54
Mental Health	94	£558,612.17
Missing People	1	£8,000.00
Reducing Reoffending	29	£189,830.18

Note: some projects cover multiple cross-cutting themes and areas of focus.

Recent examples of these projects in each of the five districts are detailed below. You can find out more about the projects on our website.

4.1.4 Project Descriptions GR3

4.1.5 E:merge (UK) Company Ltd (known as Emerge) – On the Streets – Bradford District Awarded £7639.44

E:merge are a youth work charity whose vision is to inspire lasting positive change in the lives of young people, aiming to inspire personal growth, better physical and mental wellbeing, positive engagement in education, and active transformation of participants' communities.

They offer young people mentoring, social action groups, wellbeing support groups, 1-2-1 support and group work.

Their project will improve the safety of local estates by increasing the numbers of young people they engage, currently reaching those not yet engaged in youth work by:

- increasing sessions of street based/detached youth work,
- opening their existing drop-in sessions of youth work, and
- beginning two brand new single gender issue-based groups – one for girls and one for boys.

The combination of these activities will engage hard to reach young people on

the streets, increase the safe spaces available to young people within both estates, and create spaces where young people can discuss the issues that matter to them.

Groups will include support to develop positive wellbeing, facilitate discussions and learning about gang-related issues, and start conversations about staying safe from exploitation.

4.1.6 Unmasked Mental Health – Mental Health Hub at SmartMove – Calderdale District

Awarded £5720.00

Unmasked Mental Health was created to help individuals living with mental health issues and coping with them alone. Their goal is to remove the stigma surrounding mental ill health nationwide and get people talking. Providing support to people suffering with mental health issues may prevent them from engaging in risky behaviours and help remove them from vulnerable situations which might otherwise have led to offending.

To do this, they offer individual counselling sessions, mental health hubs and training courses which provide a safe platform for people to communicate with each other and create friendships that they may have missed out on.

Their project will address needs in some parts of the community where people feel afraid to come to groups or unfamiliar locations.

4.1.7 Local Services 2 You

Conflict Resolution - Ashbrow Youth Coalition – Kirklees District

Awarded £7960.00

LS2Y is a group of social enterprises working to create and deliver opportunities for local people in the Ashbrow Ward and surrounding areas.

Their work supports the running of LS2Y Nurseries – Ofsted-registered childcare providers working with children and families – and LS2Y community services, who manage a range of different community buildings and respond to the needs of the community.

The Conflict Resolutions initiative addresses the problems of youth violence, gang activity, and postcode wars. They will provide mentoring and support to young people and their families as well as addressing and resolving conflict in the community before it escalates.

Their project will be part of a wider programme of work in the Ashbrow area with partners. It will consist of the delivery of sessions in schools to young people at risk of youth violence, the continuation of a local youth panel which ensures that the voice of young people from communities influences decisions and action, and the provision of positive employment and volunteering opportunities for young people at risk of involvement in violence.

4.1.8 Temple Newsam Halton Primary School – 'Shout' – Leeds District

Awarded £2496.00

Their project will be in partnership with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service via the ‘Shout’ youth intervention programme, helping engage and support the most vulnerable groups of children and their families in the school. Some of the children are at risk of or have already been involved in anti-social behaviour within the community and in school, including carrying knives and showing risk of involvement with local gangs.

During the sessions the children are expected to challenge their own beliefs and behaviour whilst engaging with a hard-hitting educational message about specific issues through relevant and practical tasks that improve teamwork, problem solving skills, confidence, and resilience.

The aim is to create positive impacts for the children, their futures, parents, and the wider community.

4.1.9 Wakefield District West Yorkshire Police, Wakefield District Safer Schools Partnership Team – Drugs Misuse “Just Say NO!” – Wakefield District

Awarded £7700.00

West Yorkshire Police will deliver a 2-pronged approach around key issues in several of the larger schools in Wakefield District to tackle key subjects including exploitation, drugs misuse, serious violence, weapons, and the personal and neighbourhood impacts of crime.

The programme will be delivered jointly by Safer Schools PCs and a number of VCSE organisations including St Giles Trust and Hope UK, and will include videos, guest speakers and project work. One element will be directed toward the students, using a combination of larger assemblies and smaller sessions with targeted groups, including those particularly vulnerable to CCE and CSE.

The second element will include sessions with parents and carers to give them skills to identify signs and risks around child exploitation, and tools to tackle the issues jointly with school, police, and partners.

5.0 Partnership Activity

5.1 Current updates

- 5.1.1. Besides the work facilitated by the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund, work in Early Intervention and Prevention continues to develop across Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and other partnership groups. The Vision Zero policy manager is supporting districts and wider partnerships in the area of road safety, to develop a shared vision and approach to delivering safer roads across West Yorkshire. This will enhance the operational activity by West Yorkshire Police and bring a more diverse range of partners together to provide a step change (see paper on Road Safety also at April panel)

- 5.1.2 With regards to anti-social behaviour, the approach of districts is well advanced with strong partnership arrangements in place. The recent announcement by the Government of several pilot sites for a new ASB approach, including West Yorkshire, provides an opportunity to further enhance the work underway. Strong governance will oversee this pilot to ensure that children and the vulnerable are not unnecessarily criminalised or treated disproportionately as a result of this increased activity.
- 5.1.3 The creation of Combatting Drugs Partnerships across the region following the implementation of the Government's 10-year strategy, 'From Harm to Hope', has created the opportunity to further develop the offer of support locally. These partnerships will add value to the established work of CSPs and already are providing greater focus in this area. Lead officers from each district have come together with the Deputy Mayor and wider partners including West Yorkshire Police, HMCTS and HMPPS to provide a region-wide forum to enhance the local offer, identify best practice, and share priorities.

6.0 Our work with the VCSE Sector

- 6.1 In West Yorkshire the Mayor/DMPC have developed a strategic approach to engagement with the Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise Sector.

West Yorkshire's VCSE organisations are a rich and diverse range of voluntary, community, and faith-based organisations and social enterprises. Our partnership working with the sector is key to supporting our communities and delivering our priorities. This sector engages more successfully with lesser-heard communities and groups. It provides opportunities for people to give their time freely through formal and informal volunteering. The sector plays a key role in making sure communities both are and feel safe, just, and inclusive by developing community capacity and resilience, and delivering prevention and early intervention services and activities.

The sector provides support services and activities for victims and survivors including both generic and specialist services for those who are particularly vulnerable. It provides value for money on a "not for profit" basis and attracts funding that is not available to the public sector, for example from charitable and private sources.

An example of some of our work with the sector is a jointly funded grant (Policing and Crime and the VRU) to each of the VCSE networks.

Each of the networks support the delivery of Early Intervention and Prevention across the district-based organisations they work with.

6.1.2 As a minimum the key elements of their grants must:

1. Raise the profile of Violence Against Women and Girls and the wider work of the VRU in reducing serious violent crime across the sector.
2. Support the teams in their collaboration, engagement, and communications across the sector, including co-production.
3. Support specific engagement around further Mayoral strategies, which also include serious and violent crime.
4. Support the alignment of district-based needs assessments including the VRU response strategy, supporting conferences and other organised consultations or events.
5. Act as a conduit to support better working relationships between the teams and the third sector – sharing good practice with them and other district networks, including highlighting any gaps.
6. Where possible, engage with organisations who fit with the teams' aims and objectives to provide support with sustainability:
 - Help find funding opportunities
 - Support with applications for grant rounds such as MSCF and VRU grants
 - Share resources
 - Share contacts
 - Share training opportunities
7. Promote the cross-cutting themes in the Police and Crime Plan including Early Intervention and Prevention and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.
8. Ensure the network is represented at the third Sector Advisory group to update on their work and progress.
9. In consultation with the teams, agree an additional objective/outcome which supports added value and allows the network to fill any gaps in their own work in support of this grant.

7. Commissioned and granted services

7.1 The West Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service commissioned by the Mayor uses the CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) Programme and is delivered by Restorative Solutions CIC. This service is proving to be a significant

tool through which repeat victimisation of domestic abuse victims is reduced. The mechanism that the scheme operates through is conditional cautioning. Where the case is admitted or proved, for standard-risk domestic abuse incidents only, perpetrators may be offered a caution, with conditions that they must comply with, or risk being prosecuted. One such condition is to complete the CARA course to generate sustained behaviour and attitudinal change.

7.2 Over a 12-month period, 236 perpetrators attended the course. 6.8 % or 16 perpetrators offended again within 12 months against a WYP domestic abuse repeat offending rate of 42.2% or 100 perpetrators. What this means for victims is that 84 people, who may otherwise have become victims, did not. The service has agreement to be extended for a further two years, 23/24 and 24/25, and is currently under contract extension negotiations.

7.3 The Mayor also funds a 50% contribution to Parent Liaison Officers working in districts to support parents and carers of children who are being or are at risk of criminal exploitation. This is delivered by Pace (Parents Against Child Exploitation) who directly support parents/carers whose children are being exploited outside of the family to help safeguard their children and disrupt the exploitation. They offer guidance and training to professionals and influence policy and practice to reflect the active safeguarding role of parents/carers and the impact on families of child exploitation.

8. Early Intervention and West Yorkshire Police

8.1 West Yorkshire Police are in the process of conducting a strategy refresh in this area which will shortly be published as the 2023-2025 Force Crime Prevention and Problem-Solving Strategy. This strategy advocates a partnership orientated problem-solving approach to crime prevention. Further detail will follow in relation to the strategy once finalised.

8.2 Crime Prevention

8.2.1 West Yorkshire Police operate a structure that has both central force-level assets and district crime prevention assets. Both the force-level assets and the district assets have key priorities aligned to their respective portfolios.

8.2.2 At force level the West Yorkshire Police Crime Prevention Officers (CPOs) currently prioritise the following areas:

- Keyless vehicle theft – offenders are innovative with their development of methods to steal vehicles in this manner. There is a national move to develop a data sharing agreement for live time tracking of stolen vehicles. West Yorkshire Police play an active role on the national working group.

- We Do Not Buy Crime – this looks at the marking and identification of stolen goods. A planned force-wide campaign is being piloted in Wakefield.
- Harassment and Stalking – CPOs are collaborating with central Safeguarding Units to establish where crime prevention methods can add value and security to our victims.
- Theft from Person – prevention activity can be allocated to address vulnerability or by the most effective crime prevention method. Education around property loss when no crime can be established includes the consequences when false reports are made.
- Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and exploitation – work is ongoing to develop safe zones by working with partners and businesses.
- Fraud – the team have collaborated with the Economic Crime Unit to develop the West Yorkshire Fraud Networking Group. The aim is to ensure there is fraud awareness and prevention messaging.

8.2.3 District CPOs deliver localised prevention activity under the following prioritised crime type areas:

- Serious Violence – Environmental Visual Audits (EVA) are conducted outside night-time economy venues and high demand locations in every district.
- VAWG – this involves the establishment of safe zones and bespoke training to taxi drivers and hoteliers and working with universities and colleges in respect of personal safety and the distribution of anti-spiking and ‘Ask for Angela’ cards.
- PREVENT – officers have met with churches in areas of concern following arson attacks and anti-Christian messaging to complete assessments and provide support and advice.
- CSE/CSA – this involves working closely with the Safeguarding Unit to process requests to make Safeguarding Assessments on individuals.
- DA – Safeguarding Assessments can be provided for both recommendations on security of premises, and also how a victim can keep themselves safe away from home.
- ASB – EVAs may be conducted around repeat ASB locations. They also support ASB officers in offering advice to vulnerable and repeat ASB victims.

- Acquisitive Crime – officers may support crime prevention housing assessments for repeat or vulnerable victims of burglary. Engagement events. Neighbourhood Watch. Creation of commercial burglary packs
- Fraud – this includes supporting a roadshow of scam/bogus caller crime prevention talks at Wakefield District Housing assisted living schemes due to a series of bogus charity collectors targeting these vulnerable victim locations.

8.3 Police Education Programme (Pol-Ed)

8.3.1 Pol-Ed continues to make good progress and currently 64% of schools across West Yorkshire are registered to use the programme and this continues to increase. The ambition is to provide Pol-Ed to other force areas that will provide a fantastic opportunity to enhance partnership working between Education and Policing.

West Yorkshire Police have been raising the profile of Pol-Ed both internally and externally and have a clear timeline in place for continued progression with effective resource upgrades proposed by dedicated subject matter experts.

Pol-Ed's content is designed to focus on specific sections of the PSHE curriculum that link with policing and the law, rather than attempt to meet the full PSHE curriculum. This allows Pol-Ed to concentrate on topics where the Police have credibility and provides flexibility in how schools fit the resources into their existing curriculum offer.

8.3.2 The new focus is on three umbrella topics:

- Relationships
- Keeping safe
- Understanding the law

Lessons will concentrate on Force priorities and Ofsted lines of enquiry. But, whilst they will relate to these topics, they will vary in depth and complexity, depending on the school key stage.

8.3.3 West Yorkshire Police are also building a website to help retain the WYP identity which means that it is then no longer reliant on the Leeds LA website who have hosted the resources for several years.

Work has been commissioned with Huddersfield University to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme. Partnership working has been secured with their teacher training unit to support with the development of resources and CPD through their teacher training programme. Their overall evaluation and

involvement will help us to learn and understand the risks and business benefits with opportunities to further develop.

8.3.4 West Yorkshire Police are linked in with the College of Policing and HMICFRS with whom they are sharing best practice. This further elevates the status of Pol-Ed by raising awareness on the national platform and positive feedback has been received.

8.4 Cadets

8.4.1 The Volunteer Police Cadets programme is a diverse group of young people aged 13 - 17 years with a desire to support their local communities and gain a practical understanding of policing while developing their leadership skills, through undertaking challenging social action projects in their communities.

8.4.2 Through our programme, we hope to inspire young people to achieve the four national objectives of the Volunteer Police Cadets, as set out in the National VPC Strategy 2020 – 2024:

- 1) Making a difference in local communities, building character, confidence, and contribution through youth-led social action.
- 2) Actively helping divert young people away from negative influences and crime.
- 3) Building trust and confidence between young people, their communities, and the police.
- 4) Enabling young people to have a real voice and influence in building a positive, relevant 21st century policing.

8.4.3 We have 167 police cadets across the five districts of West Yorkshire. Many are from vulnerable and diverse backgrounds.

Our cadets are involved in neighbourhood initiatives such as:

- Test purchasing (i.e. attempting to purchase age restricted products to ensure compliance with legislation by retailers)
- Days of action
- Leaflet drops
- Crime prevention initiatives

8.5 Innovation and pilot projects

8.5.1 Safeguarding/DA

The Stalking Coordination Unit is currently three months into a 12-month pilot

project related to stalking allegations. Early triage and intervention with districts allow high risk to be highlighted and timely responses arranged.

West Yorkshire Police are also engaging with Health and Education to commence a pilot to expand Op Encompass into nursery and pre-school settings, including support for new-borns and unborn babies. This aims to intervene in family issues which child developmental agencies might not come into contact with for months or years.

A pilot called the Cut It Out campaign has been launched, engaging hair and beauty establishments in recognising the early signs of DA and offering a listening ear and signposting to advice. An initial pilot was successful and extended further in West Yorkshire.

Further interventions which support Early Intervention and Prevention are detailed in the following section.

8.5.2 Early intervention in districts

(It should be noted that the following interventions shown by district area are often supported by multiple partners.)

The districts are shown in alphabetical order.

8.5.3 Bradford

- Cell Experience at Keighley Police Station – this is a targeted intervention providing education for young people in a realistic custody environment. A ‘lived experience’ input is then provided by St Giles Trust tackling prevalent issues such as knife crime, gangs, exploitation, and drugs.
- On Trak in Bradford South – this is a community initiative which includes bike restoration projects and educational inputs around ASB, knife crime and positive associations. It is aimed at young people at risk of involvement in ASB and young offending.
- Positive Choices – this is run in schools where educational inputs alongside partners focus on making positive choices in life, the consequences of crime, and positive associations.
- Bradford Bulls Community Box - this offers young people who would not normally have the opportunity to attend a game the chance to do so. It allows young people to come together and enjoy the match day experience in a safe environment as a reward for their engagement with the team.

- Sports Initiative – this is a sports initiative to engage young people in team building activities fostering positive relationships. It aims to target young people involved in high volumes of ASB and crime in hotspot areas.
- Hanson Project – this is a multi-agency targeted intervention to reduce persistent school absences, getting young people back into education.

8.5.4 Calderdale

- Early Help Hub – the hub was formed to provide an immediate response where families need help in a crisis, or where there is a risk of families breaking down, to reduce the need for a statutory intervention, avoiding problems escalating.
- Healthy Holidays – sessions are provided during the school holidays with the most vulnerable children and those at risk of being involved in crime and ASB. The programme builds relationships between the police and attendees and provides educational opportunities covering our very own developed crime presentations and knife crime awareness film.
- Schools Transition Programme – This targets Year 6 students at primary schools in the most challenging areas, identified from statistics, to deliver educational inputs on the most common crime types children commit in their early years at secondary schools.
- Youth Early Action Programme (YEAPP) – this is a four-week programme targeting young people involved in crime and at risk of exclusion. The programme delivers activities out of school to enable educational conversations to try and influence a change in behaviour.

8.5.5 Kirklees

- The P.E.A.K project (Positive Engagement Against Knives) – this aims to help reduce knife crime and have a positive impact on young people at risk of carrying a knife and committing crime.
- Fire Service Youth Engagement - Early Action Officers signpost relevant young people into the Fire Service Youth Intervention programmes
- Fearless Campaign – Fearless is a Crimestoppers campaign aimed at young people with a view to increase reporting of intelligence and crime anonymously. It is designed to help young people feel empowered to speak up about crime. Safer Schools officers are providing presentations in the district regarding the campaign.

- Eden’s Forest – officers have developed and run several sessions with referred young people which aim to improve self-esteem, confidence, and resilience. Sessions feature workshops on knife crime and ASB in a unique environment away from the classroom.
- Bumpy – this project is designed to target ASB / nuisance motorbike riders. It looks at many aspects such as the legalities around riding motorcycles on the road, safety, protective equipment, and maintenance.
- Kirkburton Prison Cell – at Kirkburton Police Station the Early Action team have converted an old police cell into a mock prison cell. This cell is being used in line with EA team intervention to show the consequences of crime.

8.5.6 Leeds

- Herd Farm – Youth Cycling Diversionsary – Leeds Early Action Team have secured funding to support vulnerable young people aged 10-13 using cycling activities on a programme of rides. The sessions will offer young people the opportunity to understand what help may be available to them and their families and to conduct restorative conversations which give them the tools to thrive and succeed.
- The Hunslet Youth club – the club aims to help children and young people reach their full potential through learning and education when they may be experiencing difficulty in their lives.
- West Leeds Activity Centre – the centre is set in 17 acres of land next to the Leeds/Liverpool canal providing exciting and challenging outdoor activities. The core business is to engage with children and young people to encourage them to build confidence, increase their self-esteem, enable them to work together as a team, and enjoy the great outdoors.
- Lineham Farm – during term time, this centre is used for school residentials, with priority given to schools in the most deprived and disadvantaged areas of Leeds. Outside term time, they provide unforgettable breaks for neglected, abused or poverty-stricken children and young carers. Their mission is to assist in enabling disadvantaged children from Leeds to realise their full potential and to ensure that any child within Leeds needing respite or support receives it. The children they support are mostly aged between 7 and 11.
- Gipton Together Project – this is a non-profit organisation who help to keep children off the streets and away from crime. The project works with young people between the ages of 5 and 18 years. Through arts and sports activities for young people, the sessions are a crime prevention and crime

diversionary alternative.

8.5.7 Wakefield

- Bobby Bear Project - police teddy bears have been delivered to NPTs and subsequently distributed to all primary schools across West Yorkshire enabling engagement and positive influence.
- Cell Intervention Project – using a mock custody suite at South Kirkby, local officers and partners provide an age-appropriate scenario experience.
- Inspire Girls Group – alongside partners, the group offers girls aged 11–16 age-appropriate inputs including self-defence and confidence training.
- Pontefract Youth Club – this offers young people the opportunity to learn self-defence alongside sports sessions, which has reduced ASB in the area.
- Early Intervention Engagement Team – officers and partners target areas of youth ASB, vulnerability, and crime hotspot areas to engage with young people in the community.
- FDC – Focus Deterrence Car – this project deploys a car carrying experienced youth workers who work in tandem with a West Yorkshire Police non-uniformed officer at the ‘teachable moment’ following an incident, with a view to engaging with young people affected by and witness to the incident.

9.0 Violence Reduction Unit

9.1 All the workstreams from the Violence Reduction Unit Delivery arm are focused on Early Intervention and Prevention.

9.1.1 Appendix 1 shows the overarching workstream plan along with the locally based initiatives.

9.1.2 As well as this ongoing work, there have been other early intervention initiatives developed looking at some of the areas highlighted in the VRU Needs Assessment. One of these is the Education Inclusion work as follows:

Education Inclusion

Following an expression of interest process the following interventions are now delivering:

9.1.3 *Bradford - Brathay Trust (with JAMES) at Co-op Academy Grange*

This is a targeted programme, with a focus on those identified as most at risk, working with small groups (and 1:1s) referred by the school and offering 3 key elements:

- 1) Youth Coaches (including family support)
- 2) Vocational Training and Experiential Residentials
- 3) Therapeutic Counselling (as required)

This is complemented by a universal offer which involves creating an awareness campaign designed and led by young people at the school, focusing on supporting knowledge and resilience interventions that will actively help prevent young people from entering the criminal justice system.

This also includes creating a School Mentor Coordinator, initiating a school-wide Peer Mentoring scheme, as well as taking on actions suggested by young people themselves – such as creating and recording song/ drama workshops or other school-based discussion work.

9.1.4 *Kirklees and Calderdale - St Giles Trust at North Huddersfield Trust and Trinity Academy*

St Giles' SOS+ project is a multi-tiered delivery model that recognises the impact of violence, persistent absenteeism, and exclusions on young people's ability to thrive, which will in turn support the VRU's aim of achieving a reduction in first time offenders, reoffending, and weapon related crime.

Using SOS+ Mentors and mental health support, St Giles are delivering a 'whole school approach', working with approximately 630 young people, including targeted 1:1 support to approximately 30 young people and their families through place-based mentoring and outreach into the community, delivery of whole school assemblies (universal offer) reaching 600 young people and awareness raising training delivered to approximately 50 parents, carers, and professionals.

9.1.5 *Leeds – Barca at Leeds City Academy*

This intervention is based on learning from Barca's Youth Inclusion Project, a youth prevention initiative that worked with children aged 8-13 years old who were at risk of becoming NEET (not in Education, Employment or Training), involved in offending or anti-social behaviour (including gang-related activity), and experiencing school exclusion. The mentoring and support intervention follows this programme's proven change cycle.

The Leeds-based programme uses a multi-disciplinary approach to:

1. Intensively mentoring up to 60 young people short term (or 30 young people

- if longer term support agreed).
2. Support wider family as required, strengthening attachments.
 3. Advocate with schools and other professionals.
 4. Deliver groupwork in a school and / or community setting supporting up to 32 young people within group work programmes and higher numbers through school assemblies dropping and PSHE support as agreed with school on implementation.
 5. Triangulate information and connect support plans for a young person across their, home, school, and community.

9.2 Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR)

9.2.1 The VRU continues to work with the Health and Care Partnership on the joint Adversity, Trauma and Resilience programme, with the shared ambition of working together with people with lived experience and colleagues across all sector organisations to ensure that West Yorkshire is a trauma informed and responsive system by 2030. The Strategy Board is now chaired by Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe and continues to meet on a quarterly basis.

9.2.2 Some recent highlights from the programme include:

- The launch of the new West Yorkshire ATR Academy website during December; professionals from across the country are invited to register for access, using this link – www.westyorkshiretraumainformed.co.uk
- Discussions with the Policing and Crime Team's Criminal Justice Adviser and other criminal justice partners which looked at how to align and complement the activity within the Criminal Justice ATR workstream and the planned reintroduction of the Mental Health and Criminal Justice Board.
- VRU funding for the delivery of a training package for up to 15 schools across West Yorkshire to support schools to become trauma informed and planning for a Trauma Informed Education Awareness week in February.
- Publication of a monthly ATR Bulletin, available to any partner or service provider within West Yorkshire. To sign up to receive this please contact Kelly.laycock@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

10. MAYORAL GOVERNANCE

10.1 Partnerships, boards, and scrutiny arrangements:

There are various multi-agency boards and groups working to deliver Early Intervention and Prevention. The following are some of those that take place in the Mayor's office and directly link to the early intervention and prevention agenda.

10.3 Mayoral Boards

- The West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability Strategic Group

This group aims to bring key partners together to offer support and information with a view to ensuring that, across West Yorkshire, a consistent, collaborative, and coordinated response is provided to all who are at risk of neglect, abuse, or exploitation, with a particular focus on children and young people.

- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership

This partnership is established to provide a strategic meeting framework on behalf of the statutory, non-statutory and VCSE organisations in West Yorkshire who contribute to tackling human trafficking and modern slavery in all its forms.

- The West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board

The Board enables a coordinated response to domestic abuse and sexual abuse services across West Yorkshire with the aim of ensuring equality of access to support services for victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and share and learn good practice for those working with families of domestic abuse and victims and survivors of sexual abuse across West Yorkshire.

10.4 Mayoral Governance

The previous boards all feed into the quarterly Partnership Executive Group which has the following as first in its terms of reference

1. Through a shared ambition establish how through working together we can identify solutions that work in West Yorkshire to reducing crime and disorder, improving community safety and criminal justice service effectiveness and efficiency.

11, AIMS AND FUTURE DELIVERY

- **Strategy focus and delivery:**
- Cost of Living
- Mainstreaming of the VRU's deliverables / embedding the SV Duty

- Maximising the learning from DA perpetrator programmes
- Facing the Digital Revolution challenge – Keeping People Safe and Building resilience

12. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Mayor’s commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is central to the commissioning approach and processes. All funded services and activity require an Equality Impact Assessment, and continuous performance of identified actions and progress will be monitored as part of our contracting and granting arrangements.
- 12.2 Our first Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Toolkit for Policing and Crime funded providers, services, and projects has been launched. The Toolkit has been designed to provide information that supports the completion of the EqIA for the services commissioned and funded by the Mayor to support the delivery of the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan. (Link to toolkit <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/commissioning/tools-for-providers/>)
- 12.3 All Policing and Crime funded providers, services, and projects are required to complete an EqIA. Equality, diversity and inclusion will be evidenced in the commissioning process and will be an expectation of all commissioned services in order for the Mayor to understand the impact of the service on the different communities she represents.

13 IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST YORKSHIRE

- 13.1 Early Intervention and Prevention impacts on all people, regardless of age. However, it can have profound impact and implications for the outcomes for children and young people.
- 13.2 Children and young people are more likely to become victims of violent crime than people over 25 years old. The VRU and the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience framework, through a public health approach, is looking specifically at children and young people, both victims and perpetrators, and exploring methods to break that cycle through education and evidence lead policing tactics.
- 13.3 The Youth Independent Advisory Group were consulted during the early stages of the Victims and Witnesses Strategy formulation. Their feedback was instrumental in the decision to create a theme within the strategy specific to their

needs.

14 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 Commissioning:

The Mayor's Policing and Crime Commissioning Strategy - to commission safe, just, and inclusive community-based services and activities for West Yorkshire – was published in January 2023. The strategy is available here: [Policing and Crime Commissioning Strategy 2022-24](#)

The commissioning budget is split into the following strategic funding streams and the overall budget includes a combination of central government grants, the precept (police proportion of the council tax), Proceeds of Crime Act funding and other ad hoc opportunities such the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The current budgets cover the following areas and additional budget areas can be added if they are required during the life of this strategy:

- Victims of Crime
- Community Safety
- Criminal Justice
- Violence Reduction Unit
- Partnership Contributions

14.2 Some funding related activity is required to meet the Mayor's responsibility to provide services for victims of crime. Other funding relates to activity carried out in partnership with or through grants to a combination of local authorities, local providers and/or community groups all of which work with the Mayor to achieve the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

In the financial year 2022/23 the Mayor allocated **£16 million** from 10 different funding streams annually for community-based services, provision, research and evaluation. This was facilitated through the following.

- 30 service contracts ranging in length of 6 months to 3 years, ranging in value from £20k to £2m.
- 123 grants ranging in value from £5k to £965k.
- 7 funding proformas with West Yorkshire Police with a total value of £1.7m
- 90 different organisations are in receipt of funding.

14.3 Ministry of Justice grant funding in relation to local commissioning of victims' support services for West Yorkshire includes three West Yorkshire-wide service contracts to deliver support to victims of all crime, victims/survivors of sexual abuse and restorative justice. This grant funds 33 different organisations.

Of these organisations, 26 are VCSE, including a number of 'by and for' organisations, five Local Authorities and 2 Hospital Trusts. In total our funded providers are delivering 70 different services/activities to approx. 90,000 victims of crime per year.

- Funded VCSE organisations are as diverse as the communities they serve, across the race, culture, LBGTQ+, gender and all protected factors. They are often staffed by dedicated individuals with previous lived experience.
- An overview of all the commissioned services and activities with allocated funding for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 from the Ministry of Justice Grant Funding in Relation to Local Commissioning of Victims' Support Services for West Yorkshire is published on our website. Link <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/commissioning/>
- Community Safety Funding is passported to all five Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and to West Yorkshire Police for the Drugs Intervention Programme.
- The Community Safety Reserve funds a West Yorkshire-wide Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Service that includes essential victims support amid the delivery of this behaviour change programme.

14.4 Our strong partnership working enables us to seek opportunities to co-commission services with other Police and Crime Commissioners/police forces or public and VCSE organisations. This is achieved through the Mayor entering into partnership agreements for the joint provision of services either directly as a joint commissioner or contributor to a joint funding arrangement. Depending on the service, these may be undertaken through either a service level agreement or a grant. These arrangements will set out the Mayor's role, the necessary governance arrangements and service requirements, and the need for work to remain within the parameters of this strategy and meet the priorities of the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan. Co-commissioning with those who have lived experience is one of our real ambitions. Enabling those with lived experience to influence the way we commission services, and what we commission, will ensure services and delivery activities truly meet the needs of our communities.

14.5 The multi-crime victim support offer is currently awarded on a West Yorkshire-

wide basis. This service includes specialist support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual offences through Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA). These are vital roles, crucial to the welfare and journey to recovery of victims and survivors, as well as helping maintain contact with the criminal justice system, supporting during interactions with the police, and advocating for the provision of special measures to support the taking and giving of evidence in a trauma informed manner.

14.6 Cost of Living impact

14.6.1 Due to the increased cost of living to providers and those that they support the Head of Commissioning, Policing and Crime undertook a consultation with VCSE funded providers regarding issues, pressures, and impact.

14.6.2 The Head of Commissioning has shared the findings with the MoJ informing them of our decision to provide a cost-of-living uplift payment for 2022/23 and stressed it is essential that the increasing cost of living pressures are taken into urgent consideration for the remainder of the multi-year grant allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

14.6.3 The key areas of concern for providers are as follows:

14.6.4 Impact the cost of living is having on services:

- Increase in rent of service delivery locations
- Increase in utility costs
- Increased demand on services for access / transport costs.
- Increased in demand for support
- NJC cost of living increase pay awards
- Made cost of living salary increases, backdated to 1st April 2022

14.6.5 Impact the cost of living is having on staff / volunteers:

- Pay rise requests to meet cost of living increases
- Staff retention and staff/volunteers leaving due to increased costs e.g., childcare, travel, utilities, and food
- Staff retention – employees seeking alternative employment or in public sector where salaries and benefits are higher
- Increase in the need for more immediate reimbursement of costs
- Negative impact on mental health
- Living wage employers only able to provide a % of salary uplift

14.6.6 Impact the cost of living is having on victims/survivors accessing services:

- Increased new referrals
- Previous service users returning/requesting more support
- Increased numbers of victims due to the further pressures on families.
- Those supported going without food in order to feed families.
- Domestic abuse victims are less likely to flee due to financial implications.
- Increase in everyday living is making it difficult for victims to engage in a therapeutic process to deal with significant trauma.
- Families going without heat.
- Family / relationship challenges leading to increased abuse, control, similar to 'lockdown' as not able to afford to go out.
- Increased risk of exploitation if lack of funds or lack of clients who have less funds to spend means taking riskier jobs (sex workers)
- Increasing risk for young people as parents' mental health needs or increased work leaves young people neglected
- Increase in request for advocacy around maximising income, seeking emergency food parcels, support with utility bills etc.
- Concerned about the costs of food, utilities, travel costs, telephones /data and buying wider items essential items e.g., clothing, essential toiletries.

15 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

16 EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

As part of the consultation for the Police and Crime plan, the cross cutting theme of Early Intervention and Prevention was discussed and the following feedback was given. More on this can be seen at:

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/8215/police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf>

The below are representative of the comments made about this cross-cutting theme.

'I think that Early Intervention is the key to prevent crime. This theme is important and is underpinned by the findings of the Marmot report. We would support the allocation of additional resources to allow the Police to engage with schools and youth groups'.

‘There is strong support for the early intervention cross-cutting theme, and it is important to see this reflected in resource distribution and/or reference to other partnership activity. It also needs to have some key community safety areas to ensure we can demonstrate impact and follow the evidence based public health model’.

17 RECOMMENDATIONS

17.1 The panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – VRU workstreams

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Appendix 1 – VRU Workstreams and Locally-based initiatives

