

Additional issues raised by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) at the Performance Meeting held on 3 August 2015

DEMAND MANAGEMENT

During the first quarter of 2015/16 (April-June 2015), the following demand was placed on West Yorkshire Police:

- There were 362,186 calls for service, an increase of 0.05% compared to April-June 2014.
- There was a 6.3% reduction in the number of incidents recorded (to 156,194), however there was an increase of 15.5% in the number of incidents which were recorded as crimes.
- There was a 3.8% reduction in the volume of incidents attended by officers to 98,366.
- 86.2% of emergency response incidents were attended within 15 minutes, a reduction from 88.3% for 2014/15.
- The average time taken to attend the 25,755 emergency response incidents was 10 minutes 36 seconds.
- The demand for service coming through online mediums has risen by 76% (to 14,086) compared with April-June 2014.
- There was a 7% increase in calls for service relating to transport incidents to 17,228.

The increase in online calls for service follows publicity of these functions since the beginning of the year. Any enquiry made through electronic means is classed as a call for service, including accessing information via the crime tracker website (www.westyorkshire.police.uk/crimetracker). The only thing that is not included is hits/visits to the website. The police attempt to respond to any online enquiry within 4 hours and are trying to direct non-emergency enquiries through this route where it is appropriate. West Yorkshire Police have been running a campaign to educate the public on appropriate use of the 999 emergency number, and will be looking to do something similar for the 101 non-emergency number. Calls to the 101 number are currently being answered within 34 seconds.

Transport incidents are mainly made up of road traffic collisions, and the increase is partly due to recording changes. Minor collisions are now being recorded where they may not previously have been and there is some increased reporting for insurance purposes. Work is being undertaken around services provided by the police in terms of transport incidents and this will also form part of a wider review around demand for police services.

In terms of workload, crimes are now dealt with at the contact centre where possible to avoid unnecessary deployment of officers and staff. Monthly accountability meetings held locally compare officer workloads and the ward based needs assessment is amended if necessary to ensure adequate staffing is in place in struggling areas. Team accountability meetings take place weekly and unpick team workload and productivity. Increases in workloads are mainly being felt in Bradford and Leeds.

ROBBERY

For the year to June 2015 personal robbery showed an increase of 11% (to 1,690 offences) across West Yorkshire, and 24% in Bradford (to 518 offences) meaning that Bradford now accounts for nearly a third of all personal robberies. This increase is particularly linked to robberies from cannabis growers and benefit robberies. Benefit robberies have been subject to problem profiling across West Yorkshire policing districts to help tackle this locally, and it is believed that the number of robberies from cannabis growers is actually under reported due to reluctance of growers to incriminate themselves. There is no increase in serious robberies.

BICYCLE THEFT

There are two types of bicycle theft – opportunistic theft and targeted theft of expensive bikes. There has been a 12% increase in bicycle theft in the April-June 2015 period, with increases differing across policing districts.

	West Yorkshire	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Change over time	+12%	No change	+3%	-35%	+17%	+57%
Volume	582	96	30	49	286	121

Cycling has gained in popularity since the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire leading to an increase in bike ownership. The bicycle theft profile varies across policing districts with thefts in Leeds concentrated around the city centre and some other areas such as Wakefield having more sheds targeted. Factors such as seasonal variation of bicycle usage, public awareness of safety and bike to work schemes can contribute to changes over time. A localised response to the rise in thefts is being developed that includes work with cycling clubs to ensure safety of their members.

POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES

Possession of weapons offences have risen by 25% to 835 offences for the 12 months to June 2015, with 38% more offences recorded during April-June 2015. Knife crime has also risen by 8% (to 1,233 offences) for the 12 months to March 2015. West Yorkshire Police believe this is linked to stop and search uncovering more offences as re-education has been taking place with officers and staff around this. The increases seen are comparable nationally, but there are also some potential crime recording issues e.g. finding a teenager with a pen knife may be more likely to result in a crime being recorded now whereas before it may just have resulted in a verbal reprimand.

MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Miscellaneous crimes against society covers a broad range of crimes¹ and has risen by 61% during April-June 2015 (to 1,002). The increase is likely due to improved crime recording practices linked to data integrity. Police officers may not have been aware that something was a crime previously but awareness has been raised due to the focus on data integrity and therefore an increase in crime recording has taken place. There has particularly been an increase within this category for taking/possession of indecent photos.

¹ This category includes crimes such as: concealing an infant death close to birth; exploitation of prostitution; bigamy; soliciting for prostitution; going equipped for stealing; making, supplying or possessing articles for use in fraud; profiting from or concealing proceeds of crime; handling stolen goods; threat or possession with intent to commit criminal damage; forgery or use of drug prescription; other forgery; possession of false documents; fraud, forgery associated with driver records; perjury; Offender Management Act offences; aiding suicide; perverting the course of justice; absconding from lawful custody; bail offences; obscene publications; disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements; other notifiable offences; dangerous driving.