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**Report to:** Police and Crime Panel

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**Subject:** Serious and Organised Crime

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**Report of:** Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

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- 1.1. This report outlines work undertaken by the Policing and Crime Office and West Yorkshire Police in respect of Serious Organised Crime (SOC).
- 1.2. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. Face to face and online consultation and engagement ran from 1 September 2021- 30 November 2021; The Voice of West Yorkshire is one of two key documents which supports the Police and Crime Plan 2021 -24. The document includes the notes of key events and can be found here: [policing-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf) (westyorks-ca.gov.uk).
- 1.3. Priority 3 - Safer Places and Thriving Communities outlines the Police, Mayor, and partners will focus on the harmful and unacceptable behaviour that targets the different communities of West Yorkshire through an ongoing commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and partnership working in localities.
- 1.4. Neighbourhood crime, road safety, and serious violence were the most frequently selected areas of focus under this priority. Serious Violence has increased with drugs offences/ knife crime a problem in West Yorkshire – work is in place to tackle this alongside youth nuisance in neighbourhood

areas, links are seen between drug and alcohol misuse and Serious Violent crimes, with OCGs targeting the vulnerable, highlighting the need to intervene early to stop this spiral of violence.

- 1.5. Partners also told us that taking a place-based approach to Serious Organised Crime is an effective tool in tackling a crime type that brings so much harm to communities.

## **2. INFORMATION**

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- 2.1. Organised crime, serious violence and the use of weapons, are often linked and we must all work to protect, educate and divert people away from these crime types. The Mayor will continue to oversee and support the response to major threats and serious violence provided by our regional teams, local partners and neighbourhood police teams in identifying and preventing major threats and serious violence within our communities
- 2.2. In respect of the safety of women and girls the priority also highlights:
  - we will make West Yorkshire a hostile place to exploiters, through developing strong deterrents, designing-out crime, supporting community challenge, making reporting crime simpler, and increasing confidence in the police]
  - Support grass-roots community organisations that provide important services for women and girls.
  - Use developing technology and tools to understand where and why women and girls feel unsafe in public spaces
  - Work to ensure women and girls are safe on public transport and taxis.
- 2.3. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will continue to develop their innovative approaches to tackling serious violence in, and with communities, through their ground-breaking work. Taking a public health approach, the VRU seeks to improve the health and safety of all members of the community by addressing the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. The plan for the coming year(s) will be the focus of a separate paper coming to the Police and Crime Panel in September.
- 2.4. There are also specific objectives and outcomes regarding the reduction of Serious Organised Crime contained within the plan performance framework. These statistics can be seen quarterly in the Performance Monitoring Report that is brought to panel

- 2.5. Also, SOC also forms part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) which was published in July 2012 as the Government recognised that there were some aspects of policing that required a national response, and that there was a need for a balance between localism and meeting national requirements. The SPR document sets out the Home Secretary's view of the national threats that the police must prepare for and the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats. Details of the SPR can be found in the Police and Crime Plan.

### **3. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS**

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- 3.1. Wherever there are equality, diversity and inclusion benefits and/or implications, these are highlighted in the report

### **4. IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST YORKSHIRE**

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- 4.1 Where this report has implications for young people, this has been included in the report.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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- 5.1. Any financial implications will be part of the report where applicable.

### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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- 6.1. Legal considerations and implications are made at each stage of the processes described in the document

### **7. EXTERNAL CONSULTATION**

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- 7.1. As documented – extensive external consultation took place for the Police and Crime plan and continues with the resumption of the Your Views survey and the various mayoral consultations.

### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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8.1. That the Police and Crime Panel accept this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES**

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**Appendix 1 – Report on West Yorkshire Police’s response to Serious and Organised Crime**

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **Appendix 1 – Report on West Yorkshire Police’s response to Serious and Organised Crime**

### **A.1 Programme Precision- West Yorkshire’s response to Serious Organised Crime.**

A.1.1 Serious and organised crime covers many areas of threat including firearms, human trafficking, exploitation, fraud, cyber-crime, corruption and organised acquisitive crime including burglary and robbery. West Yorkshire has developed Programme Precision as the platform for delivery. Programme Precision is about delivering a co-ordinated response to protect the local communities. This approach has recently been recognised as ‘Outstanding’ by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service, the highest possible grading.

### **A.2 Vision**

A.2.1 To build a highly effective pan West Yorkshire partnership which will work together to make West Yorkshire a hostile environment to those who seek to exploit our communities to benefit from all forms of organised crime. We will focus our efforts on identifying and protecting those vulnerable to organised crime and support and protect our communities.

### **A.3 Aims**

- Ensure a comprehensive understanding of organised crime including who is involved and where it takes place.
- Gather and share information and intelligence from all partners, including the community, faith organisations and the third sector, helping to raise awareness of the threat posed by serious and organised crime.
- Develop appropriate partnership interventions to deter people from becoming involved in serious and organised crime, rehabilitate those caught up in criminality and provide wider support to families and communities who are impacted by this.
- Make West Yorkshire a hostile environment for those engaged in serious and organised crime.
- To pursue organised crime offenders through strong and effective partnerships, sharing multiagency intelligence and resources to maximise impact and disruption resulting in the dismantling and prosecution of these offenders.

- To deliver a cohesive partnership 4 ‘P’ strategy to co-ordinate the partnership response to identify and disrupt all SOC threats.
- Through a whole partnership approach reduce the threat and risk posed by serious and organised crime.
- To reduce the risk of harm and increase confidence in our local communities that all statutory agencies actively engage in tackling serious and organised crime.
- To ensure communities, faith organisations and the third sector have a comprehensive understanding of serious and organised crime and are confident in the support available and the reporting process.

#### **A.4 Objectives**

A.4.1 The Home Office and National Crime Agency endorse the “Four P” approach to tackling serious and organised crime: Prepare, Prevent, Pursue and Protect. A fifth P, “Partnership” is embedded across the entire West Yorkshire approach. The objectives are as follows:

- Prepare: Prepare for when SOC occurs and mitigate its impact.
- Prevent: Preventing and deterring people from engaging in serious and organised crime.
- Pursue: Pursue offenders through prosecution and disruption
- Protect: Protect individuals, organisations and systems from the effects of SOC

#### **A.5 How we deliver**

A.5.1 The Government’s most recent serious and organised crime (SOC) strategy set out their (and our) approach to it. The Government’s aim is to protect citizens and prosperity by allowing no safe space for serious and organised criminals to operate within the UK and overseas, online and offline.

- Relentlessly disrupt and take targeted action against serious and organised criminals and networks having the greatest harm in the UK.
- Build the highest levels of defence and resilience in vulnerable people, communities, businesses and systems.
- Stop the problem at source, identifying and supporting those at risk of engaging in criminality.
- Establish a single, whole-system response, aligning the efforts of all those involved in responding to serious and organised crime as one, cohesive system.

- A.5.2 This new strategy targets the highest harm networks and the most dangerous and determined criminals who exploit vulnerable people. It uses all the powers and levers available to the state to deny them access to money, assets and infrastructure. But the Government recognises this will not be achieved through disruption alone.
- A.5.3 Everyone must work together - the public, businesses and communities must work cohesively to help stop themselves from being targeted by criminals and support those who are. We must also intervene early with those at risk of being drawn into criminality. The strength of our approach, through Programme Precision, is by adopting a shared vision and achieving buy-in from partners, charities, the third and voluntary sectors, faith organisations and communities across the entire county of West Yorkshire.
- A.5.4 We recognise that serious and organised crime is a major threat to our communities. The ability of those involved to transcend local, national and international boundaries as well as infiltrate emerging communities, use the most up to date technology and identify and exploit the most vulnerable in our society means that we need an approach that is different to how we have traditionally delivered our policing response.
- A.5.6 The communities of West Yorkshire deserve the very best response to this threat. A response that delivers an effective, efficient and state of the art service that disrupts and dismantles this type of crime. The direction from government is clear, we need to establish a whole systems approach through strong, coherent and connected partnerships to understand the threat of serious and organised crime, which operates with a common vision and shared goal to make communities safer. The old ways of working are not sufficient. We will continue to catch and convict perpetrators, prevent and deter offending and rehabilitate and resettle offenders but we need to supplement this work. The ability to have early engagement with vulnerable groups to break the cycle of offending is crucial. We need to be able to operate within virtual communities where criminals manipulate the internet to commit fraud, groom children for sexual exploitation and move commodities such as drugs and firearms via the dark web.
- A.5.7 West Yorkshire Police are utilising the newly adopted **Clear, Hold and Build** (CHB) Methodology
- A.5.8 CHB provides a framework, based on a three-phase operating model, which has been designed to simultaneously tackle the threats from SOC offenders, local vulnerabilities exploited by them and the impact of individual and place based harm they cause. Each phase outlines an operational requirement. An

inter-operable 4P approach, using a combination of each of the P interventions at each stage to deliver tactical options in a systematic, proportionate and relevant way.

A.5.9 The aim is to reduce harm caused by Serious and Organised Crime.

- **Clear** Interventions that target SOC offenders, their networks, business interests, criminality and spheres of influence through arrests and enforcement action or otherwise disrupting their activities.
- **Hold** consolidates and stabilises the clear phase by providing measures to stop other SOC criminals re-establishing themselves and undermining community confidence.
- **Build** seeks to change the community culture, improve the environment and develop partner agency and stakeholder capabilities to create sustainable resilience and safety for those communities.

A.5.10 The CHB in West Yorkshire has had significant success and as a county we are recognised national as a leading force for our delivery. Areas such as BD3, Windybank Estate and Walpole have all seen significant crime reduction and other measures including reducing the fear of crime as a result of the CHB approach.

## **A.6 What is the threat in West Yorkshire**

A.6.1 For criminal activity to be defined as “serious and organised crime” the following criteria must be met:

- More than one criminal is involved;
- It involves control, planning and use of specialist resources;
- It causes significant harm or has the potential to do so;
- There is material gain, which is usually financial.

A.6.2 The most common types of serious and organised crime are:

- Production, importation, movement and supply of illegal drugs, often including the use of firearms or weapons.
- The production, conversion and supply of firearms.
- Human trafficking and organised immigration crime.
- Organised Exploitation of Vulnerable People (OEVP) which includes the sexual and criminal exploitation of individuals, groups and within specific communities.
- Fraud and economic crime including the rising threat from cyber related crime.



- Corruption within law enforcement organisations and professional bodies such as accounting, legal services, banking and the service providers.
- Organised acquisitive crime including burglary and robbery

A.6.3 West Yorkshire currently has 146 SOC threats mapped. This includes groups (OCG), individuals, vulnerabilities (such as the Western Balkan threat) and locations. There has been a steady increase in numbers over the past 18 months. This increase is in part due to the increase in awareness in staff, especially within the intelligence units in identifying, understanding and disrupting these groups. The groups are categorised in terms of their principle criminality. In reality, however, they operate across a number of crime types with firearms often seen as a linked criminality type to drugs supply. The current spread of crime classification accordingly is as follows:

Drugs Supply	69
Organised Acquisitive Crime	34
Modern Slavery	12
Firearms *	3
Criminal Finances	13
CSEA	3
County Lines	12

*\* This is the manufacturing and distributing of firearms- those who are firearms enabled will be shown as a secondary threat and not in these figures*

- A.6.4 95% of mapped SOC criminals in West Yorkshire are male, 78% are British with 34% described as of white ethnicity and 25% Asian. The majority of the members (42%) are aged between 23 and 32.
- A.6.5 46 of the West Yorkshire OCGs are known to operate across county borders, affecting 24 different policing areas and even internationally across 11 different countries.
- A.6.6 Conversely, given the fluid nature of the operation of OCGs, West Yorkshire is impacted upon by 293 OCGs from 21 other policing regions and partner agencies nationally. This presents obvious challenges and highlights the need to work effectively across local authority, county and international borders.

- A.6.7 Local understanding of the profile of serious and organised crime is informed primarily through police intelligence and one of the aims of this strategy is to improve the intelligence picture through better engagement with partners who can provide a clearer picture. Whilst those involved in serious and organised crime can work alone or through informal hierarchies, they typically operate in loose networks based on trust, reputation and experience sometimes based around family ties cutting across ethnic boundaries.
- A.6.8 Over the last 12 months Programme Precision has continued to deliver a West Yorkshire wide response to Serious and Organised Crime. Our work focusses on a whole system response to these issues, which means that it is wider than disrupting and arresting criminals involved in this type of crime, but is also about identifying and supporting those people, businesses and communities who may be at risk of becoming exploited into, or victims of SOC as well as building the resilience in our communities to be able to feel safe and strong to report concerns and not accept SOC as an acceptable element of our lives.

## **A.7 Criminal Use of Firearms**

- A.7.1 Within Protective Services Crime a Firearms Prevent and investigation team is dedicated to reducing the risk from firearms and effectively investigating any discharges. As required, this team is supported by the larger major investigation teams with all such investigations being led by a Senior Investigating Officer.
- A.7.2 The force has a dedicated Chief Inspector on the Firearms Cadre providing 24-hour cover with a dedicated Intelligence function providing live - time research and analysis to ensure a thorough evaluation of the information, dynamic risk assessments with tactical plans formulated and officers deployed where appropriate in a timely manner. The force has a weekly meeting where firearms and organised crime Intelligence is reviewed to ensure all disruption and assertive management opportunities are maximised. This includes the management of offenders who are released into the community with specialist Investigators involved in these investigations from Protective Services crime.
- A.7.3 There is a strong and effective relationship between investigators and the firearms capability of the force. For example, armed response vehicles patrol hotspot areas and undertake offender management of some individuals, after appropriate assessment. This is being further strengthened between specialist investigators at PSC and firearms officers developing bespoke

training to upskill key departments.

- A.7.4 The team have had some significant performance across a number of different work streams due to our ‘whole systems’ approach to firearms criminality and how, by understanding the threat as a whole and making improvements across different aspects of our response we have achieved a situation whereby the public are undoubtedly safer. All of this is being delivered in line with Programme Precision and the response to Serious Organised Crime.

#### A.7.5 Actual Discharges

	Apr 2017 – Mar 2018	Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2021 – Mar 2022	01/04/22 – 23/05/2022
Total	50	51	42	23	22	3
Detection	19.6%	17.0%	28.0%	52.2%	59.1%	

- A.7.6 Our actual discharge figures are the lowest for six years, a considerable year on year decrease. Some might suggest that this is the Covid 19 effect, but we would dispute this. During the same period, one of our neighbouring forces has seen a substantial increase, with the National picture remaining the same.
- A.7.7 The reason the figures have decreased is because WYP undertake specialist investigations into every discharge event. Some discharges involve a gun fired into the air, some involve a homicide.
- A.7.8 However, the approach is to deploy a specialist investigation into each and every discharge event to ensure that where we can, we recover the weapons and ensure convictions for the relevant offence. It is this approach which has led to the detection rates achieved.
- A.7.9 West Yorkshire Police works closely with the Regional Organised Crime Unit to monitor and map organised crime groups and urban street gangs who are involved in County Lines and drug supply both within West Yorkshire and into other counties. West Yorkshire has mapped several lines to manage, monitor and disrupt where appropriate utilising both overt and covert investigations.
- A.7.10 Similar to the Organised Crime Group model, groups are scored, mapped and prioritised for interventions and disruptions. The force develops strategic plans to tackle and disrupt organised crime groups through a coordinated Multi-Agency approach.

- A.7.11 Strategic plans are monitored and delivered through the Programme Precision Force Silver group where Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and Urban Street Gangs that are high priority are discussed, disruptions are recorded which includes arrests and convictions of OCG nominals.

## **A.8 Drugs Trafficking**

- A.8.1 The threat posed by drugs trafficking, particularly those groups that are firearms enabled, is managed within protective services crime. Teams with specialist overt and covert capability proactively investigate and disrupt SOC threat within West Yorkshire and work at a regional and national level to coordinate our response with the relevant other teams and departments.
- A.8.2 The success of this response can be seen through the disruptions data. A majority of disruptions recorded are for the primary threat of Drugs (91%) *n.b. County Lines disruptions are included within Drugs.*
- A.8.3 OCGs with a primary threat of 'Drugs' account for 84% (n=44 inc. County Lines) of the OCGs managed in West Yorkshire, which matches the large number of disruptions in this primary threat area.
- A.8.3 A example of the significant success these specialist teams have is demonstrated in recent court results
- Two men have been jailed for more than 22 years after police recovered high purity cocaine estimated at more than £3m. Faheem Kola and Asaf Salim were sentenced last Friday (May 13 at Leeds Crown Court, after they pleaded guilty to their involvement at an earlier hearing. Kola, aged 30, of Willows Lane in Bolton, received 11 years and three months. Salim, aged 40, of Huddersfield Road in Ravensthorpe, was jailed for 11 years. Police observed Kola supply three plastic bags, which were found to contain 19 kilos of cocaine, to Salim on Spen Valley Road in Ravensthorpe on 11 November 2021. Later that day officers executed a warrant at Salim's address and found seven blocks of cocaine in the cellar, as well as more than £5,000 in cash and three lots of scales. Officers then searched Salim's Volkswagen Golf and found a further 19 blocks. Salim, who was disqualified from driving, had taken the vehicle to meet with Kola to pick up the drugs. Kola was arrested the same day after police stopped his car in Halifax. A search of the vehicle found it contained a professionally designed 'hide', which was used for storing illegal

substances. Both his and Salim's vehicles were seized, along with another car which Salim had documentation for. Both men were duly charged with conspiring to supply cocaine and were remanded in custody.

- Two men who attempted to smuggle 14kg of high-purity cocaine inside a "sophisticated" fake gas canister have been jailed. The class A drug, worth an estimated £1.4m, was stashed inside the device which released real gas from a valve. Faruk Miah, 44, and Safraz Latif, 37, conspired to transport it from London to Bradford last February. At Bradford Crown Court, Miah was jailed for 18 years and Latif was handed an 11-year prison term. The court heard how police watched Miah take the canister from the boot of his Audi before hiding it in the basement of a house undergoing renovation on Cornwall Place. After raiding the property, police searched another address in Whiteways where they found an 8mm semi-automatic gun, a banknote-counting machine, a heat-sealing device and an angle grinder, all described as "the tools" of Miah's "evil" drugs trade by Judge Ahmed Nadim.

#### **A.5. The Organised Exploitation of Vulnerable People**

- A.5.1 The Organised Exploitation of Vulnerable People by SOC offenders in order to engage in criminal activity such as dealing drugs has been recognised nationally. Part of this criminality is the phenomenon that has been termed 'county lines'. The term is used to describe the situation where a group supplies drugs from an 'urban' to a 'rural' location and often involves exploiting young people in order to carry out the activities.
- A.5.2 The established 'network' operates by using a branded mobile phone line and supply lines for drugs.
- A.5.3 Young and vulnerable people are exploited by means of violence, intimidation and coercive control in order to move and deal the drugs and cash. West Yorkshire is not immune to this phenomenon and experiences 'county lines' in a number of ways. This includes organised crime groups from West Yorkshire operating drugs lines into other counties, and across West Yorkshire from urban to rural areas. Groups from outside West Yorkshire are also exploiting people to operate their criminal drug dealing into West Yorkshire.
- A.5.4 The true scale of activity can be difficult to determine and requires a whole partnership approach to identify and address the issues. The national response is detailed within the Government's drug strategy; 'Ending Violence

and Exploitation’ and the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, with the need to improve safeguarding responses to gang violence and exploitation highlighted by the then Children’s Commissioner, Anne Longfield, in the report, Keeping Kids Safe.

- A.5.5 The OEVP threat is managed through a Tactical Delivery Group chaired by a Detective Superintendent lead and reports into the Force Crime Board.

## **A.6 Urban Street Gangs**

- A.6.1 A further visible representation of organised crime is the issue of urban street gangs. Often, but not solely associated with the operating of county lines, these gangs exist in urban areas. The control of local drugs markets can lead to violence, often perpetrated by young people against young people and brings fear to local communities, often devastating the families affected. The response requires a whole partnership approach to tackle the criminality but also to support communities and coordinate activity to remove the pathways into gang membership.
- A.6.2 Tackling organised crime groups, county lines and urban street gangs is all part of the Programme Precision approach and features within the partnership responses across the five districts of West Yorkshire. Collectively, organised criminal groups, county lines networks and urban street gangs are categorised as criminal networks and whilst the focus of their activities can differ, the common issues of the impacts on communities and vulnerable people are clear.
- A.6.3 Programme Precision ensure a partnership approach is applied to bring together the skills and resources from across the county to Pursue the criminals, Prepare our communities and responses, Protect our communities and Prevent people from being drawn into exploitative criminal activities that have the common effect of ruining lives

## **A.7 Modern Slavery Human Trafficking (MSHT)**

- A.7.1 The Force Human Trafficking Team is located within the Protective Services (Crime) department of West Yorkshire Police. This dedicated team is responsible for investigating offences of Human Trafficking (also known as Modern Day Slavery) and actively targets criminals and organised crime groups operating in this crime area. This crime type is currently the second highest priority crime for the Force and includes a number of areas including Sexual Exploitation often in the form of brothels, labour exploitation, criminal exploitation, domestic servitude, organ harvesting, organised immigration

crime and county lines.

A.7.2 The team retains ownership for the investigation and disruption of identified individuals, OCG's and criminal networks as well as providing support to investigations across the five policing districts aided by specially trained SPOCs (Single Points of Contact) in each district. The team supports the National Referral Mechanism to signpost victims for further support and undertake activities to gather intelligence and raise awareness across our communities, the third and voluntary sectors, faith organisations and partnerships.

A.7.3 Between 01/04/2021 and 30/04/2022 there were 129 arrests where the detainee was arrested for one or more offences relating to Modern Slavery.

A.7.4 The current disposal for those offences is as follows (as at 24/05/2022):

Disposal Type	Disposals	BD	CD	KD	LD	WD
Charge	6	1	1	0	3	1
Other Warrant	1	1	0	0	0	0
Other Transfer	3	1	0	0	2	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
No further action	67	12	15	13	19	8
Bail	11	2	1	1	3	4
Released under investigation	41	17	12	2	7	3
<b>Total arrests</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>

*The disposal refers to the highest ranked disposal for the offence. One detainee could be arrested for multiple offences and received multiple disposals, for example arrested for two Modern Slavery offences, charged with one and NFAAd for the other, this arrest would show 'Charge' in the above table.*

### **A.7.5 Victim identification and Support**

A.7.6 It is a particular challenge to gain the support and trust of victims of slavery offences owing to the exploitative nature and therefore the team work hard to develop an effective victim pathway. Taking best practice from across policing including HMIC high performing forces and the What Works Centre we have implemented systems to build improvement into our victim's experience. 72 Specialist Tactical Advisors have been trained across the force to ensure best practice and knowledge. Victim Liaison officers trained across Districts to ensure a caring, empathic victim focus approach to our exploited. We have introduced a Victim Navigator role that provides a

comprehensive and holistic victim support package, fully funded by the third sector and recognised by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner as best practice for victims and reducing demand to investigation teams. Following the successful bid awarded by the Criminal Justice Support Fund in the last quarter we have renovated a West Yorkshire Police owned building as a reception centre for victims of modern slavery now known as Haven House and has recently been opened for use.

### **A.7.7 Emerging threats**

A.7.8 Western Balkans is a generic term used to describe the threat posed by individuals within the UK who originate from countries within the Western Balkans. This threat manifests itself in a number of crime types including drugs trafficking, sexual exploitation, money laundering, serious violence, exploitation of individuals and cannabis cultivation. WYP continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of this threat. The response is monitored and managed through a number of structures including tactical delivery groups for drugs, serious violence and organised exploitation of vulnerable people. This threat requires a joined up delivery from local neighbourhood teams, force serious and organised crime teams as well as regional and national resources. This is a focus and priority for the force

A.7.9 Cuckooing is a practice where people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation.

A.7.10 There are different types of cuckooing:

- Using the property to deal, store or take drugs
- Using the property to sex work
- Taking over the property as a place for them to live
- Taking over the property to financially abuse the tenant

A.7.11 The most common form of cuckooing is where drug dealers take over a person's home and use it to store or distribute drugs.

A.7.12 Operation Cuckoo was launched in March and piloted in Leeds District, this is the force's response to potential victims of cuckooing which affects vulnerable people within our communities. A video, training package and additional literature produced to raise awareness within communities. A review of Op Cuckoo is due to take place to understand the impact of the work carried out but initial indications suggest a rise in the number of identified victims due to an increased number of cuckoo flags created within Leeds.



- A.7.13 Following a successful bid in March to the NPCC Modern Slavery and Organised Crime Unit for two web scraping licences (Traffic Jam), one of the threat desk analysts and a DC from the MSHT have access to Traffic Jam to assist with investigations and developing intelligence relating to victims of sexual exploitation.
- A.7.14 A former member of the Force Modern Slavery team is now on a secondment to the National Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Unit and working alongside West Yorkshire Police to formulate plans in response to OIC incidents and investigations. A number of joint partner operations have taken place focussing on lorries. This clandestine entry method is regularly used for bringing people into the country from the continent. Haulage firms have also been targeted where there have been outstanding fines relating to transporting of migrants illegally.
- A.7.15 Partnership work continues to be a significant and essential element to tackle modern slavery to enable the identification and support of victims and to prosecute and disrupt the offenders. To make it a hostile environment for exploitation in the West Yorkshire area. We continue to work with law enforcement partners to tackle and disrupt both offenders and facilitators of these crime.

#### **A.7.16 Training**

- A.7.17 The Force Modern Slavery team continue to provide bespoke and specialist training and support on Modern Slavery, County Lines and Serious Organised Crime issues to both internal and external partners:
- PCSOs training input, providing an enhanced knowledge around SOC, Modern Slavery and County Lines.
  - Safeguarding supervisors course
  - Senior Investigator Course
  - DI/DS course
  - Leeds Major Trauma Ward
  - Leeds private and council housing
  - Change Live Grow
  - Student Officer inputs
  - Housing Partners
  - Leeds, Bradford, Kirklees Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse teams around domestic servitude - this has led to increased numbers of

reporting and recording of domestic servitude offences. The FMST have also taken on specific cases of this exploitation type to help improve investigations and prosecutions.

- Calderdale IAG
- Regular contact with Mears (Y&H asylum accommodation provider)
- Children's Social Services, all 5 Local Authorities.
- Organised Immigration Crime hydra (immersive learning) courses. Individuals in key roles across the districts such as Detective Inspectors and Hub Commanders will attend with a view to increasing their awareness and ultimately improving the forces response to Organised Immigration Crime incidents and improve our working with immigration enforcement.
- County Lines Hydra sessions in partnership with NCLCC we are looking to co-ordinate within force in August 2022.

## **A.8 Economic Crime Unit**

- A.8.1 The West Yorkshire Economic Crime Unit forms part of a highly effective regional response to fraud, money laundering and economic crime. Close working between regional and force teams ensures the links to national, regional and local threats are understood at every level.
- A.8.2 The team leads on investigations into SOC threat activity where financial gain is the primary aim, through either fraud, scams, money laundering or illegal money lending. Furthermore the team target professional enablers acting as professional support services to criminal networks to allow them to realise the profits from illegal activities. The team also work with partners, the community and businesses to build resilience in order to identify the signs of fraud and help protect individuals and communities from loss.
- A.8.3 During the 2021/22 Financial Year, victims residing in West Yorkshire made 12,079 reports of fraud, declaring losses of £42.2m. During the same period, 6,280 victims in South Yorkshire declared losses of £32.2m, 4,845 victims in Humberside declared losses of £21.7m and 4,181 victims in North Yorkshire declared losses of £18.6m.
- A.8.4 On average, victims lost £3,493.67 per each report of fraud in West Yorkshire. This is lower than the national average of £6,027.83 per report and lower than each of the other three Forces in our Region.
- A.8.5 The crime type with the highest average loss is NFIB8B – Corporate Procurement Fraud. On average, victims of this fraud type lose £205,006.17.

A.8.6 Value is not considered as a factor when dealing with reports of fraud in West Yorkshire. We recognise that a £5k loss to one person can be just as devastating as a £100k loss to another person.

A.8.7 Operation Chaloner has been introduced by WYP to support the force response to fraud. The process provides preventative and supportive measures intended to protect victims and safeguard them from further targeting. Protect and Prevent are key strands of Operation Chaloner, as is working with statutory and voluntary agencies locally, regionally, and nationally to influence change.

A.8.8 Action Fraud Disseminations: During the first quarter of 2022, we have seen an 88% increase in the volume of disseminations received from Action Fraud. The victim numbers over the same period have fallen by 1.2%, so the increase in disseminations cannot be correlated to the volume of victims making reports.

A.8.9 Banking Protocol: Overall, during the 2021/22 financial year, the volume of calls has increased by 24.4% when compared with 2020/21. Though due to it being an exceptional year due to the covid pandemic, perhaps the most accurate comparison is the previous year.

A.8.10 Demand has increased by 16% when compared with the 2019/20 financial year. The total financial harm prevented in 2020/21 was £4,038,512.99. This is significantly greater than performance previously achieved, in fact, it is the highest total achieved since the banking protocol was introduced in West Yorkshire at the end of 2017. The previous highest combined financial harm prevented was just over £2m in 2018/19.

A.8.11 Fraud Ambassadors: A further 23 PCSO's attended a training day on Monday 21st March to receive enhanced training regarding fraud. We now have 70 PCSO Fraud Ambassadors trained throughout the Force, who are deployed to provide victim care to vulnerable victims of fraud. Given that referrals to Fraud Ambassadors have increased by 36.6% in this financial year and are likely to rise again next year, we are in a much stronger position to be able to deal with the demand.

A.8.12 Money Laundering Intelligence Team: The team continues to generate and develop jobs from confidential financial intelligence.

A.8.13 Asset Recovery Performance: The Force has achieved £272,024,021 in Asset Recovery during the 2021/22 financial year. Excluding the NatWest fine, West Yorkshire Police have achieved £7,251,401 in Asset

Recovery. This is an increase of 118.5% when compared to performance in the last financial year, though bearing in mind 2020/21 was an exceptional year thanks to the global covid pandemic. The changes to the way cases are managed and allocated are working well.