



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

13 September 2019

Serious Violence Funding Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Provide members of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel with information on Home Office funding for a West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and give an update on delivery of the Together West Yorkshire programme of work using the Home Office, Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF).

West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit

2. Background:

- 2.1 On 12 August 2019 the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse MP, announced that 18 Police and Crime Commissioners had been awarded a share of £35m to set up specialist teams to tackle violent crime in their areas. Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) bring together different organisations including the police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes. The VRU will be responsible for identifying what is driving violent crime in the area and coming up with a co-ordinated response.
- 2.2 A share of the £35m was allocated to each local policing area based on the volume of hospital admissions, following injuries sustained by assault with a sharp object. West Yorkshire was awarded £3.37m. Each Police and Crime Commissioner had worked with partners in advance of the announcement to submit an application that outlined plans for the VRU in order to draw down the funds awarded.

3. Allocation for West Yorkshire

- 3.1 The £3.37m awarded to West Yorkshire will allow for the establishment of a VRU comprising a central core team, resources allocated to each local authority district for local delivery and a number of pan-West Yorkshire initiatives. The allocation is for in-year spend 2019/20.

4. Violence Reduction Unit Structure

- 4.1 The core team will be located alongside the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) 'surge funded' law enforcement team to work collaboratively to understand and address the drivers of crime. Membership of the VRU has been established, drawing on identified good practice and success in other areas.
- 4.2 The core team will include roles in a Knowledge Hub and a Delivery Arm led by a Director (see attached structure chart as Appendix A). A small executive team (Director, Implementation Manager and Academic Advisor) will be supported by liaison officers drawn from policing, health, youth justice and education along with the

WYP Surge Team and Local Criminal Justice Board. Membership of the team (and resources based at each local authority district) will be drawn from across partner organisations and specialist service areas to ensure a range of skills and expertise, knowledge and experience to deliver a preventative approach to the identified drivers of violent crime. Recruitment to the VRU, which is on a secondment / temporary basis, due to the temporary nature of funding, is currently underway. The structure is designed to ensure the voice of the victim informs delivery.

4.3 Around 40% of the allocated funding will be spent on establishing the VRU.

5. Mandated Deliverables and VRU Objectives

5.1 The Home Office have made it a requirement of the allocated funds to deliver:

- i. A West Yorkshire action plan for violence prevention
- ii. A Problem Profile that informs strategic and operational decision making

5.2 These are priority outcomes for the VRU Director along with local wider objectives to:

- i. Stabilise and reduce violence across West Yorkshire
- ii. Find the major causes of violence and co-ordinate action across West Yorkshire to tackle them at scale, delivering a long term reduction in crime and associated harms
- iii. Involve communities in the work of the VRU and build their capacity to deliver the best long-term solutions to reduce violence.
- iv. Define priorities for, and support on research on, the causes, consequences, costs and prevention of violence
- v. Promote 'Primary Prevention' Responses
- vi. Strengthen responses for victims of violence
- vii. Integrate violence prevention into social and educational policies, and thereby promote gender and social equality
- viii. Increase collaboration and exchange of information on violence prevention

6. Outreach Activity

6.1 The Home Office encouraged the allocation of in-year spend on evidence-based outreach activity. Partners have worked to identify success and scale up existing initiatives along with implementing new (proven elsewhere) activity in West Yorkshire. This will include:

- Accident and Emergency and healthcare pathways for vulnerable people at risk of serious violence
- West Yorkshire 999 Academy (Ambulance, Police and Fire)
- Fearless Worker (providing anti-crime resources to young people and their families)
- Increased provision of dedicated youth workers, drugs workers and nurse provision to support young people vulnerable to violent crime
- Increased provision of youth workers to compliment law enforcement officers addressing the night time economy
- Range of mentoring projects aimed at specific groups (based on age and risk)
- Increased provision in educational settings
- Acceleration of voluntary, community led provision for young people

- 6.2 This is not an exhaustive list but gives a flavour of the range of outreach activity across West Yorkshire. The allocation of resource locally is based on the same criteria applied by the Home Office centrally.
- 6.3 Around 60% of the allocated funding will be spent on outreach activity.

7. Governance Arrangements

- 7.1 The existing Partnership Executive Group (PEG), chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner will provide overall governance. This will be complemented by a Core Reference Group of senior stakeholders to ensure the VRU and outreach work meets the mandated and wider objectives for our communities but also treating the drivers of violent crime as preventable.
- 7.2 The Home Office are supporting each area by establishing workshops for learning and sharing good practice and the Police and Crime Commissioner is supporting effective communication with our most similar areas.
- 7.3 Quarterly returns will be submitted to the Home Office and strict grant requirements will be in place for all allocated resources.

Together West Yorkshire

8. Background
- 8.1 The Panel received a report to the April 2019 meeting, outlining the application process to the Home Office, details on the successful projects and delivery as part of Year 1 funding of the Together West Yorkshire programme. This update provides information on delivery during quarter 1 of Year 2, further detail on the evaluation to be undertaken by Ecorys and the visits to the projects by representatives from the Home Office.

9. Delivery of the Together West Yorkshire programme: Year 2

- 9.1 Since the update to Panel in April, progress has been made across all the different strands of the programme. The delivery committee continue to meet on a quarterly basis to monitor progress and a monthly conference call takes place between operational delivery leaders.

West Yorkshire Police - Profile and Mapping and Community Outreach

- 9.2 Results of the mapping of early intervention activities within West Yorkshire, has been shared with all EIYF partners and wider relevant organisations. The Local Policing Department at WYP is currently progressing the recommendations and areas of further work within the final report. Whilst not funded in Year 2, the exercise will continue and has been expanded in scope to include understanding of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and looking at intervention in other force areas.
- 9.3 Leaflets have been produced for targeted distribution amongst Neighbourhood Watch groups, outlining how to spot possible organised crime gang (OCG) activity and to encourage conversation around young people and their involvement in OCG activity. Promotional banners have also been designed for use at public events. This work sits alongside the recently introduced community alert system and both are being promoted using social media.

District based Partnership Programmes

- 9.4 Work has been ongoing between partners in Bradford to identify profiles of young people who are at risk or on the fringe of OCG activity and the different departments or agencies who are working with these individuals. Future aims include joint up case management across the Breaking the Cycle, Trusted Relations and Families against Crime programmes of work. Where appropriate staff from the district ASB Teams have been engaging with individuals to prevent issues escalating.
- 9.5 Within Calderdale a dedicated Youth Worker has been recruited to support the work of the Early Intervention Team. Use of the resource centre, Sunnyvale Fishery and Outdoor Activity Centre, has continued which has the aim of educating young people on the dangers of involvement in criminal activity. In recent months the centre has been visited by both the PCC and high profile MPs to observe the activities being delivered. As part of the work focused on transition from primary to high school a programme has been developed and will have interacted with approximately 400 Year 6 students before the school holiday in August.
- 9.6 Gang Awareness and ACEs training has been delivered to 56 professionals within Kirklees, alongside specific training to 35 professionals on gang violence. The intended theatre production will start touring schools in September and workshops will be held prior to each show so pupils from Year 5 and 6 understand the issues being presented. A cohort of 10 mentors have been confirmed as part of the Tier 2 strand of work. These are already being matched with young people to support.
- 9.7 A Programme Leader for the Community Co-Productions work in Leeds has been appointed and commenced work at the beginning of June. Discussions are ongoing with the community organisations who have been identified to deliver the community conversations within target neighbourhoods, however some conversations have already been held with young people. Sessions delivered by Safer Schools Officers on knife crime have been presented to Year 8 students across the city. Practitioner training to over 400 individuals has been undertaken with teachers, parents/carers, foster carers, council officers and other partners on a variety of topics such as restorative practice, resilience building, child development, domestic violence, vicarious trauma and drug awareness. A training plan is being further developed, with more activities planned. Thinkfirst sessions have been provided to young people within the target area of Chapeltown and Harehills, and work to develop the local children's' centre into a hub facility is being progressed.
- 9.8 The Wakefield district have been collecting referrals for the mentoring programme and have individuals identified for the three cohorts of this work. Due to numbers exceeding capacity, existing alternative programmes are being considered for those young people not able to attend the EIYF sessions. Mentor training has been ongoing so that sessions can start as planned during the summer.

Match funded programmes

- 9.9 The 'Exploring Social Media Use' work is being progressed by Huddersfield University on behalf of the five Youth Justice Teams (YOTs), with a current focus on data capture during Quarter 1 of Year 2. By surveying young people, researchers working for the university aim to collect 250-300 responses. In addition to surveys, interviews have been held with YOT officers and young people to collect qualitative data.

10. Evaluation of the programme

- 10.1 The Home Office appointed ECORYS UK to undertake the evaluation, which will only look at the five local authority strands. To date, ECORYS have contacted each district independently and clarified their understanding of what each district will be delivering in the project.
- 10.2 ECORYS and the Home Office have advised that all PCC projects will be assessed for impact using a variety of evaluation techniques, depending on what each individual district is targeting. The next phase is for the Ecorys research team to contact the PCCs office to develop an evaluation plan, which will outline what type of data the researchers will be collecting from district. The research team also wants to visit the PCCs office, along with talking to key project stakeholders within districts and young people who districts are working with.

11. Visits from the Home Office

- 11.1 Staff from the Serious Violence Unit at the Home Office visited West Yorkshire at the end of July and spent 2 days visiting projects and their staff across Calderdale and Bradford. Initial feedback from the visits was positive and there will be a further 2 day visit during the middle of September to look at what is being delivered across Wakefield, Kirklees and Leeds.