



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Al Garthwaite	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Nicole Sharpe	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Sinead Engel	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sarfraz Nazir	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Robert Thornber	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Andrew Cooper	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Steve Hall	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Usman Ali	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Maureen Tennant-King	- Wakefield Council
	Mr Trevor Lake	- Independent
	In attendance	
	Tracy Brabin	- Mayor of West Yorkshire
	Alison Lowe	- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
	Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Julie Reid	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Damien Miller	- West Yorkshire Police
	Alisa Newman	- West Yorkshire Police
	Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
	Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
	Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anthony Smith and Jo Sykes.

- 2. To approve, as a correct record and deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**
  - 2.1. There were two amendments to the minutes. Cllr Maureen Tennant-King was not present at the meeting, and at 19.1, the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July should not have been referred to as the AGM.
  
- 3. To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency**
  - 3.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items to add to the agenda.
  
- 4. Members' Declaration of Interests**
  - 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.
  
- 5. Performance Monitoring Report Q4**
  - 5.1 The Mayor began by acknowledging the recent recipients of Regional Police Bravery awards – PS Mike Watkins and PC Tom Swift – and thanking them for their courage and service. The Chair asked that Panel's congratulations and thanks be passed on to the two officers.
  - 5.2 Alison Lowe was also congratulated on receiving her OBE medal earlier in the week, for services to mental health and work during the pandemic.
  - 5.3 The Mayor commenced her presentation on the performance report by referencing changes made to the paper based on previous feedback from the Panel, who had asked for the information in the report to be linked to priorities in the Police and Crime Plan. The name of the report has also been changed from Delivery Quarterly to Performance Monitoring, for simplicity.
  - 5.4 The Mayor introduced the paper, highlighting the following areas of progress and interest:
    - The fall in victim satisfaction which has been discussed with the Force at length.
    - The drive to answer 999 calls within a 10 second target time continues, although there are external factors which affect this.
    - The way in which people contact the police is changing, with online contacts now accounting for 15% of all contacts into the Force over the last 12 months, as opposed to only 5% in 2016/17. 101 contacts now account for 49%, down from over 60% in the same year.
    - Statistics show a small reduction in repeat victims of domestic abuse.
    - The increased use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO), with the Force reporting higher levels of interventions around domestic abuse.

- Four Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) have been issued by WYP since their inception in January 2010, and these are all still live. WYP will be piloting a Stalking Coordination Team, as North East regional lead for Stalking and Harassment.
  - Issues with missing young people registered with private care homes were being addressed, and the need for greater regulation of these homes has been discussed with the West Yorkshire Leaders.
- 5.5 A question was asked at 1.5 – Criminal Justice Measures – about progress towards clearing the backlog of court cases, and if nightingale courts were still in action. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) replied that WYP are piloting a scheme which allows victims to choose to use a video link, negating the need for them to be present in court for proceedings, and therefore speed up processes. The DMPC is continuing to push for a faster resolution of issues which slow the process down. WYP have seen higher positive outcomes for rape cases compared to the national picture, and are to be involved in a national multi-agency pilot scheme, using cluster courts to accelerate the progress of rape cases, on the request of the Justice Minister. This pilot will start in September and report in 2023.
- 5.6 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she was satisfied with progress on figures at 2.0, that show an increase of 159 in both victims and suspects flagged as at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation. The DMPC responded that the figures were not where she wanted them to be, however, she believed that as more work is done on this area, more children will be flagged and although this will show as an increase in numbers, it also means that more children at risk are being identified and can therefore be protected. West Yorkshire Police are flagging concerns early, in line with their outstanding judgement on data recording and integrity, and she believed that flagging a child may not mean that they are in immediate danger of harm, more that their situation needs to be monitored.
- 5.7 The Mayor stressed that data can be interpreted in one of two ways: that crimes are increasing or that more people are confident to report crime. She believes that the latter has especially been the case with hate crimes. The black trend arrow shown in the performance report is to give assurance that this has been looked at from both angles and importantly ensuring that the right interventions are implemented.
- 5.8 A question was asked at 3.1.0 about progress towards the Mayor’s pledge of increasing police officers by 750, and if she could share where these extra officers might be deployed. At this point the Mayor wanted to acknowledge that the previous week had been the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of PCSOs, and to put on record her personal thanks for all that they do.
- 5.9 The Mayor went on to update the Panel on the current stages of recruitment, with the first cohort of PCSOs just coming into service now, following the completion of their three year training programme. Current plans are that 100 of these new officers will be assigned to district policing, and 67 to safeguarding, leaving 350 to still be allocated – most likely to frontline policing.
- 5.10 A question was asked regarding retaining trainees who are currently undertaking their degree course. Anecdotal evidence to a Panel member suggests that a number do not

intend to join the police on completion, however the DMPC meets regularly with the training provider (Leeds Trinity University) and is content that the current intention of all degree candidates is to join the police force after graduation. The DMPC also assured Panel that there had been no dropouts from the course so far, but could not offer complete assurance that this would continue, because the Home Secretary has refused to include a minimum service clause in the trainees contract.

- 5.11 A question was asked at item 3.10 regarding a timeframe for investment in neighbourhood policing now that safeguarding units are almost fully staffed. The Mayor replied that £5m is allocated to local authorities for neighbourhood policing and intervention. She also highlighted her bus service improvement scheme which proposes to include officers with equivalent duties to the British Transport Police on buses. The DMPC was recently asked by the Leader of Wakefield Council to share the number of new officers that would be coming to Wakefield district, and she had been able to inform her that 60 new frontline officers had been allocated, excluding any new PCSOs, with the proviso that numbers will ebb and flow based on risk. The DMPC was asked if she could provide the same information for the other four local authority areas, and she agreed to do this.
- 5.12 A question was asked regarding attrition in the force and how that was monitored. The DMPC responded that her and the Mayor are given regular updates on this subject by the responsible ACC, and also stressed that WYP are classed as 'green' in this area, with less leavers, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds and those that might be expected to retire, than other forces. Exit interviews are conducted and results from National Staff Surveys are analysed and shared. A national survey of black police officers has recently been undertaken and completion rates from WYP officers are high.
- 5.13 Panel were interested to hear the DMPC's view on police recruitment campaigns and whether they are attracting a high quality of applicants since the Force achieved an Outstanding PEEL grading in 2021. The DMPC is confident that WYP are attracting appropriate and quality candidates in recruitment campaigns, and she stressed that ethics and values training is embedded in the programme at Leeds Trinity. As the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners lead on equality, the DMPC meets regularly with leaders at the College of Policing to monitor the process.
- 5.14 A question was asked about the integrity of the vetting process in the aftermath of a number of high profile cases such as that of Sarah Everard. The DMPC is confident that the balance is correct between vetting, and not preventing applicants with historical minor offences who have turned their lives around, from being excluded in the recruitment process. WYP follow the National Police Chiefs Council guidance in this area, which is to re-vet officers every ten years with additional random checks also undertaken.
- 5.15 The Mayor was asked about the significant % increase in homicides and if this trend is expected in to continue.
- 5.16 It was explained that this increase has also been seen in other comparable areas and that it mirrors the increase that first arose in the Met.

- 5.17 The Mayor was asked about the significant increase in Adult offenders (47% increase), compared to the stable trend for juveniles and whether there is any insight for this increase and what is being done to focus on this concern.
- 5.18 It was reported that the work of the VRU and particularly the early intervention work is helping to keep the number of youth offenders down. The Liaison and Diversion services are helping and having a significant impact on this. It is hoped that the additional grant funding for the VRU will be awarded in September and enable further work on this to continue.

## **5.19 RESOLVED**

**5.19.1 That the DMPC provides Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds local authorities with the committed numbers of new frontline police officers they can expect for their area.**

## **6. Drugs and Alcohol Report**

- 6.1 The Mayor introduced her report, referring to the strong links between the subject and the Police and Crime Plan priorities, and how the drugs and alcohol agenda has moved into prominence recently, following the publication in 2021 of Professor Dame Carol Black's Independent review of drugs. Reference was made to the increase in the numbers of arrests for drug possession and supply during the pandemic and the ensuing public health issues which arose as a result. The DMPC highlighted the recent increase in the numbers of drug tests undertaken in custody through the Test on Arrest programme, as a result of pressure applied by her team. As a result, many more detainees have been able to be supported through a number of treatment options, and if necessary referred to the Liaison and Diversion team. This is in line with a trauma-based approach to these issues, which encourages professionals to intervene and provide help, where addiction is driven by the effect of trauma in early life.
- 6.2 A question was asked about the grants awarded under the Safer Community Fund which have stated outcomes relating to drug and alcohol crime, and if the information from the evaluation forms for these projects is available for the Panel. The Mayor and DMPC agreed that they would be happy to share the information which shows the outcomes of the spend.
- 6.3 Discussion took place around 2.7 in the Mayor's covering report, which reports that £38m of funding has been made available in West Yorkshire to implement the government's 10 year drug strategy - From Harm to Hope. To enable the money to be released, a Senior Reporting Officer needs to be appointed to lead a local partnership board which will oversee the allocation of funds, and the DMPC has expressed an interest in undertaking this role, to ensure the involvement and influence of the Mayoral team in shaping this agenda. Discussions to appoint to the role are ongoing.

It was noted that the majority of the funding would go to Local Authorities and the SRO role will be to bring partners together to deliver on this agenda.

- 6.4 A question was asked around how the mental health agenda would be linked into both this strategy and wider national conversations around drugs and alcohol. The DMPC assured Panel that she was committed to pushing the mental health agenda forward, and was particularly keen to see action to facilitate dual diagnoses between the medical profession and addiction services, to provide support to vulnerable people.
- 6.5 A question was asked around the role of the third sector in helping to deliver addiction services, how well these organisations are spread across West Yorkshire and if any analysis had been done to identify any gaps in each local authority area. The DMPC acknowledged the role of third sector organisations in this agenda, and that the geographical covering of their services was not consistent. The Temporary ACC added that police officers hand-held devices include contact details for local groups that are passed on to people they may encounter on the streets who need help, but acknowledged that support from these groups is not consistent across the five districts of West Yorkshire, although they do try to work with the LA's to identify and address the gaps. The DMPC suggested that councillors approach their own authorities to understand any local gaps in their district.
- 6.6 The Mayor was asked if she supported the de-criminalisation of certain classes of drugs; she replied that has no desire to de-criminalise drugs.

## **6.7 RESOLVED**

**6.7.1 The Mayor or DMPC to ensure that evaluation forms for drug and alcohol related projects under the Safer Community Fund are available to the Panel.**

## **7. Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Report**

- 7.1 The Mayor introduced the paper, setting out a commitment to oversee and support WYP in their response to and workload in this area of crime through Programme Precision, whilst recognising that it is part of a wider national problem.
- 7.2 Discussion took place around tackling the impact of serious and organised crime on communities, especially at street level. The Temporary ACC shared the approach taken by WYP which includes working with local authorities and other partnerships to remove drug dealing from within certain communities, and following the disruption of a network, ensuring that those partnerships then come in behind that work to divert young and vulnerable people from coming through and taking the 'patch' over.
- 7.3 The DMPC added that the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works closely with the SOC unit supporting with partnership work at grass roots level to prevent formation of new

gangs. The DMPC works with groups such as PACE to divert vulnerable people from being pulled into crime. Additional recruitment of detectives is helping to address the often complex issues surrounding gangs and organised crime.

- 7.4 A question was asked around the possibility that low level criminality which could be affecting people would be overlooked if it was felt that arresting perpetrators would compromise a serious and organised crime investigation. Panel was assured that this would not be the case, and that the police will always investigate and report a crime. The Temporary ACC agreed and added that neighbourhood policing teams would not know if a SOC investigation was taking place in their area, so if a crime was reported they would investigate, report and deal with it accordingly.
- 7.5 A question was asked regarding particular issues which have been reported in two of the meeting papers concerning the influence of organised criminal gangs from the Western Balkans. The Temporary ACC replied that links between gangs from this area and a number of cannabis farms had been found, and that work was ongoing regionally and nationally to join up intelligence and action around these gangs.
- 7.6 A further question was asked at item A.8.13 in the report around the large amount of asset recovery fines reported. The DMPC responded that this figure was driven by a £265m fine meted out to NatWest bank in December 2021 for failing to prevent money laundering at a business in Bradford. The fine was donated to armed forces charities across the UK.
- 7.7 The Mayor requested at this point to highlight the issue of modern day slavery as illustrated by the recent revelations by Mo Farah about the circumstances of his arrival in the UK. Whilst the issue was in people's minds, the Mayor asked if Panel members would re-share the animation produced by her office to publicise the signs of modern day slavery and to ask communities to be aware of, and report suspicious activity.

## **7.8 RESOLVED**

**7.8.1 That Panel members re-share animation produced by the Mayor's office to highlight signs of modern day slavery in their communities.**

## **8. Mayor's Response to any current issues**

- 8.1 The Mayor made reference to the current consultation on the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service, which puts forward a proposals to bring services under PCC's/Mayors. She put forward her view that she did not think a formal merger would bring any serious advantages to West Yorkshire at this moment in time. She believes that the current informal arrangements are working well and although it may be mandated in the future, she was happy to continue with the current tri-services collaboration arrangements for the immediate future. It was agreed to share the consultation response with the Panel.

- 8.2 Panel received an update on the National Police Air Service (NPAS) situation, following the Mayor’s agreement to extend the notice period given by WYP to pass responsibility for fleet management of this service to another force. Negotiations are continuing, to deliver a positive exit for WYP and the Mayor has asked for these to be completed by June 2023 and for the planned exit to be implemented by June 2024.
- 8.3 A question was asked regarding the cost implication for WYP to continue to manage the service. Panel were assured that WYP does not meet any direct costs for the fleet and that these are fully met by the Home Office – however, WYP and the Mayor’s office are impacted in terms of management time. The Mayor was urged to bring her influence to bear as much as possible to complete the transfer negotiations in a timely manner.
- 8.5 The Mayor updated the Panel regarding the HMICFRS super-complaint report from the Centre for Women’s Justice regarding police officer perpetrated domestic abuse. The Mayor assured Panel that she regularly holds the Chief Constable to account on this subject and will follow the outcome of the complaint very closely.
- 8.6 A question was asked regarding the numbers of officers in WYP who are currently suspended or being investigated with regard to sexual or domestic abuse. The DMPC will check if she can release these numbers without prejudicing any investigations, and will send figures to Panel in an email if it is, including national numbers for the same allegations and convictions to enable comparison.

**8.7 RESOLVED**

**8.7.1 The Mayor to share the response to consultation on Fire and Rescue governance with Panel.**

**8.7.2 The DMPC to share figures on police officer perpetrated domestic abuse, if she is able to do so.**

**9. Published Key Decisions**

- 9.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions which have been updated on the Combined Authority website.

**10. Agreed Actions Log**

- 10.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted. It was agreed to chase the outstanding information relating to neurodiversity training, the Pol-Ed programme and with the Vision Zero data.



**11. Forward Agenda Plan**

11.1 The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy report has been delayed until the November meeting due to the length of the vetting process for new staff. The delayed VRU report will be brought to the September meeting - this was due to a delayed grant announcement by the Home Office.

**12. Complaints Received by the Panel**

12.1 Panel noted the update report.

**13. Any Other Business**

13.1 There was no other business raised.

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

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