**Item 2**



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**8th December 2023, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Eileen Taylor - Leeds City Council

Councillor Hassan Khan - Bradford Council

Councillor Paul Sullivan - Bradford Council

Councillor Chris Hayden - Bradford Council

Councillor Ann Kingstone - Calderdale Council

Councillor Robert Thornber - Calderdale Council

Councillor Anthony Smith - Kirklees Council

Councillor Usman Ali - Wakefield Council

Councillor Jackie Ferguson - Wakefield Council

Mrs Joanne Sykes - Independent

In attendance

Alison Lowe - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Julie Reid - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Wendy Stevens - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Liz Hunter - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

John Robins - West Yorkshire Police

Russ Hughes - West Yorkshire Police

Sharon Fraser - Wakefield Council

Samantha Wilkinson - Wakefield Council

Fiona Bernardo - Wakefield Council

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Nicole Sharp, Gwen Lowe, Neil Buckley, Susan Lee-Richards and from Mr Trevor Lake.

**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 10th November 2023.**

2.1. The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

**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. Mayor’s Draft Annual Report 2022 – 2023**

5.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced this report which is a reflection of the 12 months up to April 2023, and highlights the successes and challenges faced in policing over this time. Bringing the Annual Report to Panel is a statutory duty of the Mayors’, however as she was unable to attend the meeting, the report was presented in draft form. The Mayor will officially present the final version to Panel at the February meeting.

5.2 Panel congratulated the Deputy Mayor’s team for the draft report, which they found to be informative, insightful, and accessible, with a readable narrative. The team were thanked for listening to and acting on last year’s feedback from Panel members.

5.3 The Deputy Mayor was asked to clarify figures under the Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Funding section on page 6, which reads as though re-offending has reduced by 42% in West Yorkshire. The figure actually relates only to those who have undertaken the programme – overall re-offending has reduced by around 3%. Panel asked that this is made clear in the report for transparency, and congratulated the Deputy Mayor on the success of the programme.

5.4 The Deputy Mayor agreed to amend the report to clarify the position, and took the opportunity to update Panel on the CARA programme which is funded through this money. The programme has been highly successful, however Government funding has been withdrawn and money is now having to be found from cost savings elsewhere in the Mayoral budget to continue the scheme.

5.5 Panel asked about the proportion of offenders that go through the programme. The Deputy Mayor explained that referrals are made by WYP, and that data to show the scale of referrals will be in the next iteration of the Police and Crime Plan. The programme is for first time offenders only, which does explain some part of the small number involved. National funding from the Ministry of Justice to work with high risk offenders will be pulled from April 2024 because of challenges with delivery timescales, meaning that from this time there will be no rehabilitation pathway for high risk offenders.

5.6 A question was asked around the Positive Futures Youth Intervention scheme detailed on page 8 of the draft report. Members were keen to understand if the scheme would be expanded to Kirklees and Wakefield local authority areas. The Deputy Mayor replied that she had discussed expansion of the scheme with all five local authorities, and as a collective they had agreed to split the funding between them. Panel requested that the report narrative be adjusted to reflect this.

5.7 Panel requested that, for context, actual numbers of respondents to the precept consultation survey in 2022 are included at the relevant point on page 23.

**5.6 RESOLVED**

**5.6.1** **The Deputy Mayor to share an upcoming evaluation of the CARA programme, including baseline data and success criteria calculations.**

**5.6.2** **The Deputy Mayor to give context to the data on domestic abuse in the Annual Report, alongside expanding on the work of the CARA programme.**

**5.6.3** **The Deputy Mayor to amend the narrative around the Positive Futures Youth Intervention scheme to reflect the inclusion of all five local authority areas.**

**5.6.4** **The Deputy Mayor to include actual numbers of respondents to the precept consultation survey in 2022, in the report.**

**6. Police and Crime Plan Overview 2021-2024**

6.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced this item, which is a summary of the key pieces of work that have been undertaken to deliver the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan over the period 2021-2024.

6.2 Panel welcomed the report and the way that it sets out in one place a summary of the key pieces of work that have been undertaken to deliver the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan over the period 2021-24.

**6.2 RESOLVED**

**6.2.1** Panel noted the report.

**7. Police and Crime Plan Performance Report**

7.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which sets out progress on performance measures over the total period of the Police and Crime Plan (to September 2023 or the latest available public data) in the same format as the usual Quarterly Performance reports.

7.2 Discussion took place around the potentially confusing nature of data sources used to compile the report, with many having different reporting timeframes which are not comparable. Staff from the Mayor’s office explained that information is procured from a variety of sources both internal and external, and despite the challenges in comparability, they felt that each is useful and valid to include. Panel accepted this but asked that every effort was made to be clear about the different information sources and date ranges in the document.

7.3 Panel requested that data tables showing numbers of killed or seriously injured (KSI) on the roads at 3.9 (pp26-27) includes population figures, for context, and also age, for additional analysis. The Deputy Mayor was asked for her thoughts around the continuing upward trajectory of KSI statistics. She shared her understanding that the majority of KSI incidents are caused by careless driving. The Vision Zero board continues to work to co-ordinate the response of all partners to understand how they can collaboratively influence the driving population of West Yorkshire and encourage behaviour change. She added that each local authority has, or is on the verge of, publishing a Vision Zero strategy to focus attention on this and other activities that can be undertaken to encourage safer driving.

7.4 Elements of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) funding have now been linked to Vision Zero outcomes, which the Deputy Mayor believes will increase the number and scope of awareness raising and engagement campaigns. To further inform prevention work, the safety pillars which sit under Vision Zero include post collision understanding, and the establishment of ‘community concerns’ related to speeding hotspots, an initiative which she hopes will be formalised within each council.

7.5 Panel asked for clarification on the data and comments in the table of indicators on p.14, which seem incongruent. The Mayor’s office confirmed that whilst the comments are correct in the table, some data is incorrect and agreed to check amend as necessary.

7.6 Panel acknowledged a rise in the number of contacts into the WYP call handling centre. A question was asked around a noticed shift in the volume of calls from 999 to 101, and if the Deputy Mayor knew this to be as a result of a specific strategy. The Deputy Mayor believed that the shift may in part be influenced by various campaigns throughout West Yorkshire to encourage people not to misuse 999. She has filmed a short piece for social media as part of the campaign and thinks that public understanding of what constitutes an emergency is increasing.

7.7 Discussion took place around the continuing lack of ability to separate BT transfer times from call handling times, which is unlikely to change in the near future. The Chief Constable assured Panel members that despite any lag in call answering time as a result of BT transfers, WYP are one of the best forces in this area, and he attributed this to a relentless pursuit of appropriate staffing levels, training, awareness and improved technology. He added that the issue with BT transfer times continues to be pursued at a national level via the National Police Chiefs Councils.

7.8 Panel welcomed the fall in neighbourhood crime as a significant step forward, and asked for additional context and reassurance that the fall is not related to reporting changes. The Deputy Mayor reassured Panel members that the drop is genuine and driven mainly by a reduction in burglary. Her regular visits to neighbourhood policing teams have backed up the data with anecdotal evidence.

7.9 Vehicle theft continues to be a challenging area, due to the cross-border operation of criminal gangs who steal cars for expensive and sought after parts. Keyless cars in particular are increasingly vulnerable to technological advances. Panel were keen to understand how police forces are working with manufacturers to increase security. The Chief Constable reassured members that they do work with the Home Office to lobby for tighter international industry controls .

7.10 The Mayor’s team was asked to correct the data on missing persons on page 30 of the report, which they committed to do. The Deputy Chief Constable of WYP is the national lead in this area and is involved in a number of positive workstreams.

**7.11 RESOLVED**

**7.11.1** The Deputy Mayor to include population data for context, and age alongside KSI indicators going forward.

**8 Performance Monitoring Report Q2**

8.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced the regular quarterly performance report setting out the latest performance against stated measures for the quarter up to September 2023.

8.2 Panel welcomed the measures which show positive or stable trends over all areas.

8.3 The Deputy Mayor was asked how confident she was in progress towards diverting young people from knife crime, with overall figures now above the same time last year. She assured members that she was confident in the work of Operation Jemlock and detailed the significant funds (£15m) that the Mayor has been able to draw down to support the work. She detailed ongoing work in schools, hospitals and communities to tackle the issue, and described WYP’s work on social media and with a web developer to deliver adverts to the mobile phones of children in target areas. This work has seen a 37% decrease in related crime in those areas. WYP continue to progress short term (diversion, immediate interventions), medium term (such as the Pol-Ed programme in schools) and long term strategies (such as behaviour and attitude change around carrying knives).

8.4 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she could give any more information or context around the higher figures for rape and serious sexual assaults in Kirklees. She wasn’t aware of any specific difference or strategy compared to other local authority areas, however she understood that Kirklees has seen significant numbers of historic cases which have affected their figures.

8.5 The Deputy Mayor provided an update on progress within the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) on supporting victims of rape and serious sexual assault, specifically the increased use of special measures in trials, and the end-to-end review of the process with victims, to gather feedback and suggestions for improvement. In addition, WYP have recruited two special measures advisors to assist with required paperwork and training. Through these initiatives, the Deputy Mayor hopes to address the low levels of engagement from victims in the process.

8.6 Panel were keen to see data which shows the level of victim engagement in cases of rape and serious sexual assault, to help them understand the figures. The Deputy Mayor believed that Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) may be able to collect this data, and agreed to look into the possibility.

**8.7 RESOLVED**

**8.7.1** The Deputy Mayor to look at the possibility of IDVAs and ISVAs collecting data on victim engagement in the criminal justice process.

**9. Mayor’s Response to current issues**

9.1 The Deputy Mayor updated Panel on the impact of the situation in Gaza on community relations in West Yorkshire. She and the Mayor are meeting regularly with both Jewish and Palestinian communities to try to ease tensions around current international events and are receiving weekly updates from WYP. Both communities have an association within the force, and officers are being supported alongside the public. There have been 261 events (83 of which have been demonstrations) and 15 arrests recorded since October 7, however West Yorkshire has not seen the same level of violence or crime as other Forces have, in part, due to long standing good relationships between these communities and WYP, who have been actively involved at a local level from the outset. The Performance Report brought to this meeting only covers hate crime incidents to the end of September prior to the start of the conflict, so figures reported this time don’t cover these events however, they will be recorded in the next report. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that she was talking regularly to organisations funded by central government for the safety of Jewish and Muslim communities, and that she and the Mayor receive all national risk assessments.

9.2 The Deputy Mayor updated Panel on the recently completed Productivity Review into policing. She is working with WYP to digest and understand the implications of the report, including any recommendations which could be implemented. The review was based on a pilot that WYP were involved in, so the Force are already working with some of the recommendations and ways of working. The Deputy Mayor shared her view that the number of hour savings quoted in the report is questionable and that she would need to further understand how report authors think this could be achieved under current officer numbers, which have only gradually built back up since the cuts in 2010.

**10. Published Key Decisions**

10.1 The Published Key Decisions were noted.

**11. Agreed Actions Log**

11.1 The Agreed Actions log was noted.

**12. Forward Agenda Plan**

12.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

**13. Complaints Received by the Panel**

13.1 Panel noted that there are no new recorded complaints to report against the Mayor or Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

**14. Any Other Business**

14.1 There was no other business.

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

15.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 2nd February 2024 in the Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield.