



Report to: Police and Crime Panel

Date: 4th November 2022

Subject: Neighbourhood Crime

Report of: Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Crime is one of main measures in the Police and Crime Plan. The purpose of this report is to look at why neighbourhood crime is included in these measures and how we are dealing with this in West Yorkshire.
- 1.2. In the forward to the Police and Crime plan I reiterated my commitment to reducing crime and specifically reducing the crime types that were identified as being the priority for West Yorkshire. The forward stated:

My role is to hold the Chief Constable and West Yorkshire Police to account for you – the people I represent. My focus is to reduce crime and to ensure that your priorities are identified and acted upon. To do this, I will bring together partners to take an early intervention and prevention approach to our work, alongside an ongoing commitment to neighbourhood policing, to reduce the opportunity for crime to take place, and that saves young people from abuse, trauma, exploitation and vulnerability

2. BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

- 2.1. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are required to publish certain information to allow the public to hold them to account. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021 ('the amending Order'), which will come into force on 31 May 2021 provides that

information relating to the force's performance against the Government's national priorities for policing, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) performance reports on the force, and complaint handling must also be published

- 2.2. The national priorities for policing are specified as the Police and Crime Measures which are to reduce murder and other homicide; reduce serious violence; disrupt drugs supply and county lines; **reduce neighbourhood crime**; tackle cybercrime; and improve satisfaction among victims with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse
- 2.3. The police and crime plan measures reflect the national police and crime measures along with local priorities. To compare outcomes, it was nationally agreed that the baseline for these offences should be the 12 months to June 2019.
- 2.4. Neighbourhood Crime is defined as:
 - Domestic burglary
 - Personal robbery
 - Theft from the person and
 - Vehicle Crime (Theft Of, From and Vehicle Interference)
- 2.5. Despite long-term trends measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), which show a fall in overall crime since its peak in the mid-1990s, the downward trend in neighbourhood crime had started to change. A 4% increase in neighbourhood crime was reported between March 2017 and September 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020a).
- 2.6. For the year ending March 2020, neighbourhood crimes made up 35% of total crime (excluding fraud and computer misuse). Of these, 45% were vehicle theft, 30% were dwelling burglaries, 19% were theft from the person and 6% were robbery (Office for National Statistics, 2020b).
- 2.7. In addition, Home Office analysis has shown that these crimes are not randomly distributed, with the top 5% of areas accounting for 24% of all neighbourhood crimes in 2018/19 (Home Office, 2021).
- 2.8. While COVID-19 has led to a sharp reduction in levels of neighbourhood crime, it is unclear how long these reduced levels will be sustained (Langton, Dixon and Farrell, 2021). Investing in evidence-based measures to prevent neighbourhood crime therefore remains a key priority.

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY

- 3.1. As part of the Police and Crime plan, 95.5% of respondents agreed that safer spaces and thriving communities was an issue for them, with the top 3 priorities being identified as neighbourhood crime, road safety and serious violence.
- 3.2. Under the cross-cutting theme of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the plan it is stated that West Yorkshire is a vibrant and diverse region. It is home to many different communities within the towns, cities, and villages of our districts. Together we all share the same ambition to live in thriving, **safe neighbourhoods**. At the centre of this plan is the celebration of this diversity and the vision of a strong, cohesive, and welcoming West Yorkshire which is fair, just and inclusive.
- 3.3. Studies have shown that Neighbourhood Crime disproportionately affects in the poorest section of society as they are less likely to have basic security and are less likely to have home contents insurance
- 3.4. Most offences occur where Neighbourhoods are lacking in social cohesion and stability, as neighbours may be less alarmed by strangers and subsequently might not intervene, and places with high social disorganisation, such as areas with ethnic heterogeneity.
- 3.5. Why is this a priority? –
- Neighbourhood crime and ASB was the second highest area of focus for the public of West Yorkshire
 - It was common to receive feedback that people did not want to see 'low level' neighbourhood crime neglected by the police. By including Theft from Person and Vehicle Interference in this category, it focuses on 'low level' offences as well as those previously associated with Serious Acquisitive Crime
- 3.6. In the Police and Crime plan, the police agreed to
- Continue our joint problem-solving approach with partners at a local level, responding to ASB and other local issues ensuring victims and communities are receiving the appropriate response.
 - Maximise opportunities to gather information / intelligence to focus policing and partnership resources and activity to tackle crime, disorder, and disrupt criminals.
- 3.7. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority agreed to:
- Through the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund, support and enable

grass-roots community organisations to make an impact on crime, community safety, and cohesion in their local area.

3.8. Our partners agreed to:

- Continue to further embed an early intervention and prevention approach to anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and disorder, whilst reducing harm and vulnerability in neighbourhoods.

4. PROGRESS

4.1. Performance comparisons against both the national baseline (12 months to June 2019) and the previous 12 months are shown in the table below.

Recorded Crime in WEST YORKSHIRE	12m to June 2019	12m to Jun 2021	12m to Jun 2022	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2021	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	18493	10220	9657	-5.5%	↓	-47.8%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	3441	2082	2473	18.8%	↑	-28.1%	↓
Theft from person	4186	1858	3121	68.0%	↑	-25.4%	↓
Vehicle Offences	23042	13328	16134	21.1%	↑	-30.0%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	5844	4478	6193	38.3%	↑	6.0%	↑
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	13587	6820	7321	7.3%	↑	-46.1%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	3611	2030	2620	29.1%	↑	-27.4%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	49162	27488	31385	14.2%	↑	-36.2%	↓

4.2. As with the national picture West Yorkshire saw a significant fall in recorded crime due to the restrictions on freedom of movement during the COVID pandemic, and neighbourhood crime in particular fell dramatically. As expected, the easing of COVID restrictions has resulted in an increase in neighbourhood crime over the past 12 months however nearly all neighbourhood crime types are still reporting large reductions in comparison to the nationally agreed baseline of 12 months to June 2019.

4.3. Only Theft of motor vehicle is showing an increase compared to both the last 12 months and in comparison, to the 12 months to June 2019. The recent increases in Theft of motor vehicle are also being experienced by many other Forces Nationally. This has been discussed as part of the Performance Monitoring reports at Panel.

4.4. A breakdown of District figures in relation to recorded neighbourhood crime can be seen in (Appendix A).

4.5. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes

- In July 2021, a partnership bid to reduce motor vehicle crime in neighbourhood areas along the West Yorkshire M62 corridor received £306K from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. The money was used to reduce the opportunity for motor vehicle crime by improving street lighting and installing and utilising CCTV and ANPR cameras in higher crime areas. The funding was also used for increased engagement and education around vehicle safety throughout the region to prevent vehicles being stolen.
- The Mayors Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects which support Neighbourhood Crime. In Grant Round 1 (March 22) 39 projects were awarded a total of £208,254.93. This round saw 14 projects focusing on Neighbourhood Crime and ASB totaling £74,035.81.

5. GOVERNANCE

5.1. To see how the Mayor/DMPC hold West Yorkshire Police to account on this topic, please see the on-line Community Outcome Meeting which was held on 18th October 2022. (Please see <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/community-outcomes-meetings/community-outcomes-meeting-18-october-2022/>)

5.2. In this meeting, the DMPC questioned the Police about

- Repeat locations for Burglary Dwelling and if these were being targeted.

The Chief Constable (CC) assured the DMPC that West Yorkshire Police still continued with the tried and trusted methods of dealing with repeats such as cocooning and house to house enquiries, this was part of the crime prevention training with each area looking at problem solving models which focus on the offender, victims and location

- What is the current picture with Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

The CC reported that IOM is following a refreshed model with 3 current groups

1. *Serious Acquisitive Crime which included mostly repeat offenders and is 60% of the current cohort.*
2. *Flex – this is a local cohort that are managed to deal with criminal behaviour*
3. *Free – these are those that would benefit from an IOM focus*

WYP are still committed to the IOM model and seeing good results.

- Victim Satisfaction – some of the Neighbourhood Crime types are showing lower levels of Victim Satisfaction (see Appendix B)

The CC stated that much of the lower levels are due to the difference between attended and unattended crime. Burglary Dwelling has a higher level as each crime is attended in West Yorkshire.

A hard look at solvability shows that such things as the attendance of a Crime Scene Investigator will increase satisfaction, but there are difficult decisions that must be made on how to use finite resources such as these.

Work was taking place to look at guidance for those who are speaking with the public when a crime is not attended to improve consistency across the board

Another speaker also mentioned the current project to ensure that each victim has an agreed level of contact about the crime as this has been shown to increase satisfaction and is currently being rolled out in West Yorkshire.

- What are the good news stories and where are the challenges

The CC reminded the DMPC of the HMICFRS report which showed that West Yorkshire is Outstanding at preventing crime and ASB and this included Neighbourhood Crime

As with other crime types the challenge was with decreasing positive outcome rates and these were again being affected by the current increasing crime rates. There are a good number of charges coming through the system and the focus needs to be on quality investigations

- 5.3. As part of the Quarterly Performance Scrutiny Meeting that Mayor/DMPC meets with the Chief Constable to discuss the performance measures from the Police and Crime Plan. These measures will then form the narrative of the Performance Monitoring report that is presented to panel.
- 5.4. In the most recent – Performance Scrutiny meeting (August 2022) the DMPC questioned the CC on some of the increases in Neighbourhood Crime. They discussed how much of this was due to the increases in comparison to the previous year which included periods in lockdown, but many of the crime types were still well below the national baseline of 12 months to June 2019 and the signs were that this will continue going forward.

6. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Some Individuals and communities may be more vulnerable to Neighbourhood crime based on their protected characteristics and or the

communities where they live/work

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST YORKSHIRE

- 8.1 As indicated in the Police and Crime plan, by intervening early in crimes and incidents then this will help tackle issues which fuel offending. This in turn will ensure that fewer young people are involved with crimes and with the harm associated with it.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

10. EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

- 10.1. The report articulates the public consultation that took place for the Police and Crime plan.
- 10.2. More information on this can be found in the Voice of West Yorkshire document published alongside the Police and Crime plan on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority website.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1. That the panel note this report

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES

Appendix A – Breakdown of Neighbourhood crime by district

Appendix B – Victim Satisfaction by Neighbourhood crime type

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Appendix A – Neighbourhood Crime

Recorded Crime in LEEDS	12m to June 2019	12m to Jun 2021	12m to Jun 2022	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2021	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	7439	4190	4317	3.0%	↑	-42.0%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	1479	955	1125	17.8%	↑	-23.9%	↓
Theft from person	2355	833	1652	98.3%	↑	-29.9%	↓
Vehicle Offences	8292	5508	6695	21.6%	↑	-19.3%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	2260	1685	2495	48.1%	↑	10.4%	↑
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	4857	2973	3141	5.7%	↑	-35.3%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	1175	850	1059	24.6%	↑	-9.9%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	19565	11486	13789	20.1%	↑	-29.5%	↓

Recorded Crime in WAKEFIELD	12m to June 2019	12m to Jun 2021	12m to Jun 2022	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2021	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	2050	1304	1220	-6.4%	↓	-40.5%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	271	189	290	53.4%	↑	7.0%	↑
Theft from person	313	220	323	46.8%	↑	3.2%	↑
Vehicle Offences	3078	1677	2064	23.1%	↑	-32.9%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	776	671	910	35.6%	↑	17.3%	↑
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	1768	715	808	13.0%	↑	-54.3%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	534	291	346	18.9%	↑	-35.2%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	5712	3390	3897	15.0%	↑	-31.8%	↓

Recorded Crime in BRADFORD	12m to June 2019	12m to Jun 2021	12m to Jun 2022	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2021	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	4835	2698	2065	-23.5%	↓	-57.3%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	912	517	604	16.8%	↑	-33.8%	↓
Theft from person	748	474	637	34.4%	↑	-14.8%	↓
Vehicle Offences	6217	3056	4011	31.3%	↑	-35.5%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	1396	997	1361	36.5%	↑	-2.5%	↓
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	3792	1685	1949	15.7%	↑	-48.6%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	1029	374	701	87.4%	↑	-31.9%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	12712	6745	7317	8.5%	↑	-42.4%	↓

Report for the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Recorded Crime in CALDERDALE	12m to June 2019	12m to Jun 2021	12m to Jun 2022	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2021	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	1429	659	717	8.8%	↑	-49.8%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	229	132	128	-3.0%	↓	-44.1%	↓
Theft from person	263	121	169	39.7%	↑	-35.7%	↓
Vehicle Offences	1688	986	1308	32.7%	↑	-22.5%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	460	366	556	51.9%	↑	20.9%	↑
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	907	484	523	8.1%	↑	-42.3%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	321	136	229	68.4%	↑	-28.7%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	3609	1898	2322	22.3%	↑	-35.7%	↓

Recorded Crime in KIRKLEES	12m to June 2019	12m to Jun 2021	12m to Jun 2022	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2021	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	2740	1369	1338	-2.3%	↓	-51.2%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	550	289	326	12.8%	↑	-40.7%	↓
Theft from person	507	210	340	61.9%	↑	-32.9%	↓
Vehicle Offences	3767	2101	2056	-2.1%	↓	-45.4%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	952	759	871	14.8%	↑	-8.5%	↓
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	2263	963	900	-6.5%	↓	-60.2%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	552	379	285	-24.8%	↓	-48.4%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	7564	3969	4060	2.3%	↑	-46.3%	↓

Appendix B – Victim Satisfaction

Force	12 months to June 2019	12 months to June 2021	12 months to June 2022	Change June 19 vs June 22	Change on prev. 12 months
Burglary - residential	82.5%	86.6%	83.0%	0.5%	-3.6%
Robbery - Personal	80.4%	87.0%	83.9%	3.5%	-3.1%
Theft from the person	80.0%	73.2%	73.3%	-6.7%	0.1%
Theft from motor vehicle	69.9%	75.3%	68.9%	-1.0%	-6.4%
Theft of motor vehicle	64.0%	69.8%	69.1%	5.1%	-0.7%
Vehicle interference	79.0%	84.6%	80.5%	1.5%	-4.1%