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**Item 5**

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| **Report to:** | Police and Crime Panel |
| **Date:** | 11th July 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Police and Crime Plan Priority Two: Safer Places and Thriving Communities |
| **Report of:** | Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire |
| **Author:** | Policy Team Policing and Crime – West Yorkshire Combined Authority |

1. **INTRODUCTION**
   1. This paper will explore the priority of Safer Places and Thriving Communities featured in the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan. We will first look at why this is a priority as evidenced by the results of the Police and Crime Plan consultation and Needs Assessment, before outlining the work we will undertake to achieve this priority during the Mayor’s second term. The paper then details the activities of several workstreams since the Mayor was re-elected that fall under this priority. This includes several strategic actions such as delivery of the implementation of the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Immediate Justice Pilot, projects funded by Safer Streets 5, Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund initiatives, and delivery of the Vision Zero Strategy. The paper will also explore the work that is being carried out over the summer months as part of the neighbourhood policing guarantee in town centers across West Yorkshire.
   2. **Why is this a priority?**

* In the [Police and Crime Plan Consultation](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F2pmlxp2a%2Fvoice-of-west-yorkshire.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) , 97.9% of respondents described this priority as ‘important’ to them and 95% of partners also described this priority as ‘important’ to them.
* The top three areas of focus highlighted by the survey were ASB, neigbourhood crime followed by road safety and driving behaviours.
* The picture for ASB in the Needs Assessment shows ASB should be looked at holistically and should be measured not just by the volume of crimes and incidents, but also by public perception of safety including the safety of those that work in the area.
* Road Safety continues to be a priority for the public of West Yorkshire and the good work here of the Vision Zero Strategy needs to progress to meet targets.
  1. **What we will do:**
* Work with Local Authorities to understand the extent of ASB case reviews and hotspots for ASB incidents and crimes across West Yorkshire.
* Support through grassroots projects through the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund to help build community resilience and tackle the impact of organised crime on neighbourhoods.
* Embed the Vision Zero Strategy across all areas of West Yorkshire and advance the delivery plan to see wholesale change.
* Work with the business community to tackle assaults on shop workers and associated crimes.

**Strategic Action 1:** Work with Local Authorities to understand the extent of ASB case reviews and hotspots for ASB incidents and crimes across West Yorkshire.

* 1. This section of the paper outlines the early work that has been undertaken with partners to understand ASB case reviews across the districts and the new responsibilities for PCCs outlined in the Policing and Crime Bill. It also provides details on the actions taken in response to the HMICFRS report on the police response to anti-social behaviour, along with updates on the Anti-social Behaviour Immediate Justice Pilot and Safer Streets 5 funding.
  2. **ASB case reviews**

WYCA colleagues have been working to understand the implications of the new Policing and Crime bill on ASB case reviews. This bill introduces substantial changes to ASB Case Reviews—also known as the "Community Trigger". The Bill includes a new role for PCCs who must actively promote awareness of the ASB Case Review process in their areas once the legislation is implemented. Furthermore, victims unsatisfied with local authority or police decisions will be able to appeal directly to the PCC for a further review (PCC/LBP review). PCCs will be able to issue new recommendations overriding the original review and local agencies must at least consider them.

The team have been engaging with counterparts in other Combined Authorities such as South Yorkshire, to map what this new role for PCCs will look like, including potential demand. There are also plans to engage with the Community Safety Partners to establish what the current picture looks like in West Yorkshire and what could be on the horizon once the legislation is implemented.

**The policing response to ASB: PEEL Spotlight**

The Deputy Mayor responded to the HMICFRS PEEL Spotlight report on the policing response to ASB. This report focused on the police response to antisocial behaviour and highlighted examples of positive practice and joint working between the police and other organisations to address antisocial behaviour. Our response highlighted a number of innovations across the region including the use of the Antisocial Behaviour and Vulnerability Analytical tool, the bus safety feedback tool, the immediate justice approach and early intervention and engagement activity through the Mayor’s Safer Community Fund. This report can be found in **appendix A**.

* 1. **Anti-social Behaviour Immediate Justice Pilot**

West Yorkshire was one of ten Immediate Justice pilot sites, and the Mayor was awarded up to £2m grant funding until 31 March 2025. In West Yorkshire, our Immediate Justice approach provided a range of tailored services for adults and children to benefit victims. This includes completing unpaid work, repairing damage caused by their actions, and the option of restorative justice, where the victim can communicate with the person responsible for the crime. 

**Our delivery partners**

* HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS)
* West Yorkshire Youth Justice Services (YJS) – Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield
* Restorative Solutions CIC
* Victim Support
* West Yorkshire Police

In West Yorkshire, Immediate Justice was implemented through a comprehensive range of interventions aimed at both children and adults. For young people aged 12 to 17, dedicated Restorative Justice workers across each district facilitated a variety of reparative and constructive activities.

These initiatives included health and wellbeing initiatives, educational sessions, participation in community groups, and activities designed to foster empathy and accountability. The programmes were strengths-based, encouraging positive behaviour, social inclusion, and reinforcing each child's role and value within their community. This preventative approach is instrumental in diverting children from further antisocial behaviour or offending.

Victim involvement remained a key focus, with Restorative Justice workers actively engaging victims to ensure their perspectives were heard, their input into appropriate reparative activities was considered, and they were kept informed of case outcomes. In total, 882 children were referred to the Immediate Justice programme, with 19% of referrals being female and 81% male.

Regarding adults, following the conclusion of police investigations into incidents involving antisocial behaviour (ASB), adult offenders may be subject to a Community Resolution, Outcome 22, or Conditional Caution. Where appropriate, individuals were referred into the Immediate Justice scheme to undertake meaningful reparative actions.

Under this scheme, offenders completed supervised unpaid work, attended an ASB Awareness Course, or participated in both. The police referred individuals to the Probation Service, which is responsible for overseeing the delivery of unpaid work. Those receiving a Community Resolution or Outcome 22 typically completed one full day (7 hours) of supervised unpaid work. Those issued a Conditional Caution were required to complete two full days (14 hours**)** of supervised unpaid work.

Unpaid work under Immediate Justice was carried out in public spaces within the communities affected by the offence, visibly contributing to community restoration. Reasonable adjustments were made for individuals with disabilities, injuries, or neurodiverse conditions, with alternative activities provided where necessary. Unpaid work included removing graffiti, clearing wasteland, and decorating public spaces/buildings to benefit the community. A total of 537 Adults were referred to the IJ scheme, of these 22% were female and 78% were male.

* 1. **Safer Streets 5 funding**

In October 2023 the Mayor was allocated £820,000 for the fifth round of Home Office Safer Streets funding. 

Funding Year 1: 1 Oct 2023 to 31 March 2024:  £465,000

Funding Year 2: 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025: £355,000   
  
For an overview of the projects and interventions that were delivered in 2024-25 by Community Safety Partnerships in each district or by West Yorkshire Police, please see **appendix B.**

1. **Strategic Action 2: Support important grassroots projects through the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund to help build community resilience and tackle the impact of organised crime on our neighbourhoods**
   1. This strategic action explores work funded by the Mayor’s Safer Communities fund focused on building community resilience and early intervention & prevention.
   2. **Building community resilience**

The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund uses proceeds of crime money seized by West Yorkshire Police and puts it back into communities to make communities safer by supporting projects which prevent and tackle crime or work with those harmed by crime. The fund is open to voluntary, community, not for profit and statutory groups and promotes partnership working across the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector in West Yorkshire.

The fund is also now consistently open to applications supporting Clear, Hold, Build, which is a framework developed by the Home Office to help police forces tackle serious and organised crime. It reclaims and rebuilds neighbourhoods affected by organised crime, making areas safer and it increases public confidence in the police and partner agencies.

Clear, Hold, Build projects are restricted to the Home Office pilot areas which in West Yorkshire include Bradford (BD3), Kirklees (Ashbrow) and Leeds (Harehills) and Calderdale (Park Ward).

The Mayor fully supports that the Build element of this initiative directly aligns with the aims and objectives of the Safer Communities Fund.

* 1. **Prevention and early intervention**

**Case Study: The Youth Association - StreetSafe Leeds – Leeds (Gipton & Harehills) (CHB) £17,185.46**

StreetSafe provides wrap-around support for young people at street level, where parents, schools, and other services have limited reach. It aims to change attitudes toward violence and crime, preventing involvement before it begins. StreetSafe takes a targeted approach in deprived communities with high rates of youth crime, violence, and CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation). Its informal curriculum addresses these issues, keeping the work relevant and accessible to those most in need. The project enables voluntary participation and provides young people with the tools to make informed, positive choices.

**Case Study: Invictus Wellbeing Foundation CIO - Thrive Approach - Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees £9,660.00**

Thrive Approach brings in elements of counselling, 1:1 support, social prescribing and coaching for some of West Yorkshire's most vulnerable young people. The counsellor and Youth Link worker works directly with young people who are at risk of criminality. The project supports with complex trauma, ACEs and gives young people evidence-based support to increase self-esteem, wellbeing, positive coping mechanisms and resilience.

1. **Strategic Action 3: Embed the Vision Zero Strategy across all areas of West Yorkshire and advance the delivery plan to see wholesale change in this area**
   1. The team continues to drive the delivery of the Vision Zero Strategy and a full paper on this is being presented at this meeting alongside this report.
2. **Strategic Action 4: Work with the business community to tackle assaults on shop workers and associated crimes**
   1. This final section looks at the work carried out with the business community in West Yorkshire to tackle crime in West Yorkshire
   2. West Yorkshire Police hold a Business Crime Prevention Group which is made up of a variety of West Yorkshire businesses that includes both large and small retailers and by sitting on National, Regional and Local retail working groups we continue to increase representation. Retailers and BIDS have a good relationship with their City Centre and wider NPT teams meaning timely feedback from the meetings
   3. Recently the West Yorkshire Police Business Crime Group held a showcase event and the DMPC attended as a keynote speaker. The DMPC spoke about the inclusion of Business Crime in the new Police and Crime Plan and the new Serious Violence Strategy, including how this covers the impact of Violent Crime on businesses. Also covered was the impact that assaults on shop workers can have and welcoming the categorising of this crime so that we can understand this better in West Yorkshire.

The WYP Business Crime Group have agreed to make this an annual event and this was welcomed by all present.

* 1. A recent meeting in March 2025 between the Violence Reduction Partnership and Leeds BID looked at commonalities between the work, data/information sharing and links to the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR) programme (joint with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board).
  2. Through the ATR programme we are working in partnership with Lloyds Banking Group on a pilot initially aimed at branch employees to provide staff with an understanding of trauma, its impact and how it manifests in behaviour so that they can adopt a more trauma informed approach when both engaging with customers but also when supporting staff following incidents of abuse or violence in branch.
  3. As part of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (launched by the Prime Minister in April 2025), this summer sees an initiative to increase the safety of our town centres and high streets.
  4. Starting on the 30th June 2025 and running until the end of September 2025 there will be
  + Increased town centre patrols and other hotspots based on local demand and intelligence.
  + Maximised use of fines, including Fixed Penalty Notices, Penalty Notices for Disorder (where they are still in use in some forces), and through Out of Court Resolutions, demonstrating visible action against specific disorder and criminality.
  + Maximised use of existing ASB powers, including increased enforcement of breaches of Public Space Protection orders and use of Community Protection Notices.
  + Increased security patrols on key transport hubs/routes.
  + Transparency and raising awareness with the public to demonstrate activity and progress.
  1. Each local authority area has submitted their plans for this summer initiative, and these have been collated by our office and sent through to the Home Office alongside the plans from West Yorkshire Police

Our work will entail all areas collating their good work over these 3 months and we will be putting this together in a return for the Home Office alongside some mandated performance figures.

* 1. The initiative is focused on focused on driving down retail and street crime and ASB in town centres
  2. There is a stakeholder launch event on Thursday 3rd July and a national press release on Friday 4th July so by the time of the Police and Crime Panel there will be more information about this initiative being released. West Yorkshire is fully involved in this initiative and we will ensure the full benefit is realised over the summer months.

1. **Recommendation**
   1. That this report is noted by the Police and Crime Panel

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Appendix A**



**Appendix B**

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| Project focus | District | Intervention |
| Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) | Bradford | Days of Action |
| Kirklees | Bumpy/Kickstart |
| Days of Action |
| Leeds | Proactive ASB |
| Getaway Girls |
| West Yorkshire Police | Police Bike Overtime |
| Police Patrols |
| Op Soundwood |
| ASB  Purpose | To address:   * Environmental ASB, such as litter and fly-tipping, that is distressing residents * Other forms of environmental ASB, such as vandalism, criminal damage, or graffiti to public buildings, vehicles, bus shelters, phone boxes, that is distressing residents and may be seen to be encouraging more serious types of crimes; * An area where people are being repeatedly intimidated, threatened, verbally abused, or harassed * Persistent vehicle related ASB in the same area (such as repeated illegal parking, abandoned vehicles, speeding cars or motorcycles, joyriding) | |
| Neighbourhoods | Kirklees | Deployable CCTV |
| West Yorkshire Police | Crime Prevention and Target Hardening |
| Neighbourhoods Purpose | To address:   * Improved home security measures, with a focus on properties that are at higher risk of being targeted and those at risk of repeat burglary. * Repeat victims’ interventions and cocooning activities to address repeat and near-repeat victimisation of close neighbours to prevent domestic burglary. * Property marking in consideration of scale and sharing instructions to ensure use. * Neighbourhood Watch charity and their schemes to engage with and involve the local community to reduce the risk of crime, including preventative and safety techniques and facilitating the flow of intelligence between communities and police.   • Targeted educational and awareness initiatives to provide crime prevention advice to the public, alongside the above interventions. | |
| Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) | Bradford | CTV Nighttime support |
| Kirklees | Project Zero |
| Rural Street Marshalls |
| Male Behaviour Change Training |
| Wakefield | Pontefract Night Marshalls |
| West Yorkshire Police | VAWG Policing Patrols |
| Op Millpond |
| Girls Engagement Programme |
| VAWG Purpose | To address:   * Educational products and programmes which focus on attitudinal/behavioural change and improving understanding and confidence preventing and/or responding to VAWG and to prevent VAWG in public spaces. * Bystander training interventions. Bystander action refers to actions taken by a person (or persons) not directly involved as subject(s) or perpetrator of violence against women to identify, speak out about or seek to engage others in responding to VAWG incidents. * Public guardianship initiatives. Guardians are ‘everyday citizens who are present when an offender in search of crime opportunities intersects with a potential crime target’, their presence seeks to reduce opportunities for a crime to occur. * Policing interventions such as the deployment of officers in public spaces/NTE areas to target predatory behaviour and protect and support potential victims. | |