



## West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Draft Minutes

12 April 2024, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Usman Ali	- Wakefield Council
	Councillor Neil Buckley	- Leeds 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 Gwen Lowe	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Susan Lee-Richards	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Jackie Ferguson	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Joanne Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Trevor Lake	- 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
	Daniel Ware	- 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 Eileen Taylor, Nicole Sharpe and Anthony Smith.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

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. Road Safety and Vision Zero Update**

5.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which sets out the latest data relating to the numbers of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions and the work of the Vision Zero Partnership and West Yorkshire Police (WYP) to reduce these numbers. The Deputy Mayor paid tribute to the work of Cllr Amanda Carter, a previous member of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, who had provided rigorous challenge around the lack of partnership working on this issue. She highlighted that reductions in numbers are starting to come through on the rolling 12 month figures. Due to Panel's previous interest in increasing the transparency of decision making around the siting of speed cameras, the Deputy Mayor was particularly keen to share that there have been 32,000 prosecutions as a result of the introduction of 'community concerns' in this process. She added that she had been keen in the report to show the human cost of road safety, not just collisions data as a standalone indicator.

5.2 Panel expressed their appreciation of the well written and informative report and thanked the Deputy Mayor's team for their work on it.

5.3 The Deputy Mayor was asked if any work had been done to correlate a perceived / anecdotal increase in traffic on West Yorkshire's roads (particularly on the motorways), and the numbers of those killed or seriously injured, and if that could be expressed as a percentage, to give a better perspective. The Deputy Mayor and the Chief Constable agreed to look at the possibility of collating such figures.

5.4 Panel asked the Deputy Mayor if she could provide some context around the significant increase (30.8%) in the numbers of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions since 2019. The Deputy Mayor replied that the cause of the high number is a big increase in serious injury, whilst fatality figures are significantly down. Panel were asked to bear in mind that recent changes to the way serious injury data is recorded has impacted on the figures, making a direct comparison with previous years more difficult, and some of the figures will have been affected by this.

5.5 A question was asking around what action could be taken to enforce mobile phone compliance whilst driving, and whether cameras could be used to identify perpetrators. The Deputy Mayor shared that she is working with the West Yorkshire Camera Safety Partnership to look at ways this can be done, and that the programme of public education around the dangers of using phones whilst driving, will continue. The Chief Constable added that tackling mobile phone usage is undertaken through a collaborative approach, and that he believed that it was a societal issue which in time would become as unacceptable as drink driving. He was confident that advances in camera technology will make it easier to enforce compliance in the future. He advised of the ongoing Operation Tramline (primarily targeted on phone use) and communication campaigns to address the issue.

5.6 Panel asked for clarification around the process for alterations to roads on the grounds of safety. Discussions took place about the prohibitive cost of funding these, and how a shared approach would need to be taken to help local authorities push these forward. The Deputy Mayor drew Panel's attention to the £3bn unlocked through devolution for infrastructure projects, including Vision Zero objectives around road design.

5.7 A question was asked around control and enforcement of pavement parking, which causes access problems for pedestrians. The Chief Constable clarified that WYP do not have jurisdiction over this – at their own request, local authorities have control in this area. Local councils can make Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) prohibiting parking on the pavement, which are enforced by council Civil Enforcement Officers. If a highway is blocked by parked cars, the police can intervene, but otherwise, management of this is a local authority issue.

5.8 Panel asked if the Deputy Mayor could provide a breakdown of road traffic fatalities (for example, pedestrian, cyclist and so on).

## **5.9 RESOLVED**

**5.9.1** The Deputy Mayor to work with WYP to look at the possibility of correlating an increase in the volume of traffic with the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on the roads.

**5.9.2** The Deputy Mayor to provide a breakdown of fatality figures by type (pedestrian, cyclist etc).

## **6. Missing Persons**

- 6.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which provides an overview of the work undertaken in West Yorkshire on missing persons. She drew attention to pioneering work undertaken by the Deputy Chief Constable, Catherine Hankinson as the National Police Chief’s Council national lead in this area, and referenced ongoing work with partners to manage the process of tracking and finding missing persons to relieve historic pressure on the police to do this.
- 6.2 A question was asked around the Philomena protocol referenced at 4.12 of the report, and if the Deputy Mayor could explain the different roles of the police and carers in fulfilling this. The Chief Constable explained that the Philomena protocol is a version of the Herbert protocol which is being piloted in West Yorkshire. The protocol encourage carers and social workers to compile information on people who are at risk of going missing, for example, photographs, places the person would usually go, people they might contact and so on. It includes advice on what actions carers should take themselves before they contact the police, and helps the triage process when a person is reported as missing. He stressed that although the police have ultimate responsibility for all high risk missing persons, the process of tracking people is a shared responsibility in the early stages. WYP are piloting the Safe and Found Online digital version of the Herbert Protocol, which is aimed at people with dementia who may go missing. The Protocol is led by families, carers and professionals, who can update information as and when needed either using a link on the relevant Force’s website, over the phone or via written forms. Panel asked for information to be shared, to pass on to community groups they have contact with.
- 6.3 A further question was asked around the sensitivities employed in dealing with families with neuro diverse children, and what procedures were in place for children from an ‘at risk’ family home. The Chief Constable assured Panel that the Right Care, Right Person approach is taken in these cases and that all factors and vulnerabilities are take into account in risk assessments and triage decisions. On a daily basis, around fifteen high risk, vulnerable or repeat missing persons are reported to West Yorkshire Police, and these are always dealt with as a priority.
- 6.4 Panel were interested to know if facial recognition and CCTV are used to trace missing persons. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that local authorities could do this, and do in urgent circumstances, however there is an ethical tension in using personal data in this way. She referenced the establishment of a joint ethics panel with WYP to help develop ethical policies and procedures on the use of AI and facial recognition, and to triangulate the usefulness of this technology with the need for privacy. She suggested that once the panel is established, members may like to invite the Chair to a future meeting to discuss their work.

6.5 Panel were interested to hear the Deputy Mayor's views on how performance in this area could best be compared with other Forces, and whether it would be useful to measure how quickly cases are resolved rather than numbers (with the latter being beyond the control of the police). The Chief Constable replied that it was difficult to compare time taken to resolve, as the outcomes would depend on why each person had gone missing. The Deputy Mayor reminded Panel that repeat incidents were used as an indicator, and this was a national data set and could therefore be compared. She agreed to discuss with WYP other ways that performance could be measured in this area.

6.6 Panel were pleased to see that the number of missing persons has halved since 2019, and were interested to know why the WYP response was still so resource heavy, given the improvement in figures. The Chief Constable replied that a number of initiatives since the pandemic have helped achieve this drop, however, due to the high risk nature of the work, it is resource intensive. He believed that a lower volume of cases had allowed the Force to return to spending the appropriate amount of time on each case, which hadn't always been possible when numbers were high. In addition, the Force were potentially revisiting some older cases where additional work was needed.

6.7 Panel asked a further question around 2.3.1 in the report, which references how the Force are looking at potential unconscious bias in how they deal with missing persons of Black or other ethnic minority origin, and if the Deputy Mayor could share her knowledge around work undertaken on this issue. She explained that the work had come about due to the Smallman / Henry cases in the Metropolitan Police, and the resultant campaign by the victims family for this element to be investigated further. Recommendations are in the process of national and regional adoption. She was not aware of any other Force undertaking the same level of work on the issue, which has looked at language, reporting accessibility, and the wider societal (not just police) issue of unconscious bias.

## **6.8 RESOLVED**

**6.8.1** Following recruitment, and establishment in role, the Chair of the joint panel on ethics to be invited to a future Panel meeting.

**6.8.2** The Deputy Mayor and WYP to discuss alternative ways that performance around missing persons could be measured.

**6.8.3** The Deputy Mayor to share information about the Herbert protocol, for onward sharing by Panel members.

## **7. Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Update**

- 7.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report which highlights the key areas of work under the Violence Reduction Partnership agenda.
- 7.2 Panel expressed their appreciation of the report, and for the work of the VRP. They asked for the Deputy Mayor's views on how well the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) partnership was working, and for more information on how the Mayor scrutinises the response of the authorities specified under the duty. The Deputy Mayor shared how her team have gone over and above what has been necessary to fulfil this duty by commissioning a body (Crest Advisory) to work alongside all partners to develop their SVD locally. Crest Advisory have undertaken two independent assessments of the local SVD partnership so far, with the first concluding that it was mature and demonstrated best practice, and the second awarding it the highest level of success on partnership working.
- 7.3 Discussion took place around the role of education in the SVD – although education providers are not a statutory partner in the duty, it was felt that their influence – and that of the prison service - in the process is integral.
- 7.4 The Deputy Mayor shared how the Mayor's Inclusivity Champion, Fatima Khan-Shah is helping the health service to develop a response to contributory factors in serious violence, such as drink spiking.
- 7.5 Panel asked a question at item 5.4.3 in the report, as to the effectiveness of A&E navigator services. The Deputy Mayor told Panel that the scheme was working well and that a similar model is now operational in custody settings. The Deputy Mayor stressed that many problems and issues being addressed under the VRP banner were societal, complex and sit across many areas, meaning that work towards their deconstruction needs to be planned over a long timescale (10-15 years) in order to see sustainable and tangible benefits.
- 7.6 Panel asked the Deputy Mayor if there was an appetite for a West Yorkshire inter-faith forum; she agreed that there was, and that this would be a priority of the Mayor's if she is re-elected.
- 7.7 The Deputy Mayor discussed engagement and education programmes, which sit concurrently with the VRP initiatives. She referenced the #Justdon't campaign, and the personal engagement of the VRP with 500 school pupils on this. In addition, it has been viewed by 4 million people online. The Deputy Mayor believed that the video complements the successful Pol-Ed programme, which has 89% of all schools in West Yorkshire signed up to it. Alongside this work, there continues to be investments through the Mayor's Safer Communities fund, to charities doing work to support the agenda in schools.

## **7.8 RESOLVED**

**7.8.1** Panel noted the report.

## **8. Assurance Paper**

8.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which gives written assurance of her confidence that the senior team in WYP understand and are tackling any negative behaviour and culture found within their officers and staff, following the publication of Baroness Casey's report into the culture and standards of behaviour in the Metropolitan Police in March 2023. She acknowledged that Panel have waited a few months for the report, however she had provided a verbal statement and updates over that time to provide the assurance that Panel was looking for.

8.2 A question was asked around the reasons why a new Performance and Development Review (PDR) system had been introduced within WYP. The Chief Constable replied that the Force had decided to implement a new system to refresh and update the previous, overly bureaucratic PDR system. As part of the change, the senior team have reviewed existing content and structures, incorporating a wider context to cover behaviours. Panel were assured that existing regular supervisory meetings and interventions had continued throughout the change process. Panel requested an update on the system once it had been bedded in.

## **8.3 RESOLVED**

**8.3.1** An update on the implementation of the new PDR system within WYP to be added to the forward agenda plan for autumn 2024.

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

9.1 Following events in Bradford over the previous weekend, the Deputy Mayor assured Panel members that both her and the Mayor were being kept up to date with developments and that she was confident that everything possible was being done to secure justice for the victim's family. She commended the Senior Investigating Officer and thanked other Forces who collaborated to achieve the suspect's arrest.

9.2 The Deputy Mayor apprised Panel members on the success of Bradford's anti-violence month, which had been organised and run through a partnership approach.

- 9.3 The Deputy Mayor updated Panel members on her work with the British Retail Consortium around retail crime, including her attendance at a round table event with members. She committed to building retail crime into a future Police and Crime Plan, should the current Mayor be re-elected in May.
- 9.4 The Deputy Mayor spoke about the recent launch of the Safe Mission in Kirklees bus station, and how there are now many 'safe places' in various venues across West Yorkshire.
- 9.5 The Deputy Mayor shared her experience of the Violence Reduction Partnership Knowledge Exchange event last month, where examples of best practice were on show from across West Yorkshire, resulting in global interest.

## **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.
- 12.2 The latest HMICFRS inspection report for WYP will be published in June, and the Chief Constable gave his views around what he sees as a recalibration of criteria and gradings, and asked Panel to compare WYP's report (when published) with other similar Forces, rather than against its own previous inspection report. A paper will be brought to Panel in the autumn to provide further detail on the report, and how WYP are responding to it.

## **13. Complaints Received by the Panel**

- 13.1 Panel noted the report.

## **14. Any Other Business**



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- 14.1 Panel members wanted to record their congratulations to WYP and their partners in the criminal justice system and Foreign Office for achieving the extradition and conviction of the final person wanted in connection with the murder of PC Sharon Beshenivsky in November 2005.
- 14.2 Due to the meeting being the last before the Mayoral elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the Deputy Mayor thanked Panel members for their challenge and constructive criticism throughout the three years that her and the Mayor had held office.

**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, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield.