**Annual Report 2024-25**

**Item 5**

**West Yorkshire Combined Authority**

**Policing and Crime Team**

Contents

[Headline Achievements 3](#_Toc207359304)

[Mayor’s foreword 4](#_Toc207359305)

[Mayoral Pledge: Spotlight on Serious Violence 6](#_Toc207359306)

[Police and Crime Plan Priority 1: Keeping People Safe 9](#_Toc207359307)

[Police and Crime Plan Priority 2: Safer Places and Thriving Communities 13](#_Toc207359308)

[Police and Crime Plan Priority 3: Supporting Victims and Witnesses 19](#_Toc207359309)

[Cross Cutting Theme: The Safety of Women and Girls 25](#_Toc207359310)

[Cross Cutting Theme: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion 29](#_Toc207359311)

[Cross Cutting Theme: Reducing Vulnerability 32](#_Toc207359312)

[Cross Cutting Theme: Children and Young People 34](#_Toc207359313)

[Cross Cutting Theme: Effective response to men and boys 36](#_Toc207359314)

[Consultation & Engagement 38](#_Toc207359315)

[Commissioning 42](#_Toc207359316)

[Strategic Partnerships 45](#_Toc207359317)

[Casework 47](#_Toc207359318)

[Police Precept 48](#_Toc207359319)

[Strategic Policing Requirement 49](#_Toc207359320)

[Holding the Chief Constable to account 53](#_Toc207359321)

[Police and Crime Plan Performance Monitoring 54](#_Toc207359322)

# Headline Achievements

1. Over £1.5 million taken from criminals has been shared across 126 projects during 2024/25 through the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund, impacting a minimum of 116,735 people.
2. Funding an Independent Stalking Advocacy Service, supporting hundreds of victims of domestic stalking.
3. Launching the Vision Zero Strategy, working towards eliminating road deaths and serious injuries alongside partners.
4. Commencing work on our first Serious Violence Strategy which will be co-produced with communities across West Yorkshire.
5. Continued promotion of the viral Just Don’t campaign targeting inappropriate behaviour towards women and girls, and empowering men and boys to change society for the better.
6. Securing £4,654,358 from the Ministry of Justice to support victims of crime across West Yorkshire.
7. Over 6,000 individuals participated in the consultation process, providing valuable insights into perceptions of safety, underlying causes of violence, and gaps in existing services for prevention and intervention.
8. Collaborating with West Yorkshire Police (WYP) to support the deployment of Naloxone among officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) as an overdose prevention measure.
9. Hosting the region’s Reclaim the Night event in Huddersfield’s Greenhead Park during October 2024, to empower women and girls to stand up for safer spaces as the evenings get darker during winter.
10. £355,000 worth of funding towards ‘safer streets’ projects across the region, tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour (ASB) and violence against women and girls.
11. Co-ordination of the Independent Custody Visitor scheme with 22 dedicated volunteers offering face-to-face visits to people held in custody suites across our region. Volunteers came into contact with almost 1,300 detained people across 280 custody suites.
12. Driving the use of SmartWater in investigations through the Women’s Safety Unit, protecting 416 victims over the last 12 months.
13. Delivery of the Immediate Justice scheme across the region with 537 Adults and 882 children referred to the programme, providing justice for victims.
14. The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) has trained Community Leaders across West Yorkshire, to improve relations between community groups and public officers and better engage with young people and the wider community.
15. The Policing and Crime Casework team communicated with over 970 members of the public who contacted our office and conducted 234reviews of the outcomes of formal complaints handled by WYP.
16. The team facilitated 4 Community Outcomes Meetings, 4 Performance Monitoring Meetings and 12 Governance Meetings with WYP. These meetings serve a range of functions including offering greater transparency on how the Mayor holds the Chief Constable to account, monitoring police performance, and discussing community safety issues which are of high public interest.

# Mayor’s foreword

This annual report is the first to be published since the launch of my new Police and Crime Plan 2024-2028 which marks an important new chapter for our region. Tackling Serious Violence is the cornerstone of the new plan, which will build on West Yorkshire’s innovative approach to ensuring the safety of women and girls, as well as combatting gangs, drugs and knife crime. In addition to maintaining a focus on protecting women and girls, the plan also introduces a renewed emphasis on supporting men and boys identified as being at risk—particularly those vulnerable to exploitation through ‘county lines’ gangs—with the aim of preventing victimisation and harm.

I acknowledge that this year has presented significant challenges for many residents across the region. The continued pressures of a difficult fiscal environment, the national disorder witnessed last summer, and the serious disorder in Harehills have underscored the critical importance of our efforts to continue to build public trust and confidence in the police service.

However, alongside West Yorkshire Police and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, we have risen to the challenge and continue to deliver successful initiatives in our communities, in conjunction with partners, to create a Safe, Just and Inclusive West Yorkshire. I remain actively engaged with communities across West Yorkshire to understand what policing and community safety issues matter to you, and ensure that I hold the Force and Chief Constable to account through rigorous scrutiny, oversight and performance monitoring.

This year, over £1.5 million taken from criminals has been shared across 126 projects as part of the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund. I am delighted we have been able to invest in these local community groups, ensuring their crucial work continues. Projects like these which tackle problems at a grassroots level are instrumental to delivering our new Plan and making West Yorkshire a safer, fairer place for all.

During August 2024, we launched the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Strategy, the plan to eradicate all road deaths and serious injuries across the county by 2040. At the strategy’s heart is the message that everyone has a responsibility to keep people safe on our roads. This work is vitally important as on average, around one person a week dies on the roads of West Yorkshire and thousands are injured every year. The only acceptable number of road deaths is zero. Together, we have the power to change this, and we must look to make that a reality.

We continue to invest in vitally important Victim Support services, with £14 million going towards services to support victims and survivors of crime across West Yorkshire over the last three years, helping approximately 85,000 people a year. The services I commission from Victim Support include the Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service and an Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) service as well as funding multi-crime services for all victims of crime.

This year also saw the launch of my Child First framework, focused on creating a justice system that treats children as children. This involved co-producing a framework with 455 children across West Yorkshire with a launch featuring creative work and live performances from children, centred around their experiences of growing up in West Yorkshire.

I am also incredibly proud of the work of the first-of-its kind dedicated Women’s Safety Unit, which is a pioneering partnership that comprises members from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police. Initiatives during the past year include driving the use of SmartWater in investigations, spiking intensification week, continued success of the #Justdon’t campaign, and the regions Reclaim the Night event. I want West Yorkshire to be a safer, fairer place for all our women and girls.

This report outlines a range of projects and services that we have led or supported over the past year, as part of the first annual report published under the new Police and Crime Plan. As we look forward, we are known for our innovative approach to tackling male violence towards women and girls, but it is crucial that we also work together to support vulnerable men and boys and clamp down on issues like gang violence and knife crime. In addition, Serious Violence remains a scourge on society both locally and nationally, which is why I have made this a top priority for our region through the spotlight in the new plan. My focus remains on the effective delivery of further initiatives within our communities, and we will continue to work with our partners and communities to ensure West Yorkshire remains a safer, fairer place to live and work.

*Tracy signature*

# Mayoral Pledge: Spotlight on Serious Violence

**Development of the Serious Violence Strategy**

Tracy Brabin, the Mayor of West Yorkshire, has pledged to make Serious Violence a priority and deliver on the government’s mission of halving knife crime in a decade. The spotlight on Serious Violence in the new Police and Crime Plan is part of the journey to make this a reality.

When we consulted on the Police and Crime Plan during 2024, we received strong support for the spotlight on Serious Violence, with many highlighting its wide-ranging impact on victims, families, and communities. Children — particularly those in schools, colleges, and universities — also identified Serious Violence as a major concern. Parents raised issues around child vulnerability and criminal exploitation, with several sharing personal experiences. Many participants also discussed the connection between organised crime and issues such as drug-related offences, knife crime, and gun violence.

Since the Mayor was re-elected in May 2024, work has begun on developing the Serious Violence strategy. The first stage of development is consultation with residents in West Yorkshire. Some consultation has already taken place, via the Police and Crime Plan survey during summer 2024, which included a series of key questions relating to the Serious Violence Duty. Further consultation is taking place through a dedicated Serious Violence consultation running during the summer and autumn months of 2025. A series of co-production events are in development which will take place across the districts, where members of the community and partners will be invited to collaborate.

**Engagement with the Community**

Extensive consultation and engagement have been undertaken across West Yorkshire to gather community views on Serious Violence and potential responses. Over 6,000 individuals participated in the consultation process, providing valuable insights into perceptions of safety, underlying causes of violence, and gaps in existing services for prevention and intervention. The findings have been collated into a series of detailed [reports](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/utxbrkhs/vowy-final.docx) to inform future strategy development and some of the key findings are outlined below:

* We asked respondents if they felt that violence has an effect on their local area. 60% of respondents felt it does, whilst 40% felt it does not.
* We asked respondents about their feelings of safety in their local area and what made them feel safe or unsafe. Some of the in-person consultation simply asked as a yes or no option of which 27% said ‘no’ and 73% said ‘yes’. Remaining surveys were asked on a Likert scale ranging from very safe, quite safe, no feeling either way, through to quite unsafe and very unsafe. 64% of respondents felt either very safe or quite safe.
* 62% of respondents indicated that their feelings of safety differed between night and day, with darkness and visibility, higher perception of crime at nighttime, and the fear of gender-based violence at night emerging as some of the recurring themes.
* We asked respondents what they thought were the causes of violence in their local area. Perceptions and causes of Serious Violence fell into a number of key themes which included economic factors (poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunities), community assets (lack of facilities for young people, social isolation), relational (perceptions of poor parenting, cultural intolerance and racism), substance abuse, insufficient access to mental health services, influences (gang culture, weapons, and exposure to violence through media) and policing and justice such as a lack of police presence or a lack of deterrence/leniency in the justice system.
* Respondents were asked to share their views on effective approaches to tackling and preventing violence within their local areas. Key themes identified included the need for increased police visibility and enhancements within the wider criminal justice system, greater investment in community engagement initiatives—particularly youth services—improved street lighting and security measures, expanded support services for victims, and targeted action to address the root causes of violence such as poverty, unemployment, and substance misuse.

**Community Leaders Programme**

The Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) has trained a number of Community Leaders across West Yorkshire. The Community Leader Programme is a leadership development opportunity built for VRP’s, Police and Crime Commissioners and Local Authorities to offer to local leaders, as part of a whole systems / public health approach to reducing violence and improving community safety. Following their expert review, the Community Leader Programme has been awarded ILM© recognised status. The programme aims to:

* + Provide community leaders with excellent leadership development
	+ Improve relations between community groups and public officers
	+ Refresh techniques to better engage communities and young people
	+ Provide community leaders with operational expertise to help better manage initiatives to reduce factors that cause violence and build safer communities.
	+ Create a network of community leaders who collaborate with each other and public agencies.

**Early Intervention and Prevention**

The VRP has supported the implementation of the Area Leader Pilot Project. Based in Bradford and funded by the Youth Endowment Fund, the pilot aims to increase evidence-based commissioning and the identification of children at risk of or involved in Serious Violence. Partners from across Bradford have come together to deliver sessions aimed at understanding what data different organisations hold, and how we can better utilise data sharing to ensure we are identifying the correct children. Additionally, looking at creating a process map to understand how a child at risk of or involved in Serious Violence, may progress through the system. As a partnership we will look at any barriers and enablers there may in the system and look at what interventions are available for these children.

In addition, following [research and recommendations](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/11644/leaders-unlocked-final-report.pdf) in 2023 by our youth commission, they have worked with the Violence Reduction Partnership and the communications agency ‘Resource Media’ to co-design a campaign to raise awareness on key issues such as attitudes and violence towards women, and drugs, gangs & knife crime. Some of the topics covered included image-based abuse, street harassment and public safety, spiking awareness and prevention, glamorisation of gangs and drug culture, knife crime and community fear, and exploitation of children and young people. The campaign went live on 24th February 2025 at the VRP Showcase Event and the Launch of the Mayor’s new Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire.

A large number of programmes and interventions have been delivered across West Yorkshire, nine that have been commissioned directly by the Violence Reduction Partnership and a number of programmes commissioned locally across the 5 districts in accordance with their local profiles, with over 8000 children and young people engaged.

# Police and Crime Plan Priority 1: Keeping People Safe

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Why is this a priority?** | **What are we doing?** |
| * In the Plan Survey, 95.7% of respondents described this priority as ‘important’ to them and 97% of partners also described this priority as important.
* The top three areas of focus highlighted by the survey were knife crime, child sexual abuse/child sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse.
* The picture for knife crime in the Needs Assessment shows a long-term increase for knife enabled homicides and attempted homicides and a current short-term increase in knife enabled personal robberies. This will be considered as part of the new Serious Violence Strategy.
* Child sexual abuse is part of the Strategic Policing Requirement, and child safety and neglect are top priorities for partners within Child Safeguarding Boards in West Yorkshire. This topic links to our new cross cutting theme of Children and Young People.
* Domestic abuse is one of the main crime types for Violence against Women and Girls and is part of the national VAWG Strategy.
 | * Work together on the Serious Violence Duty and co‑produce the Serious Violence Strategy.
* Raise awareness of the tactics used by cyber criminals and work with WYP to reduce exploitation.
* Work both locally and nationally to drive the outcomes in the Police Race Action Plan (see page 30 for more detail).
* Continue to drive the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy including the priorities of the Women’s Safety Unit (Please see page 25 for more detail).
 |
| The following are the highlights from this year to achieve these deliverables. |

 **Serious Violence Duty and Partnership working**

The Serious Violence Duty in West Yorkshire involves a collaborative effort between councils and local services to tackle Serious Violence by sharing information, targeting interventions, and working together to prevent and reduce its occurrence. This duty is embedded within the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), which aims to understand and address the root causes of violence through joint strategies and strengthened partnerships.

During the past year, the VRP has developed a Serious Violence Duty partnership data dashboard – this draws together data from a range of partners including education, police, health, fire and the ambulance service for example to allow partners to self-serve on performance data needs and explore emerging issues using the dashboards tools.

The VRP have also increased the number of data sharing agreements in place across the Serious Violence Duty partnership to provide additional information into the data dashboard and to inform the continued development of the Needs Assessment and Locality Profiles. A performance, research and analysis network for professionals across West Yorkshire from organisations designated as ‘Serious Violence Duty holders’ commenced in March 2025, chaired by the VRP Knowledge Hub lead. A Data Sharing Strategy has also been completed.

The West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment was drafted and published in January 2025 along with a refreshed partnership response Strategy. The assessment works alongside the Influential Factors evidence synthesis which is an extensive report exploring the influential factors – both risk and protective - which can influence involvement in violence and or exploitation. Local profiles were also produced for each district.

Serious Violence Duty partners have been supported to develop (and implement) place-based Response Plans, responding to the Needs Assessment and Strategy through driving delivery at a local level managed by local governance arrangements and fed back into the Serious Violence Executive group.

This year, the VRP has continued to work collaboratively with the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership to co-lead a system-wide programme focused on Adversity, Trauma and Resilience. The ATR programme is facilitated by a governance structure that includes a West Yorkshire Strategy Group chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, an Operational Network Group and workstreams focused on Staff Wellbeing and Trauma Informed Workforce Practice, Education, Criminal Justice and Reducing Violence Against Staff. More information can be found [here.](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/west-yorkshire-violence-reduction-partnership/trauma-informed-approach/) For more information on our Serious Violence Strategy, please see our spotlight on Serious Violence on page 6.

**Raising awareness of Cyber Crime**

Under the cycle of the new Police and Crime Plan 2024-28, we intend to deepen our understanding of partners’ work to help to raise communities’ awareness of cybercrime, and the police’s work with national partners to target perpetrators. During the past year, West Yorkshire Police have continued to promote fraud prevention messaging over media platforms. Furthermore, the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) conduct awareness campaigns, with partners, to identify current threats and help promote information which will empower the public. This included attendance at Leeds University Fresher’s week and shopping centers across the force to raise awareness close to Black Friday/Cyber Monday.

The ECU and Deputy Mayor hosted a fraud crime prevention event at West Yorkshire Police Training and Development Centre on 28th September 2024. The event was supported by partner agencies such as WYP Cyber Team, Neighbourhood Watch, Victim Support, Fire Service and Age UK.

**Working with West Yorkshire Police to reduce exploitation**

**Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA)**

Our public consultation ahead of the new Police and Crime Plan identified that CSEA is particularly important for local residents. Non-recent and group-led offences against children have particularly been in the national spotlight during the first months of 2025, with the Home Secretary committing to a further report on this issue (following Prof. Alexis Jay’s ‘Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse’, 2022). Baroness Casey’s subsequent report contained important recommendations which are set to redouble the national effort to seek justice for the victims of child sexual exploitation, and help to further understand the drivers of group-led abuse. Central to this work will be a proposed ‘national inquiry’ into non-recent CSEA (NRCSEA). Later in 2025, the Mayor will consult with local survivors of child sexual exploitation and abuse, representatives of the VSCE sector which support victims, and our local MPs, on how we can influence the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry on behalf of CSEA victims here in West Yorkshire.

In February, the Mayor gave her support to WYP’s application for Home Office ‘Special Grant’ funding for extra resources to conduct NRCSEA operations during 25/26. This highly complex work has delivered important results for victims; WYP’s specialist teams have helped to convict over 210 suspects between 2015 and 2025, achieving custodial sentences totaling over 2,300 years (up to April 2025).

Following an inspection of West Yorkshire Police’s response to NRCSEA by representatives from His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, West Yorkshire Police received an increase in Home Office funding and were awarded a further £2.4 million to support its successful operations against the perpetrators of non-recent CSEA in the year ahead.

West Yorkshire’s child safeguarding partners have formed a new body established as part of the ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’ framework published by the government in 2023. ‘Lead safeguarding partners’ who attend this meeting are the Chief Constable, West Yorkshire local authority Chief Executives, and the head of the NHS Integrated Commissioning Board. The first meeting took place in January, and through our usual governance arrangements with the Chief Constable, the Deputy Mayor will review the strength of the partnership response to child safeguarding under discussion at this senior level meeting.

An example of the Mayor’s scrutiny of WYP’s work on child safeguarding can be found at our recent [Community Outcomes Meeting](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbAPOFe1IW8) which took place during January 2025.

**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

The Mayor supports cross-district collaboration on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) through our co-ordination of the WY Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP). WYASP was established 10 years ago and continues to attract strong support from partners sharing the objectives of supporting victims and pursuing the perpetrators of modern slavery.

WYASP’s roster of partners has grown in size during 2024/25, with the group discussing topics throughout the year such as organised immigration crime, abuse of workers in the care sector, and child criminal exploitation. WYASP has benefited from the support of several partners who have contributed as guest speakers to help foster partnership collaboration.

Post-Brexit, the use of sponsored visas to bring workers from India and African nations to the UK, has provided an opportunity for corrupt intermediaries. Visas are paid for in workers’ home nations, only for people to find on arrival here that the work is irregular or exploitative. The fear of losing the status of a sponsored worker also leaves migrants vulnerable to further exploitation under the threat of being reported to immigration authorities.

Partners across our local authority areas are working through their own modern slavery partnerships to raise awareness amongst migrant worker communities of how they can recognise and report these cases of labour exploitation, as well as providing help to find legitimate employers for those who have been exploited.

Another focus of WYASP over the past year has been the practice of cuckooing, which is the manipulation of people in order to take control of their homes for criminal purposes. It is often linked to the supply of drugs and can include disturbing cases of the financial exploitation of people with specific vulnerabilities, such as disability, mental health concerns, old age, or substance dependency.

In July 2024, the Deputy Mayor was able to support an important regional event looking deeper at cuckooing at the University of Huddersfield. Arranged by the University, Kirklees Council, WYP, and the National County Lines Coordination Centre, the DMPC opened the event with a keynote address to over 200 representatives from partners across the north of England. The conference explored collaborative approaches between law enforcement and academia to help understand this complex problem, which encompasses the challenge of tackling organised crime and safeguarding vulnerable people.

In the year ahead, it is hoped that WYASP partners can collaborate to help the victims of modern slavery/human trafficking in the period when they are awaiting access to the National Referral Mechanism (the government’s programme of support for MSHT victims).  Currently, potential MSHT victims are particularly vulnerable to being re-exploited.

WYASP remains one of our most popular partnership forums, with the opportunity to bring police, local authority, and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners together to review activity to combat modern slavery and support its victims being particularly valued by group members.

Please note the West Yorkshire Police awareness video on cuckooing, produced with support from the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmMlcltegCE>

# Police and Crime Plan Priority 2: Safer Places and Thriving Communities

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Why is this a priority?** | **What are we doing?** |
| * 97.9% of respondents described this priority as ‘important’ to them as did 95% of partners.
* The top three areas of focus that the respondents saw as being the most important to them were ASB, neighbourhood crime followed by road safety and driving behaviours.
* The Needs Assessment states that anti-social behaviour (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.
* Neighbourhood Crime links with deprivation which highlights the need to work with partners to deal with societal issues, not just focus on the actual crimes.
* 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.
 | * Work with Local Authorities to understand the extent of ASB case reviews and hotspots for ASB incidents and crimes across West Yorkshire, improving confidence and satisfaction in this arena.
* 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.
* Embed the Vision Zero Strategy across all areas of West Yorkshire and advance the delivery plan to see wholesale change in this area.
* Work with the business community to tackle assaults on shop workers and associated crimes.
 |
| The following are the highlights from this year to achieve these deliverables. |

**Tackling Anti-social behaviour**

**ASB case reviews**

Combined Authority 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 dissatisfied with local authority or police decisions will be able to appeal directly to the PCC for a further 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 Community Safety Partnerships to establish what the current picture looks like in West Yorkshire and what could be on the horizon once the legislation is implemented.

**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 ASB 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 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 scheme, of these 22% were female and 78% were male.

**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 below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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.
 |

**Building Community Resilience: Serious & Organised Crime**

Serious and organised crime (SOC) can operate at a national and international scale, but its impacts can still be felt in our individual communities through drug crime, criminal exploitation, fraud, and serious violence. During 2024/25, the Deputy Mayor has helped support a new partnership body (the West Yorkshire SOC Partnership Board), which brings police and local authority partners together to review our shared work to tackle SOC in local communities.

One output from the Board’s work in the past year has been to promote the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund as a potential source of funding to support partner’s objectives for West Yorkshire’s ‘Clear, Hold, Build’ initiatives. These SOC-focused projects tackle the criminality which blights local communities within small, neighbourhood-level areas and more information is included on page 39.

**Vision Zero**

The West Yorkshire Vision Zero Strategy was launched at an event in Lister Park, Bradford, in August 2024. Partners have now committed to hosting an annual event in a different district each year to spotlight Vision Zero and the important work being done. A delivery plan has been developed, outlining the key actions to be delivered between 2025 and 2027. This plan aligns with the Safe Systems approach.

During the past year, work has been undertaken to embed the Vision Zero Strategy into relevant policy documents, such as the Police and Crime Plan, upcoming Local Transport Plan, and Active Travel Strategy.

**Funding**

Through the Vision Zero Partnership, funding bids have been supported for initiatives including:

* Weighing Plates for West Yorkshire Police to aid enforcement operations in relation to vehicles that are transporting more than they are safe to.
* Additional roadside signage to display road safety messages.
* Decals to affix to partner vehicles showing Vision Zero detail to raise visibility of our campaign on the roads.

Additional support services are also being offered to victims of serious road collisions in West Yorkshire through an Independent Road Victim Advocate (IRVA) supported by the partnership. The families of people killed or seriously injured on the county’s roads, as well as people who have been seriously injured themselves, are able to access both emotional and practical support.

**Communications and Campaigns**

In 2024-2025, The [Vision Zero Pledge](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fpolicing-and-crime%2Fvision-zero%2Fvision-zero-pledge%2F&data=05%7C02%7CAnna.Scaife%40westyorks-ca.gov.uk%7C012fb1859338415863a408dd96ed91c9%7C34e93bfcee664345a4fe805b67e480c0%7C0%7C0%7C638832669279161549%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bXkF2beWtj9P2M9dC%2FTvF3Ub1PiYzf0KgdlzRRnWhN8%3D&reserved=0) has been launched to support the goal of eliminating road deaths and serious injuries. Additionally, year 7 students across West Yorkshire have taken part in the [Split Second project](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fall-news-and-blogs%2Fthousands-of-children-safer-thanks-to-split-second-project%2F&data=05%7C02%7CAnna.Scaife%40westyorks-ca.gov.uk%7C012fb1859338415863a408dd96ed91c9%7C34e93bfcee664345a4fe805b67e480c0%7C0%7C0%7C638832669279146150%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=L%2B1UwWdStGsJ6X7zmwHvycC5aY2KMEomMbI8zDOnODw%3D&reserved=0) – an interactive road safety performance and workshop delivered by Collingwood Learning and funded by the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership. There has also been a large push on communications focusing on tackling the [‘Fatal Five’](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fpolicing-and-crime%2Fvision-zero%2Fthe-fatal-5%2F&data=05%7C02%7CAnna.Scaife%40westyorks-ca.gov.uk%7C012fb1859338415863a408dd96ed91c9%7C34e93bfcee664345a4fe805b67e480c0%7C0%7C0%7C638832669279181631%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=atPqKHXQ4rLi6wrrZpr3cxV7naFvk7mrwCz2P7UmSOM%3D&reserved=0) through social media, radio, and DAX promotions. Examples of national campaigns supported include Operation Snap and THINK’s speed campaign.

**Working with the business community**

During the Police and Crime Plan Consultation held during summer 2024, business and retail crime was raised frequently when engaging with people who worked in businesses and retail along with verbal and physical abuse. Those who worked for businesses also spoke about the impact of hate crime on their feelings of safety.

**Engagement Activity**

Over the past year, the Mayor has continued to support businesses across West Yorkshire through initiatives such as the Fair Work Charter. Further information on the Mayor’s efforts to support local businesses is available via the [West Yorkshire Combined Authority website](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/growing-the-economy/business-and-skills/).

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, contributes to the national conversation on business crime through her involvement in the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners’ Business and Retail Crime Portfolio. This forum enables the sharing of best practice and the development of strategies to address key challenges in preventing, reporting, and investigating business and retail crime.

The Deputy Mayor maintains close engagement with the local business community, focusing on improving intelligence sharing and exploring effective crime reduction measures. On 28 September 2024, the Deputy Mayor attended the Fraud Prevention Partnership Event with WY. Relevant resources such as the latest edition of [*The Little Book of Big Scams – 5th Edition*](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/west_yorkshire_police_lbobs_5th_edition_rgb_accessible.pdf) are available to support businesses in fraud prevention efforts.

WYP continue to work closely with businesses to better understand their concerns and develop crime prevention solutions. Businesses play a crucial role in our communities through employment, services and leisure and maintaining their confidence through effective crime prevention and detection is a priority for the Force.

In response to evolving threats faced by the business community, preventing violence against shopworkers has become a top priority for both retailers and WYP. To support these efforts, WYP actively participated in the National Safer Business Action (SaBA) Days in March and October 2024. These coordinated operations brought together police, private security, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs), Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and retailers to deliver high-impact crime reduction activity across the region. All districts took part, engaging with retailers and members of the public while distributing crime prevention materials. Over 200 officers and staff were involved across the two weeks of action, which resulted in 90 arrests, the implementation of banning orders, and the development of offender management plans.

**Funding**

The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund supports the strategic priorities and cross cutting themes outlined in the Police and Crime Plan. Grant Round 7 specifically addressed crimes affecting businesses, including violence against business owners and shoplifting. Across Grant Rounds 1 to 7, the fund has supported a total of seven projects focused on tackling business-related crime, with a combined investment of £183,211.40.

# Police and Crime Plan Priority 3: Supporting Victims and Witnesses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Why is this a priority?** | **What are we doing?** |
| * 95.7% of respondents described this priority as ‘important’ to them and 92% of partners agreed.
* Support for victims of all crimes received the most responses, followed by child criminal exploitation and driving improvements in the criminal justice system. This priority had the most balanced results with other areas of focus also receiving support.
* Child Criminal Exploitation featured in the Needs Assessment and as a performance measure in the Mayor’s first Police and Crime Plan. The understanding of this issue by all agencies, including the police led to a rise in reporting that is now stable.
* The role of the Local Criminal Justice Board was highlighted as the way in which the Mayor can work with criminal justice partners to drive improvements in the criminal justice system that benefit victims of crime.
* The West Yorkshire Combatting Drugs Partnership Board was highlighted, emphasising the need for a co-ordinated response from key partners.
 | * Work with WYP and criminal justice partners to ensure that all victims benefit from their rights under the Victim’s Code.
* Use our convening powers to bring together Combatting Drugs Partnerships across West Yorkshire to ensure consistency of response.
* Lead the Local Criminal Justice Board to make necessary improvements to the services offered to victims of crime, within delivery parameters set out by central government.
* Make sure that justice is accessible for the most vulnerable victims and the most marginalised communities in West Yorkshire.
 |
| The following are the highlights from this year to achieve these deliverables. |

**Work of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)**

The Local Criminal Justice Board consists of the Executive, chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and a number of sub-groups that report into the executive. The LCJB structure is supported by both a Performance Manager and a Policy Manager in the Police and Crime Team.

**The Efficiency and Effectiveness Group** is chaired by a WYP Assistant Chief Constable. As the name would suggest, the group is concerned with understanding and improving system performance associated with the national processes and agreements that are in place with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and His Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). This includes Police/CPS file triage performance, advice, charging and action plan timeliness.

**The Victim and Witnesses group** is chaired by a Senior Crown Prosecutor from the CPS. The group is concerned with the performance of the Criminal Justice Service, in particular the treatment of victims, survivors and witnesses.The membership consists of statutory agencies, and the VCSE agencies that support victims of crime.The Mayor has a statutory responsibility to support victims of crime. She commissions services through a Ministry of Justice Grant.

The priorities of the group this year has been to take steps to ensure that all victims benefit from their rights under the Victim’s Code. There will be a requirement on this group to measure performance against the Victims Code of Practice measures, made statutory following the Victims and Prisoners Act becoming law in May 2024.  This section of the act is likely to be enacted in Summer 2027. Significant work to establish a compliance process for use nationally, by Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners will take place in the intervening period.

A targeted focus on enhancing the availability and awareness of Special Measures has led to significant improvements in practice over the past year. WYP employs a dedicated Special Measures Advisor who provides specialist training to officers and staff, supports casework in collaboration with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), and drives process improvements. This work is recognised as national best practice and plays a vital role in ensuring that vulnerable victims, witnesses, and children are supported to give evidence effectively and access the justice they deserve.

**Working with Prisons and Probation**

The continuity of care for people in prison is a key focus for Prisons and Probation. In the Yorkshire and Humber region, 2024/25 has seen an increase in the availability of treatment options for offenders serving community sentences, Drugs Rehabilitation Referrals (DRR), Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs) and Mental Health Treatment Requirements (MHTR) have all increased during the period from low numbers across West Yorkshire. There is significant work ongoing to understand the effect of these interventions in reducing reoffending, and to strengthen the integration between the criminal justice system in West Yorkshire with the Government’s 10-Year Drugs Strategy *From Harm to Hope,* and its implementation through district Combating Drugs Partnerships.

**Work of the Reducing Reoffending and Rehabilitation Partnership Board**

This board is chaired by a West Yorkshire Probation Delivery Unit head and the deputy chair is a senior leader from one of West Yorkshire’s Prisons. The priorities are in line with the prison and probation service area reducing reoffending plan with the addition of a women in criminal justice priority. The board maintains a focus on early intervention and diversion from crime (out of courts pathways and support) and the resettlement of people released from prison custody, or on community sentences. People engaged with criminal justice and released prisoners fall within target categories of (vulnerable) people that feature in various government housing, employment and health/drug treatment strategies.

Going forward, as part of the delivery plan, the Board will continue to build on relationships developed in this period within the Combined Authority and with Local Authorities to ensure that the needs of people who have offended are considered in strategic and operational planning across the priorities of the board.

The proven reoffending rate is defined as any offence committed in a one-year follow-up period that resulted in a court conviction or caution in this time frame or a further six-month waiting period (to allow time for cases to progress through the courts). In practice, any interventions implemented at this stage are unlikely to produce a measurable impact on the established reoffending rate for up to two years. The proven reoffending rate for adults in West Yorkshire across all crime categories and demographics was 31.4% between July 2022 and June 2023. This is marginally higher than the Yorkshire and Humber regional rate of 30.9% and above the national rate for England and Wales, which stands at 26.5%. This figure will serve as our baseline for future comparison.

**Accommodation**

Demand for settled accommodation for prison leavers exceeds supply. Around 20% of people released from prison will not be in settled accommodation after six months. This equates to about 800 prison releases per year. Those without settled housing have a reoffending rate of about 50% within 12 months, and many will be recalled to prison.

The board is engaged with:

* Better understanding all referral routes into local authorities which can be different in every district.
* Ensuring Housing officers are embedded in multi-agency probation arrangements (Kirklees), prison in-reach (Wakefield), and Housing Offenders Group (Leeds).
* Bringing together Probation, Local Authorities and Social Housing Providers to discuss housing options for prison leavers.
* Strategic housing needs assessments which should include ex-offenders to inform financial decision making (this features in the Combined Authorities Housing Strategy to 2040).

**Employment and Skills**

Offenders and prison leavers are specifically included in government funded, Combined Authority led plans, delivered through local authorities. During 2024/25 the board has worked to understand the opportunities inherent in greater devolution and going forward the board will build on this to develop more effective local delivery partnerships. Provision is included in the following strategies:

* The Work and Health Plan
* The Combined Authority led Economic Inactivity Trailblazer
* Connect to Work
* The NHS England Health and Growth Accelerator, led by the Integrated Care Board

**Women In Criminal Justice**

Women make up 4% of the total prison population (just over 3000 nationally). Many women offend out of perceived necessity. Addressing these needs and previous trauma, is key to helping women lead successful productive lives. Early intervention and prevention are key. Women tend to be in custody for recidivist low level offending and 70% of women prisoners report that they are victims of domestic and/or sexual violence. Over 50% of the female prison population report childhood abuse and over 70% of women will be released into unsafe accommodation or will be homeless. 76% of women in prison report mental health problems.

The board has a Women’s Strategy Group chaired by a senior police officer. The group has rolled out initiatives in 2024/25 and hopes to build on the women’s out of court pilot in 2025/26, by extending its reach across the county, in conjunction with Local Authority and Combined Authority delivery partners.

The Kirklees Out of Courts women offenders trial process has been running since September 2024. The trial is funded through Kirklees council using employment and skills devolved funding through the Combined Authority Employment and Skills Team. The aim is to provide basic numeracy and literacy skills to women to increase their employability and support them into employment and/or training. An evaluation will take place in the coming months with a view to working with Local Authorities to roll out similar provision across West Yorkshire.

**Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel**

This year the West Yorkshire Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel (CDSP) was established, which is a group made up of local people selected from across the policing area, to represent communities in conversations with police officers and staff who are actively involved in the detention and custody environments across our county. Over recent years, national independent reviews such as the Lammy Review and Angiolini Inquiry have identified issues of disparity and inequality in the Criminal Justice System across the UK which has led to a trust deficit between communities and the police up and down the country. The West Yorkshire CDSP is given unprecedented access to police information to objectively and independently review matters of disproportionality and police/detainee behaviour with an ambition to reassure the public that concerns are taken seriously and dealt with transparently. The areas of focus are determined by the independent panel members and currently include use of force, mental health, children, and strip searches.

If you are interested in joining the West Yorkshire Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel, or would like more information, please email: policingandcrime@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

**Independent Custody Visitors**

In 2024–25, 51,576 people were arrested and detained in West Yorkshire Police custody. During this year, 22 dedicated Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) volunteers offered face-to-face visits to people held in custody suites across our region. Volunteers encountered almost 1,300 detained people, undertaking 280 visits to custody suites. During these visits, they checked that people’s rights, dignity and entitlements were being upheld.ICVs supported swift resolutions on facilities fixes, regular food and drink stock rotation, food preparation equipment fault resolves, cell cleanliness, and supported the welfare of detained people by expediting access to female officers for female detainees.

On average, ICVs spoke to 33% of people detained and who were available at the time of their visit. ICVs prioritise speaking to children, vulnerable people, women, and from there, people who have been held for the longest period of time. West Yorkshire has been nationally recognised as operating a ‘Gold Standard ICV Scheme’ by the Independent Custody Visiting Association. This gold standard means that the scheme provides an excellent standard of custody visiting and volunteer management.

If you would like more information on becoming an Independent Custody Visitor in West Yorkshire, then please email: policingandcrime@westyorks-ca.gov.uk. If you would like more information on the role of the national Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) please visit: icva.org.uk.

**West Yorkshire Combating Drugs Partnership Strategic Board**

Drug and alcohol users can be some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Important work to encourage more people to enter treatment for their substance use is being carried out across West Yorkshire districts by local Combating Drugs Partnerships. At West Yorkshire level, the Deputy Mayor chairs a Combating Drugs Strategic Board, comprised of district public health representatives and police representatives. During the year this group has taken a particular focus on establishing a Synthetic Opioid Working Group to facilitate multi-agency collaboration in developing the regional response to the emerging threat of potent nitazenes in the local drug market. Nitazenes are man-made compounds which are many times more powerful than the heroin. They are potentially lethal at very small doses; the government estimates that nationally there have been over 400 deaths linked to nitazenes in the past two years.

Work has also included collaboration with West Yorkshire Police to pilot the deployment of Naloxone among officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) as an overdose prevention measure. Naloxone is supplied to officers as a pocket-sized kit and is deployed to an individual in overdose via a nasal spray. This simple treatment has the capacity to reverse the effects of an overdose, potentially saving lives. It is hoped that the coming year will see this pilot extended to cover all districts of West Yorkshire.

The Board has also acted to build links to the Local Resilience Forum (as part of the response to nitazenes) and supported WYP in initial discussions on an illicit drug checking initiative in partnership with the University of Leeds. In the year ahead, the board hope to develop new pathways into drug treatment for people coming into contact with the criminal justice system and receiving cautions for low-level or first-time offences.

# Cross Cutting Theme: The Safety of Women and Girls

The Mayor is continuing her work to keep women and girls safe including safety in the public and private space. By embedding the Safety of Women and Girls as a cross cutting theme, we continue to combat violence against women and girls across all workstreams, as well as broader issues of safety, therefore identifying and driving change for the future.

On International Women’s Day, 8 March 2024, the Mayor launched a first-of-its-kind Women’s Safety Unit (WSU). This dedicated team supports the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to hold the Force to account for our deliverables regarding Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The Unit brings together new and existing staff from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority’s Policing and Crime Team, the county’s VRP, and West Yorkshire Police. Colleagues include: the Director of West Yorkshire’s VRP, the Safety of Women and Girls lead at the Combined Authority, and WYP’s Strategic Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls, supported by a number of new roles. Speaking after the publication of her review into the Metropolitan Police, Baroness Louise Casey questioned why there isn't a dedicated women’s protection Unit to tackle gender violence. This Safety Unit is acting to rectify this as part of our mission to keep women and girls safe.

The purpose of this Unit is to establish a collaboration between the Mayor’s Policing and Crime Team, VRP and WYP to deliver the Mayor’s pledge on the safety of women and girls. This includes improving performance against the metrics in the Police and Crime Plan, and to support the delivery of the Strategic Policing Requirement relating to VAWG.

The additional resource will provide the structure to support, embed and report on the performance of WYP against the Operation Soteria national operating model (to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape cases).  The Unit will hold the force to account for delivering best practice regarding risk assessments and investigations of domestic abuse, rape, stalking and coercive/controlling behaviours, for every victim, every day. We want the Unit to ensure there is the highest quality of risk assessment and investigation are taking place, consistently, and that through this, we will achieve better outcomes for victims.

The Mayor has extended funding for the WSU until 2026. The Unit has continued leading on extensive work with WYP and partners to transform the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences across the force and improve outcomes for victims. The number of offenders brought to justice for rape and serious sexual offences in West Yorkshire has increased by 28.2% compared to the same seven-month period in 2023.

**SmartWater**

The WSU has been driving the use of SmartWater in investigations and the results are proving positive. Over the last 12 months, 416 victims have been protected by the use of SmartWater. From those surveyed:

* 88% would recommend the use of SmartWater
* 83% say it had a positive impact
* 73% reported no further perpetrator contact
* 72% reported that they had more trust in police
* 70% reported that they had more confidence in police

**Spiking Intensification Week**

Following a successful funding bid to the Home Office, the WSU led and coordinated significant activity across West Yorkshire for the latest week of action, focusing on spiking and safety in the night-time economy. Over the week, nearly 100 licencing visits were conducted with partners at venues, including engagement with staff at pubs, bars and other venues and, knowledge checks on ‘Ask for Angela’, spiking and women’s safety. Throughout the week, over 180 VAWG related arrests were made, including numerous interventions.

Digital assets on spiking were displayed in prominent places, such as hospital waiting areas, buses and bus stations, trains and train stations, universities (including halls of residence) and public spaces, including Millennium Square in Leeds and Centenary Square in Bradford. An electronic van on the University of Bradford campus during one of their Freshers Events displayed digital assets including the Just Don’t video. The Deputy Mayor, Alison Lowe and Vice Chancellor Shirley Congdon both attended the Bradford event, which was replicated at the University of Leeds the following day.

**Reclaim the Night**

The team continues to focus on delivery of the Mayor’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy, which was launched in late 2022. It sets out a long-term plan to bring about change, focusing on themes spanning education, prevention, and tackling inappropriate behaviours, as well as the key role of men and boys.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor hosted a Reclaim the Night event in Huddersfield’s Greenhead Park during October 2024, to empower women and girls to stand up for safer spaces as the evenings get darker during winter. This was a crucial event for our region, as statistics show that 4 out of 5 women in the UK felt unsafe walking alone after dark in a park or open spaces.The Mayor was keen to challenge that view, raise awareness of all the great initiatives, walking groups, and organisations such as classes that exist to empower women, funded by the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund.

The event, delivered alongside partners, gave women the opportunity to convey how they feel about getting active and socialising in daylight hours compared to darker evenings. We understand women view the long winter months as a ‘curfew', and how they make changes to their outdoor routines to avoid feeling 'anxious', 'vulnerable,' and 'unsafe', in turn having an impact on their overall health and wellbeing.

Women should be able to feel safe in the darker hours and not have to change their routines when the clocks go back. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor invited residents, organisations, and groups to participate in a walk around the park to raise awareness for safe spaces for residents of West Yorkshire and support our journey to end violence against women and girls.

Attendees included public figures, notably Harpreet Uppal MP, Kim Leadbeater MP, Caitlin O-Ryan, actress and prominent feminist poet, and Al Garthwaite, who played a key role in the first Reclaim the Night in 1977. Innovations funded by the Mayor were showcased at the event, such as self-defence classes, youth dance groups and the night-time safety bus in Kirklees, offering welfare and safety support for the night-time economy. Showing their support, over 300 people joined the Mayor for the Reclaim the Night walk around the park, with over 300 safety hi-vis arm bands and torches distributed.

To listen to the barriers women and girls are facing in public spaces, the Policing and Crime team engaged with over 140 individuals, including over 40 children, to provide their views on the Mayor’s West Yorkshire’s Police and Crime Plan, setting the strategic direction for police, community safety partners and commissioned services up to 2028.



**#Just Don’t**

Following its launch in September 2023, the #JustDont campaign is continuing to achieve significant visibility and engagement in its efforts to combat everyday harassment and encourage men and boys to become allies in addressing gender-based violence.

The campaign video has achieved over 8 million views across all social media platforms since its release in September 2023. An IP license agreement has been established between West Yorkshire Combined Authority and other offices nationally to allow for asset sharing, and for other regions to use the campaign effectively to promote behaviour change. Recently, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council launched their own #JustDon’t campaigns, utilising the Mayor’s assets to encourage behaviour change across the region.

Following the campaign launch, HMP Wealstun requested to use this campaign to provoke peer-to-peer conversations, and influence behaviour change within the prison setting. Each month HMP Wealstun plans an enrichment activity with their learners. The Just Don’t workshop was delivered to approximately 250 male prisoners, in small focus group settings. The learners felt they would feel confident in challenging inappropriate behaviours following the session and agreed that it was everyone’s responsibility to make society safer. They also stated that this behaviour needs to be taught at an earlier age in schools setting to prevent further sexual harassment crimes being committed.

Following the education workshops at HMP Wealstun, the team have created a school-based engagement workshop, including relevant scenario-based questions. The DMPC recently presented a Just Don’t workshop at a Year 10 assembly in Huddersfield, following requests from their Deputy Head Teacher and PHSE Lead. This was presented at a mixed audience of approximately 200 students, with form tutors and PHSE professionals in the room available for support. Since the assembly, this has been followed up with scenario-based questions for students to work through in smaller classroom settings. We received feedback that the pupils found the topic and statistics startling. It was hard-hitting but helped the students understand how to safeguard themselves and others to this type of behaviour. This led to multiple safeguarding disclosures which demonstrates the impact this had on our young people to feel empowered to speak out.

# Cross Cutting Theme: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

This cross-cutting theme celebrates the diversity of West Yorkshire, ensuring that the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion underpin the work we do, including working with the police to embed the Race Action Plan in West Yorkshire.

**Supporting our Communities**

We recognise that the last 12 months have continued to be incredibly difficult for many of the individuals and community groups we engage with. The impact of international conflicts, riots outside of West Yorkshire, disorder in Harehills and incidents of Serious Violence across the country and here in West Yorkshire continue to highlight the vital requirement for positive engagement with all communities. This is particularly true for those who have been victims or harmed by crime or those who feel they have been treated unfairly. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have ensured they are available to listen to those impacted and continue to ensure their feedback supports governance, accountability and decision making. A key example of this is the [Community Outcomes Meetings](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/). The November 2024 Community Outcomes meeting focused on the serious disorder in Harehills and views from people living in the area had been sought by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, with these reflections raised with the Chief Constable.

Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin said:

*"I'm incredibly grateful to everyone in Harehills who stepped up and helped to calm the situation, because without their interventions the outcome could have been very different.*

*"I'd also like to thank both officers for their response on the night to what was an extremely challenging situation and the Chief Constable and his team for taking on board the feedback we raised with them on behalf of the community.*

*"It's vital that we do all we can to highlight issues when they are brought to us and listen to the public as part of our work to make West Yorkshire a safer, fairer place."*

More information including a recording of the meeting and meeting papers can be accessed [here](https://westyorks-ca.gov.uk/all-news-and-blogs/communitys-togetherness-in-de-escalating-serious-disorder-praised-by-mayor/).

**National Policing Initiatives**

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE is the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners’ (APCC) joint lead on Race Disparity, Equality, and Human Rights. As the APCC national lead in this area, the Deputy Mayor jointly chairs the APCC Race Disparity, Equality, and Human Rights Portfolio Group. The Deputy Mayor acts as a national voice for PCC and Deputy Mayor colleagues in this area, providing link-up with our partners at the National Police Chiefs' Council, the College of Policing, Independent Office for Police Conduct the Government and other agencies on relevant work, to support colleagues nationwide to meet and exceed their equality duties.

The Deputy Mayor plays a key role in the implementation of the national Police Race Action Plan. The Deputy Mayor ensures that the public’s voice in policing is heard and works with John Campion, PCC for West Mercia, to drive progress in tackling race disparity in policing and criminal justice both local and nationally. The Deputy Mayor works with national partners, scrutinising and monitoring this plan to ensure the recommendations are addressed.

**West Yorkshire Police Race Action Plan**

The [Police Race Action Plan](https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/Police-Race-Action-Plan.pdf) sets out changes across policing to improve outcomes for Black people who work within or interact with policing. The plan was developed jointly by the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC), working in collaboration with Black communities and partners – including the National Black Policing Association (NBPA) and an independent scrutiny and oversight board (ISOB). It has the commitment of all 43 chief constables in England and Wales. Work towards the police race action plan, which has been scrutinised during governance meetings with between the Deputy Mayor and WYP, is outlined below:

**Culture and Workforce**

In West Yorkshire, representation has increased for Black and Black heritage officers and staff by 15%, the current number of staff that self-define as Black or Black heritage stands at 158. Cultural Awareness Training is now mandatory with over 6000 officers and staff having attended a 2-day course.

The Black Heritage Advisory Group (BHAG) was established in response to the Our Black Workforce (OBW) survey sessions where officers and staff were asked to contribute to the formation of the second version of the annual survey. The BHAG allows officer and staff of Black heritage to advise the force on policy and process that affects them. Work that has resulted from the BHAG includes the OBW Action Plan that addresses issues experienced by Black officers and staff within the workplace.

**Powers and Procedures**

Redesign of training around stop and search has reduced the number of instances around handcuffing during encounters by 6.9%. It has also increased direct find rates during stop and search by 3.2% even though we have used stop and search 5.2% less overall.

The use of the QR code to receive feedback on how officers conduct stop and search allows local policing to tailor training where it is required specifically to each district's needs. During the past year, the Force has received over 100 submissions to the feedback portal from people who have been subject to stop and search.

**Trust and Reconciliation**

In November 2024, district leads for the Race Action plan ran update events specific to their own Black communities. These events were co-produced with community members to reflect the needs of those communities. Feedback from the events has helped to formulate our communications strategy for the coming year. The force met with members of the Community Leaders Programme to create new relationships with community interest companies who are wanting to make a difference.

**Safety and Victimisation**

The force is collaborating with the VRP to address disproportionality within the custody setting and with the help of a Manchester University study on custody pathways for young Black males, work with Criminal Justice Services to understand the reasons for disproportionality in this area and have a positive impact upon it.

The analytical capability of the VRP will provide a holistic, multi-agency approach to many areas of this workstream such as hate crime reporting, mental health concerns and crimes that all adversely impact Black communities. As a result of the work already completed to date throughout the workstreams we have seen victim satisfaction within Black and Black heritage communities increase by 7.5% in the last 12 months to 69.7%.

# Cross Cutting Theme: Reducing Vulnerability

Being vulnerable is defined as needing special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, risk of abuse or neglect, to name a few examples. The below outlines what work is being undertaken under this cross cutting theme.

**Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum**

The forum has been formally adopted into the Local Criminal Justice Board structure with an independent chair, a senior leader in one of the West Yorkshire Acute Health Trusts. There are several standing priorities which are explored below.

**Right Care Right Person**

This is a joint Home Office and Department for Health and Social Care initiative, aimed at ensuring that appropriately trained professionals are deployed to respond effectively in situations involving a mental health crisis, including where this happens when a person is in police custody for criminal matters. The forum provides an opportunity to improve understanding between organisations, highlighting issues raised at a police district and local authority level in local partnerships, and those raised through the WYP Mental Health Improvement Meeting.

During the past year specialist sessions have taken place to produce resources for VCSE organisations engaged in the care of people with mental ill-health. Practical guidance, the Police Response Threshold and an understanding of emergency services decision making processes, such at the National Decision Model, are included in the documentation. Escalation protocols are covered in this material and a webinar is under development.

In addition, WYP and partners have offered training to NHS trusts, specifically around the handover of responsibilities between police and the Health Service, known as the Webley Handover Process.

**Police custody**

Collaboration and accountability between partners are crucial to ensuring that people in mental health crisis are not wrongly detained in police custody. There are key pinch points in these processes that require strategic overview. The timely availability of assessments for individuals—whether identified as vulnerable in public settings or while in police custody—is critical to improving outcomes and reducing risk.

The most recent PEEL assessment of WYP custody, that took place in September 2023, identified that the force works well with mental health services to support people with mental health conditions. There is good evidence of efforts to divert them from custody. However, police data to support conversations with health and local authority partners about timeliness of interventions was not available. A data set to provide the basis for supportive and challenging dialogue where appropriate is now available with the aim of developing a performance dashboard during 2025/26.

**Missing people**

Mental health crisis is one of the key contributors to missing person incidents. Early identification and treatment of issues locally can reduce demand on services, reduce risk and provide for better outcomes for people. Several policies have been developed between WYP and hospitals in recent years around the responsibilities of health staff regarding decision making and risk assessment. There is recognition more work is needed in this area during 2025/26.

# Cross Cutting Theme: Children and Young People

Children and young people appear as a cross-cutting theme across the whole of the Police and Crime Plan whether that be involvement as victim or perpetrator of Serious Violence or looking at early intervention work for serious organised crime or ASB. Keeping a Child First lens on every part of the Plan is part of the Mayor’s manifesto pledge, ensuring a focus on children and young people across all areas. As a principle, Child First places a focus around creating a justice system that treats ‘children as children’.

**Launch of the Child First Framework**

Child First is the central guiding principle in the Youth Justice Board’s strategic plan, focused on creating a justice system that treats children as children, builds on their strengths, promotes meaningful collaboration and diverts them from stigma. Recently, there has been a shift to embed this approach beyond Youth Justice to ensure a consistent and cohesive approach to supporting children. To understand what Child First means in practice, the VRP co-produced a framework with 455 children across West Yorkshire. It is split into 5 sections, each covering a separate theme that was highlighted in our engagement. This includes:​

* The importance of allowing children to help shape strategic direction,​
* Creating a culture of meaningful engagement with children, ​
* Closing the feedback loop and, ​
* Steps to make engagement with children successful​

As the application of Child First will vary between roles and individual circumstances, each section is summarised with key learnings from children and includes questions we can consider to help rethink our approaches or remind of us good opportunities to involve children.

To launch the framework, the VRP hosted an art exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills in Farsley featuring creative work and live performances from children, centred around their experiences of growing up in West Yorkshire. This was in response to children telling us in the framework development workshops that they wanted more creative opportunities to share their views. The event was opened by the Mayor of West Yorkshire and attended by children, families and professionals from across West Yorkshire, including local authorities, policing, youth justice and the VCSE sector. At the event, all attendees were encouraged to make a pledge, which were displayed amongst children’s artwork.

Following the launch of the Child First Framework, the VRP have convened a West Yorkshire Child First Network that brings together professionals working with and for children to share best practice and encourage collaboration.

**Child Custody Scrutiny Detention Panel**

Child custody in a police station for the purposes of an investigation is avoided whenever possible, however there are circumstances when it cannot be avoided and is necessary to investigate the alleged offences.

In such circumstances, children have additional rights under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. They have the right to have an appropriate adult notified of their arrest and present during the provision of their rights, when they are searched and during any investigative activity such as forensic samples and interviewing.

Where a child is to be remanded in police custody to the next available magistrates court after charge, the police (in almost all circumstances) must ask the Local Authority to look after the child and take them to court, and the Local Authority must accept that responsibility.

In West Yorkshire, the five local authorities work together to ensure the sufficient provision of foster carers so that children can be accommodated. There is also an arrangement for children to be accommodated in secure accommodation when necessary.

This scrutiny panel, convened by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, examines every case of child remand in custody and every case of child strip search. In addition, the panel looks at aspects of custody such as the availability and timeliness of Appropriate Adult Provision. The aim is to understand decision making in policing, and in local authorities to ensure that good practice is shared and contrary issues dealt with.

In 2024/25, the panel scrutinised 106 child custody remand cases. 24% of children were allocated accommodation with a foster parent or in secure accommodation. For the 76% who remained in police custody, the majority were charged after 11pm, making a transition into foster care not possible, even where one was identified.

Where the police made a decision to remand in custody, the courts agreed with that assessment (the courts remanded to custody (prison) or gave bail conditions unavailable to the police) in over 60% of cases.

# Cross Cutting Theme: Effective response to men and boys

Our research shows that men and boys want those that are victims to be recognised and protection for those who are at risk of victimisation to be given. This cross-cutting theme will ensure that we keep this focus.

Across several areas of community safety and justice, the Policing and Crime team is actively working to understand and address the disproportionate impact of harm on men and boys. This includes targeted research, engagement, and policy development in areas such as road safety, victim support, youth justice, and racial disparity.

**Road Safety and the Vision Zero Partnership**

The West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership is focusing on how men and boys are disproportionately affected by road traffic collisions. Data also shows that men are more likely to be involved in ‘failed to look’ incidents. To better understand the reasons behind this the Partnership has commissioned market research that will involve speaking with men across West Yorkshire. Insights from this work will be used to inform targeted communications and actions aimed at preventing future collisions.

**Male Victim Engagement and Policy Development**

We commission a number of services across the region that help male victims and survivors including the employment of specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA). The below outlines and services and roles we have commissioned during 2024/25.

* **Kirklees and Calderdale (KCRASACC)** – Male ISVA - £50,379
* **Basis Yorkshire** - Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Specialist worker – including males and LGBTQIA+ - £27,000
* **GASPED** – IDVA for Males - £32,757 and ISVA for Males - £21,369
* **Meridian Centre** - Breaking the Silence Project 0.5 FTE therapist with a linguistic skill set and cultural understanding, appropriate to the needs of BME male survivors of sexual violence - £28,074
* **Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership** – IDVA for Males - £38,318
* **The Bridge Project** - IDVA training for a male member of staff and support additional capacity for a gender specific role for male victims of domestic abuse - £2,400.

Going forward, there are plans to convene the Men and Boys Survivor panel which will meet six times a year with the DMPC to discuss issues that matter to them, to inform local West Yorkshire male victims’ policy in the areas of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offending. Feedback from these discussions will directly inform local policy development and may also contribute to national dialogue through the Victims Commissioner and wider political forums.

**Youth Justice and Racial Disparity**The Local Criminal Justice Board has identified a significant racial disparity in the number of male children being remanded overnight to court following charge. These remand decisions are made jointly by police custody officers and children's social care services, in accordance with the [West Yorkshire Child Remand (PACE Bed) Protocols](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/message/19%3Abe11a8a4-3661-49f7-9136-13c847328609_c3630c4e-0fb7-41db-9831-98e2d50bd66a%40unq.gbl.spaces/1754392757015?context=%7B%22contextType%22%3A%22chat%22%7D), and are subject to review by a panel of expert professionals. Available data indicates that a higher proportion of Black boys are remanded in custody, often in relation to more serious offences. However, there is no evidence to suggest that post-charge decision-making processes differ based on race.

The VRP are engaged researchers from Manchester Met’s [**Manchester Centre for Youth Studies**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmcys.mmu.ac.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7CAnna.Scaife%40westyorks-ca.gov.uk%7C8588e62858d34eea710908ddc057868d%7C34e93bfcee664345a4fe805b67e480c0%7C0%7C0%7C638878204329030782%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RT5BApRhmrWSEfdStN5OlsWD4wg7f%2Fa%2BKNWsPaqZbes%3D&reserved=0) and the University of Bedfordshire, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, who have published their findings in a report examining the extent and nature of racial disproportionality when young people come into contact with the youth justice system.

**Early Intervention and Prevention**

We continually recognise men and boys are key allies in ensuring a safe, just and inclusive West Yorkshire. The work to progress the Just Don't campaign includes men and boys in the conversation, to support them to be active bystanders.  Recent feedback from a school who had flagged concerns around misogynistic behaviour, praised the campaign and subsequent workshop as it empowered all young people to safeguard themselves and others from this behaviour.

Additionally, the Pol-Ed programme is a WYP initiative designed to educate children and young people about safety and law, aiming to reduce crime and enhance community well-being. Resources cover a range of topics related to personal safety including interactions with others, understanding consequences, and recognising potential risks. This programme can aid young boys at risk of victimisation as lesson themes include consent between friends and partners, sexual offences, grooming and bullying.

#  Consultation & Engagement

**Public Consultation and Engagement on the Police and Crime Plan**

Throughout 2024/25, the primary focus of the team was in-person consultation and engagement regarding the Police and Crime Plan. A diverse range of individuals, partners, and community groups were engaged through multiple methods to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation.

The formal consultation period ran from 1 July to 31 October 2024 and marked the largest consultation exercise undertaken to date. Through the Mayor’s #TellTracy about Policing and Crime campaign, communities shared their views on the impact of crime, their experiences as victims, and their interactions with partner agencies and support services, including WYP.

Feedback received highlighted the issues of greatest concern to communities and provided insight into what more can be done to support the vision of a Safe, Just, and Inclusive West Yorkshire. Full details of the consultation and major findings can be found in [The Voice of West Yorkshire](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Futxbrkhs%2Fvowy-final.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

**Vision Zero Strategy Launch Event**

In August 2024, the team hosted its first large-scale outdoor engagement event at Lister Park in Bradford, attracting approximately 400 attendees. This successful event marked a significant milestone in community outreach for the Vision Zero initiative.

Given its positive reception and impact, the event is now planned to take place annually, supporting ongoing efforts to achieve Vision Zero’s objective of eliminating all road deaths and serious injuries in West Yorkshire by 2040.

**Police Precept consultation 2024/25**

In January 2025, the team launched an in-person engagement campaign focused on high-footfall locations to gather public views on the proposed WYP Precept for 2025/26. This activity was delivered across shopping centres in all five districts of West Yorkshire. The objective was to increase participation in the consultation, particularly among younger residents and those from underrepresented backgrounds. The team successfully engaged with approximately 500 individuals, broadening the reach and inclusivity of the consultation process. For more detail on the results and who we spoke to please see this [paper.](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Fuoaj4cys%2Fitem-6-mayors-precept-proposal-25-26.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

**Engagement with children and young people**

The team ran a specific survey targeted at children aged 6 upwards and one designed for young people. Throughout the Police and Crime Plan consultation period 201 young people (18-24) and 887 children (6-17) completed the surveys at high footfall events, colleges and community-based events. When young people were asked what other crime types worried them the most, the most common answer was neighbourhood crime, which included burglary, robbery and car crime. This was followed by violent crime and sexually motivated crime. Whilst 86% of children felt safe in their local area, and 84% felt safe at school, only 57% felt safe if they went online. Children said that adults drinking and swearing in the town centre and people hanging around in gangs made them feel most unsafe. Further details can be found in [The Voice of West Yorkshire](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Futxbrkhs%2Fvowy-final.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK).

The Mayor’s Youth Advisory Group, which has been running since 2014 continued to meet throughout the year, discussing topics such as Child First, Vision Zero, and their new recruitment campaign. The group also hosted an online consultation event in October 2024 to gather the views of their peers and those that supported them on crime and community safety concerns, which fed into the Police and Crime Plan consultation. Attendees highlighted the lack of diversionary activities and services for young people, Serious Violence, violence against women and girls, and drugs as major issues. They also spoke about the importance of mental health as this can make young people vulnerable to crime and criminal exploitation.

**Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund**

The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund uses proceeds of crime money seized by WYP and puts it back into communities to make them 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.

All prospective projects must align to the priorities, areas of focus and cross cutting themes which crossed both the 2021–24 and 2024-28 Police and Crime Plans. To date, the Mayor has awarded funding through seven rounds of the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund. Grant Round 7 marked the second £1 million funding round and was the largest to date.

Grant Round 6 supported a wide range of projects aligned with the priorities of the 2021–24 Police and Crime Plan. Similarly, Grant Round 7 funded initiatives based on the priorities outlined in the draft 2024–28 Police and Crime Plan, which was in development at the time of the round’s launch. The £1 million funding pot for Round 7 enabled the support of projects of up to £20,000, along with the introduction of new collaborative grant opportunities of up to £80,000, encouraging partnership-led approaches to community safety.

A total of £1,583,186.05 has been awarded across 126 projects during the 2024/25 financial year. Grant Round 6 supported 52 projects focused on early intervention and prevention. Across both Grant Rounds 6 and 7, a total of 65 projects were funded to enhance the safety of women and girls, and 51 projects were dedicated to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. In Grant Round 7, funding was awarded to 8 projects aimed at improving the response to men and boys who are victims of crime, 36 projects supporting children and young people, and 30 projects focused on reducing vulnerability within communities.

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.

The funded projects are delivered by our partners including community, charitable and faith-based partners as well as statutory organisations. We record detailed information about each of the individual projects which includes their outcomes and the protected characteristics of their target audience. Notably, we evaluate all the projects that receive this funding to ensure they have successfully delivered against their original outcomes. The data for the past year shows that the projects funded across Grant Rounds 6 and 7 in total will impact a minimum of 116,735 people. This includes children and young people, victims of crime, those who may be criminally exploited, or those who have multiple and complex needs. Projects across the districts addressed many policing, crime and community safety issues in the Police and Crime Plan, ranging from road safety to child sexual exploitation & abuse, and Serious Violence. At the time of publishing, the fund has invested just over £4million in 415 community-based projects since 2021. Details of all our funded interventions are shared on our [website](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/mayor-s-safer-communities-fund/) but some case studies are detailed below.

**Connecting Roma - Roma Youth Collective – Bradford (CHB) (City Ward) £19,994.00**

The project provides specialised support and representation for the Roma community; they will provide a culturally appropriate safe space for Roma young people and their families, where they can take part in traditional music and dance, as a means to encourage participation. The organisation will conduct educational workshops alongside WY Police, Barnardo's, Bradford University, MIND and Cellar Trust, discussing topics such as exploitation, knife crime, drug crime and modern slavery.

**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.

**New Direction Services CIC- Empower Her Kickboxing and Protection – Kirklees (Kirklees, Greenhead and Ashbrow Wards) (CHB) £20,000.00**

Empower Her offers early intervention strategies for women surviving domestic violence through motivational dance combat. Collaborating with Kirklees Council, and WYP’s Safe Zone initiative, the program targets women in the local community to create a safe space.

**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.

**Our Roots Inner City Lives - Our Roots - The Voice Of Black Youth – Wakefield (Stanley and Outwood East, Newton Hill and City Fields, Wakefield East Pinders Heath and Eastmoor, Wakefield North, Wakefield City Centre) £18,955.00**

The project works with the police and Council towards resolving some of the issues between black people and the police to discuss improvements in policing and encourage better relationships in the community. Our Roots: The Voice of Black Youth intends to break down the barriers between the police and Black children. The project seeks to ensure black children feel supported by the police, reduce the distrust and ensure that black children feel safe.

# Commissioning

To achieve the priorities and outcomes in the Police and Crime Plan, we commission a number of different providers to help with the delivery of services, which will benefit the communities of West Yorkshire, reduce crime and help victims to cope and recover from the harm they have suffered.

**Ministry of Justice Grant Funding in Relation to Local Commissioning of Victims’ Support Services for West Yorkshire**

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, the Mayor of West Yorkshire successfully secured £4,654,358 from the Ministry of Justice to support victims of crime across West Yorkshire.  This funding supported 31 organisations, of which 90% are VCSE providers and 10% is to Local Authorities and NHS Hospital Trusts, delivering 74 different types of services and support to over 73,500 victims and survivors

This included:

47,000 female victims and survivors and 23,000 male victims and survivors, 6000 children under 18 years of age and 66,000 adults.

Over £1.5m to specifically support victims and survivors of Domestic Abuse.

Over £1.3m to specifically support victims and survivors of Sexual Violence.

Over £1.3m to specifically support victims of all crime.

**Anti-Social Behaviour Immediate Justice Pilot**

West Yorkshire was selected as one of ten national pilot sites for the Immediate Justice initiative, with the Mayor securing up to £2 million in grant funding, available until 31 March 2025. The region’s Immediate Justice approach has delivered a range of tailored interventions for both adults and children, designed to benefit victims and promote accountability.

These interventions include unpaid work, repairing damage caused by the offence, and opportunities for restorative justice—allowing victims to communicate directly with those responsible, where appropriate.

Delivery of the Immediate Justice programme in West Yorkshire has been supported by the following partners:

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

Immediate Justice in West Yorkshire was delivered through a range of activities and interventions for both children and adults.

**Children and Young People (aged 12-17)**

Restorative Justice workers in each district of West Yorkshire Youth Justice Services support and deliver reparative activities for children aged 12 to 17-years-old. The positive activities including health and wellbeing, educational sessions, involvement in community groups and activities that will develop a child’s sense of empathy for victims and the need to repair harm. The activities will be strengths-based and will help children see the value of good behaviour, promote inclusion, and recognise their valuable place in their communities.

This approach diverts children away from and prevents further ASB or offending that impacts their communities. Restorative Justice workers also contact victims to ensure their views are represented, their thoughts about suitable activities are considered and they are informed about the outcomes.  A total of 882 children have been referred of Immediate Justice, of these 19% were female and 81% were male.

**Adults**

For adults, Immediate Justice is initiated once the police have concluded an investigation into an offence involving ASB. Where appropriate, the offender may receive a Community Resolution, an Outcome 22, or a Conditional Caution, which may include participation in the Immediate Justice scheme.

Participants may be required to undertake supervised unpaid work, an ASB Awareness Course, or a combination of both. Referrals are made by the police to the Probation Service, which oversees the delivery of the unpaid work element.

Unpaid work took place in public spaces within the communities affected by the offence, and included graffiti removal, clearing wasteland or decorating public spaces and buildings.

These activities are delivered seven days a week across West Yorkshire. Alternative arrangements were available for individuals with disabilities, injuries, or neurodiverse conditions. In addition to making tangible contributions to the community, the programme supported participants in making positive life changes and reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

A total of 537 adults were referred to Immediate Justice. Of these, 22% were female and 78% were male.

**Community conferences**

Restorative Practitioners work with services to organise and facilitate community conferences with groups of victims and offenders to tackle an incident or ongoing situation that has affected a wide group of people. The aim is to give the victims, offenders, and others the chance to discuss the consequences of the offence and agree on how the offenders should repair the harm they have caused.

**Evaluation**

Workforce Development Trust undertook Phase 1 of the evaluation of the pilot to evidence our approach and learning to inform future services.  Phase 2 of the evaluation concluded in June 2025. More information can be accessed [here](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/anti-social-behaviour-asb-immediate-justice/).

**Restorative Justice Service**

The development and delivery of restorative justice is part of bigger picture about improving services and support for victims of crime. Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime, and those responsible for that harm, into communication with each other. This contact can offer victims the opportunity to be heard, to ask questions of the offender, and to have their say in the resolution

**Peer Commissioners**

In May 2024 following an open procurement process the Mayor appointed Restorative Solutions CIC to lead the delivery and further development of restorative justice in West Yorkshire over a maximum contract period of 7 years. The service uses a victim-focused approach that empowers victims of crime by giving them the opportunity to communicate with the person responsible. More information is available [here](https://www.rjwestyorkshire.org.uk/).

For the first time the procurement was supported by those with lived experience and Peer commissioners that were recruited from across West Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority commissioned User Voice to set up a lived experience commissioning panel to help design the service specification and evaluate bids for a new restorative justice service across West Yorkshire.

User Voice is a nationwide UK charity created and run by people with lived experience of the criminal justice system. Four in five of the organisations staff have experience of the criminal justice system.

People with experience of prison or probation, who have also been victims of crime, were trained to gain a qualification thanks to funding from the Mayor of West Yorkshire. The year-long project saw a group of six work with ex-offender led charity User Voice to achieve a level one Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE) award in Peer Commissioning.

The Mayor’s Policing and Crime Commissioning and Contracts team piloted an approach that enabled individuals with lived experience to contribute to the commissioning of services aimed at supporting rehabilitation and recovery. In collaboration with User Voice and other partners, this approach was implemented during the planning phase for the re-commissioning of the Restorative Justice service, providing a valuable opportunity to incorporate insights from those directly impacted by the justice system. More information can be accessed [here](https://www.uservoice.org/).

# Strategic Partnerships

Partnership working is embedded in all elements of delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and can be seen throughout this report. We would like to express our thanks to all our partners whose hard work and dedication has been so vital to the success of the Plan. Our efforts in 2024/25 to support our partners and deliver on effective partnership working has included:

**Providing effective partnership funding**

The Mayor continues to utilise her Community Safety Fund to support place-based work delivered by Community Safety Partnerships across West Yorkshire. This funding supports the delivery of interventions, projects and services in line with the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan, while providing each of the five districts with the flexibility to respond to local priorities and needs.

Highlights from local delivery include the provision of significant, coordinated partner activity in the run up to and on the night of Bonfire Night in Bradford, which resulted in a reduction in related ASB and reports of incidents of attacks on emergency services on 5th November. A further example is the funding of additional activity during National Hate Crime Awareness Week in Calderdale, reaching over 800 young people in educational settings, attending 15 community events, and providing new promotional materials – all designed to raise awareness of hate crime, how to report it and the support available.

The Strategic Partnerships team utilised the Community Safety Partnership Forum to share challenges, opportunities and learning across West Yorkshire in relation to the delivery of the funding and wider work.

**Responding to the needs of our partners**

We previously made a commitment to deliver an assessment of the challenges and risks facing partners, as well as looking at opportunities to improve future collaboration. This work aimed to inform the breadth of work undertaken by the Policing and Crime team, to ensure we operate in ways that work for partners. Accordingly, a Partnership Survey was developed to provide partners with the opportunity to share insights in a fair and consistent way. The report delivered a series of recommendations, the results were shared with partners, and the findings have since informed our delivery and ways of working.

**Delivering an in-depth consultation for the new Police and Crime Plan**

The activities and expertise of partners is critical to the success of the new Police and Crime Plan and its delivery. Moreover, organisations across West Yorkshire have invaluable insights and understanding of the key issues, and the potential solutions.

During the consultation period, the Strategic Partnerships team proactively contacted over 450 individuals from over 200 organisations, in addition to all local councillors. The team researched organisations working with underrepresented communities and delivering activities against each area of the draft Plan. A wide variety of ways to engage were provided, to ensure that contributions could be shared in a way that worked best for each organisation.

In total, the team received 165 points of engagement from 80 separate organisations. This includes survey responses, email submissions, and attendance at a partner session. All feedback was reviewed and fed into the development of the Plan, ensuring that the voice of partners runs throughout.

# Casework

The majority of enquiries from members of the public relating to Policing and Crime are dealt with by the Policing and Crime Casework team on behalf of the Mayor. Contact from members of the public enable the Casework team to support both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime with holding the Chief Constable to account in respect of real time issues affecting individuals across West Yorkshire.

**Casework**

During 2024/2025, the Policing and Crime Casework team dealt with over 970 members of the public who contacted our office with enquiries relating to policing and crime.

Casework received covered a wide range of issues affecting the public, including reports made to WYP and their response, Traffic issues, Violence (including VAWG), and Domestic Abuse.

**Complaint reviews**

The Mayor’s Policing and Crime Casework team conducted 234reviews of the outcomes of formal complaints handled by WYP during 2024-2025.

Complaint reviews assess whether the force resolved the complaint in a reasonable and proportionate way, whilst also identifying any more learning or opportunities for improvement. In more serious cases the review will be conducted by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

**Quarterly Surgeries with Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

The Policing and Crime Casework Team supported the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime with facilitating meetings with members of the public, over 3 public surgeries during 2024/2025.

Surgery appointments allow people across West Yorkshire the opportunity to talk directly to their Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime about policing, crime and safety, to ask questions and to listen to what Alison is doing to make West Yorkshire safe, just and inclusive.

# Police Precept

The Mayor of West Yorkshire oversees the police budget, which includes setting a Council Tax precept for policing. Unfortunately, since 2010, the Government has reduced their funding, in real terms, for WYP. That has left WYP as one of a few forces nationally to face real term reductions greater than 10%. The positive response to the recent precept survey made it clear how much residents in West Yorkshire value their police service and want to see if positively resourced. Reluctantly, the Mayor has had to increase the police section of council tax in West Yorkshire by 5.5%.

For the majority of the region’s households, who are in Bands A to C, this will equate to between an extra 17p to 22p a week. This crucial funding will be used to recruit more PCSOs to keep West Yorkshire’s neighbourhoods safe as well as bringing in extra Initial Contact Officers, who answer 999 and 101 calls from the public.



# Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the Home Secretary’s view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter those threats. The seven threats are violence against women and girls, terrorism, serious and organised crime, a national cyber incident, child sexual abuse, public disorder and civil emergencies.

The SPR is reflected in the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan and is regularly reported on in the Mayor’s Community Outcome Meetings, quarterly Performance Scrutiny Meetings and to the WYP and Crime Panel.

**Violence Against Women and Girls**

The Mayor has approved the extension of funding for the WSU through to 2026. The unit continues to play a leading role in collaboration with WYP and partner agencies to drive transformational improvements in the investigation of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) across the Force area. Additionally, initiatives during the past year include driving the use of SmartWater in investigations, spiking intensification week, the continued success of the #Justdon’t campaign and the Mayor’s Reclaim the Night event. More information can be found on page 26.

**Terrorism**

WYP hosts the Counter Terrorism Policing Northeast (CTP NE), which serves the seven Force areas in the North-East region. CTP NE collaborates with police and intelligence partners to deliver the National Counter Terrorism Strategy and the Government’s CONTEST Strategy. CTP NE was established in April 2007 as part of the national counter terrorism network. Together the network makes sure the UK is better equipped to disrupt and respond to terrorist threats or activity and to investigate and prosecute those involved.

CTP NE collaborates closely with local and regional partners to respond to threat and risk. This is evident across all areas of business but particularly in Prevent, Intelligence and Prisons, Offender Management and Protect and Prepare workstreams.

The force has a growing role in countering State threats, which requires a different approach to that of our counter terrorism response. CTP’s work is constantly evolving and the focus on threats to the UK from hostile states such as Iran, China and Russia are a growing concern.

**Serious and Organised Crime**

WYP with key partners, delivers the Home Office Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy through Programme Precision and has SOC functionality within a centralised function and across each territorial District. The Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) delivers the Home Office SOC Strategy in line with the National direction from the ROCU Executive and SOC Boards. WYP work collaboratively with partners, to ensure a whole-system approach is given to tackling SOC threats. It is essential for partnerships to develop a comprehensive understanding of the local profile of serious and organised crime. This insight enables agencies to collectively identify and maximise opportunities for effective multi-agency collaboration, aimed at sustainably reducing threat, risk, and vulnerability within the area.

Through Programme Precision there is full connectivity of the tasking arrangements across the Districts, Departments, Force, and partners. This been developed within the past year through closer working relationships with the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP). The VRP now sits as a key partner at every level of programme Precision and likewise Precisions sits on key VRP boards and meetings to ensure join up of workstreams.

Additionally, during 2024/25, the Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) framework, supported by the Mayor, has continued to successfully tackle serious and organised crime across West Yorkshire and more information can be found on page 38 of this report.

**National Cyber Incident**

Chief Constables have a statutory responsibility to deliver an effective Cyber capability under the Strategic Policing Requirement. The Home Office has provided funding under the National Cyber Strategy which assists forces to meet this requirement. This funding is to be used to tackle Computer Misuse Act (CMA) and CMA linked offending.

The UK’s National Cyber Strategy 2022 to 2030 outlines key areas of focus for law – to ensure the highest-level threats are responded to and investigated robustly, using appropriate capable resources. There is a commitment to ensure capacity and capability is developed delivering an effective response to the threat posed to the UK from the most complex forms of Cybercrime.

The WYP Digital and Data Strategy 2022-25 ensures that the Force is prepared, ready and capable of adopting the benefits of emerging technologies and defending against new threats. Mature partnerships exist between all levels of internal and external stakeholders, enabling collaborative and effective response across force, regional and national levels to any Cyber Security Incident.

**Public Disorder**The Force has a designated National Police Chiefs Council standards and mobilisation Public Order Public Safety (POPS) Lead, underpinned with designated practitioner leads in POPS and Mobilisation. The Public Order and Public Safety Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment shows good capability across all Public Order risks.

Since October 2023, the main POPS response within West Yorkshire has related to Palestinian related protests with approximately 800 events of all types having been reviewed and assessed. Numbers involved for the processions and assemblies have ranged from 100 to 2,000 with an event in Leeds being held each weekend.  Despite the numbers involved there have only been a small number of arrests. Some of the protests require a policing response which requires officers to be deviated from their usual duties or officers rest days cancelled to ensure adequate resources are in place. Appropriately briefed, public order trained officers along with early engagement from our Police Liaison Officers with protest organisers, ensures most larger protests or processions remain peaceful and disruption is kept to a minimum.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor has also been in regular contact with the Chief Constable following the disorder in Harehills during the summer of 2024, to provide updates on the police & partnership response, ongoing investigation and consequent learning.

**Child Sexual Abuse**WYP continue to respond to Child Safeguarding as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan, the Force’s Operational Policing Strategy, and the national VAWG Strategy. This is translated into practice via the Protecting Vulnerable People Strategic Plan and the Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Neglect Tactical Plan overseen by the ACC for Local Policing and Safeguarding.All reported incidents are subject to a ‘THRIVE’ risk assessment covering Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, and Engagement as part of initial call taking. Extensive training has now been undertaken with officers and staff outside of safeguarding teams to develop their confidence in exercising professional curiosity and to increase their ability to identify the signs of neglect. The Force have also developed an app for officer’s handheld devices to support them with direct access to advice and guidance on safeguarding matters.

In March 2024 [*Hydrant*](https://www.hydrantprogramme.co.uk/)attended a West Yorkshire Train the Trainer event in relation to their recent Practice Advice for Investigating Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation document. A training package was created by Safeguarding Governance and the training subsequently cascaded to all front-line officers and staff via dedicated training days.

Furthermore, the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) commissioned a pilot project in Bradford focusing on online harms, education and support. It saw a universal in-class workshop for years 5 to 10, as well as one-to-one and group-based sessions. A [full evaluation of the work has now been published](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12994/online-harms-evaluation-report.pdf&data=05|02||7a67eba9c96c499eaec408dcf37fd64f|34e93bfcee664345a4fe805b67e480c0|0|0|638652977585779776|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0=|0|||&sdata=4KBg0Rd7Mxwm1JumfRfZ6zruehkhmv9b3IOzOVvUyBA=&reserved=0) outlining a series of recommendations.

**Civil Emergencies**

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, police forces in the UK are classified as Category 1 responders, meaning they have key responsibilities in emergency preparedness and response. WYP has a Resilience Planning department, which covers areas of contingency planning and business continuity.

The West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) facilitates coordinated collaboration among responder agencies to strengthen regional preparedness. In line with the recommendations of the Manchester Arena Inquiry, a process of daily information sharing has been established between the blue light services. This complements the broader strategic information sharing and joint planning already delivered through the LRF.

# Holding the Chief Constable to account

One of the main responsibilities of the Mayor (as the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire) is to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force, and to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

The Mayor and the Chief Constable will regularly meet to drive activity and help deliver our vision for policing and community safety. This ensures that threat, harm, and risk are managed appropriately, and services are efficient, effective, and legitimate in delivering policing to the communities of West Yorkshire.

The processes of scrutiny and the governance of this work is co-ordinated through the following meetings:

**Short Governance Meetings**Regular discussions between the Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Chief Constable focusing on emerging issues in local policing.

**Quarterly Governance Meetings**
Quarterly meetings between the Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Chief Constable (supported by their teams) to discuss finances and resources, progress on projects, professional standards, and includes updates from regional resources such as the Regional Organised Crime Unit and the Regional Scientific Support Unit. Other occasional reports also come to the meeting when required.

**Performance Scrutiny Meetings**A quarterly meeting to discuss police performance against the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan. This then feeds into the Performance Monitoring Report which updates the Police and Crime Panel. These reports can be viewed [online](https://www.westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk/meetings/2025-meetings).

**Community Outcomes Meetings**
These are quarterly, themed meetings, with questions from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to the Chief Constable and their senior leadership team on reports submitted by WYP on topics of importance to the public. All of the meetings are live streamed and are available online with links to previous agendas and reports on our [website](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/holding-the-chief-constable-to-account/).

Previously these governance meetings were supplemented by the Joint Independent Audit and Ethics Committee, but the decision was made to separate these meetings, so the **Joint Independent Audit Committee** currently reviews the risk management and internal and external audit reports from both WYP and the Combined Authority. WYP and the Combined Authority provide updates on budget monitoring, the scheme of delegation, and details of contracts and particular projects.

The new **Joint Independent Ethics Committee** had its first meeting on 27th November 2024, and this was the start of quarterly meetings for the committee. The discussion topics in 2024/25 included personal identity vs impartiality, suspended officers, role of naloxone in policing and facial recognition technology. The discussion topics are agreed at each meeting for the next quarter. Learning from the committee is then shared with WY with recommendations made by the members.

# Police and Crime Plan Performance Monitoring

The new Police and Crime Plan adopts a revised approach to performance monitoring compared to the previous plan. Going forward, performance measures will be structured under key overarching themes, providing the flexibility to incorporate new or updated indicators as they become available. This thematic framework enhances the ability to assess the impact of interventions led by the Mayor and WYP. The following looks at the performance for the year up to March 2025.

**Theme One: Serious Violence**

Homicides had increased slightly in the final quarter but were still below the 12 months before. Knife crime also saw a slight increase and although this was slightly above that seen 12 months before it stays withing normal parameters. Knife crime was the subject of a few measures highlighted at the end of the year as West Yorkshire was part of the Knife Enabled Robberies government task force (although the numbers of these robberies have reduced and is below England and Wales average). The Serious Violence Duty data showed that knife enabled homicides and attempted homicides was increasing and showed the need for the new Serious Violence Strategy.

**Theme Two: Confidence and Satisfaction**

Current measures for Confidence and Satisfaction are taken from the Crime Survey of England and Wales and show that although overall confidence was on a slight downward trend, the trend for peoples experience with the police (i.e. if the police were doing a good job or could be relied on when needed) showed the opposite trend. This highlights the need for a more local understanding of these measures, and we are currently commissioning a new West Yorkshire survey which will look at these measures and other to give a local view including how safe people feel in the area

**Theme Three: Crime and ASB**

Trends show that historically West Yorkshire has a high crime recorded rate, but more recently other forces have shown a similar rate. This tells us that West Yorkshire does not have higher crime than other areas, but its excellent crime recording has influenced the higher numbers and others are seeing the same as they also apply these stringent measures.

After seeing a change in recording practises, ASB seems to have stabilised and will the subject of focus going forward.

One of the other focuses at the end of the year was the crime grouping of Stalking and Harassment to understand the different composite parts. The seeming reduction overall showed that most of the parts were rising and a change in crime recording has reduced substantially one of the crime types which affected the overall numbers.

**Theme Four: Supporting Victims and Vulnerable People**

The increase in reporting of Rape and Sexual Offences throughout the year has continued and it was noted that the Crime Survey of England and Wales was also reporting an increase in offending, so this is a countrywide increase rather than one just seen in West Yorkshire. Even with this increase it is still believed that fewer than one in six victims in England and Wales report their crime to the Police, so this is an area that needs to change.

After a slight increase, mental health episodes are now on a decreasing trend and the lower number of missing incidents continues. This is despite West Yorkshire having a higher percentage of looked after children (per referral) and those on Child Protection Plans, although the numbers classed as Children in Need is lower than national average (yearly data – next update Oct 25)

The final part of this theme looks at the substantial progress in drug and alcohol treatment services – for this we have looked at completing and not re-presenting data over time, which shows that West Yorkshire was previously below the England average for Opiate only treatment – but this has changed since September 2024 and now West Yorkshire is above for all three treatments shown (Opiate, Non-opiate and alcohol).

**Theme Five: Investigations**

The increase in positive outcomes for Rape continues with the emphasis in this area by the Women’s Safety Unit. One area of concern is the decrease in outcomes for other sexual offences and is a priority for the unit.

The previous decreases in positive outcomes for Domestic abuse seems to be changing. This is linked to the positive work by WYP in this arena

The focus at the end of the year was on the Criminal Justice Scorecards – these compare the work in West Yorkshire to national figures and showed the great strides have been taken in West Yorkshire to limit the number of victims phones held over 24hrs, (reduced by 80%). This is in comparison to the national picture where those numbers have increased (by 5%)

**Theme Six: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Although the number of Stop and Searches having a positive outcome have increased, this is still disproportionate regarding Black and ethnic minorities, so is being considered as part of the actions of the Police Race Action Plan

The use of force data looks at Taser use and shows that this has fallen by 22.4% in the latest 12 months, with non-contact at 93% of these

The full suite of measures completed by WYP was discussed under these measures – this can be found here [Equality Information 2023-24](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/2025-02/equality_information_report_2023-24_-_partly_accessible_word_0.docx)

**Theme Seven: Vision Zero Measures**

The Vision Zero measures are showing a slight increase in fatal collisions but continuing with the decreasing trend for both serious and slight injury collisions.

One of the community measures looked at under this theme is the submissions to the Safer Road Media Submissions Portal on the WYP Website (also known as Op Snap). For this we look at both the numbers of submissions and also the positive outcomes – at the end of the year both of these were on increasing trends.

The above information looks at the performance information contained in the performance matrix – this can be seen as part of the Police and Crime Panel papers or on the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Policing and Crime website an example of which is below.



It is not the intention to hold the local areas to account for the performance measures that link to the Plan but rather to use them as further indicators for understanding the key measures in the Plan and to give that fuller picture as discussed.

The performance measures will need to stay flexible for the Plan as some of these will come online during the life of the Plan and others cannot be reported quarterly.