**Item 2**



**West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**

**Draft Minutes**

**7th March 2025, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Eileen Taylor - Leeds Council (Chair)

Councillor Chris Hayden - Bradford Council

Councillor Celia Hickson - Calderdale Council

Councillor Brenda Monteith - Calderdale Council

Councillor Shazad Fazal - Calderdale Council

Councillor Anthony Smith - Kirklees Council

Councillor Gwen Lowe - Kirklees Council

Councillor Nicole Lloyd - Leeds Council

Councillor Jackie Ferguson - Wakefield Council

Councillor Gwen Page - Wakefield Council

Mr Trevor Lake - Independent

Mrs Jo Sykes - Independent

**In attendance**

Alison Lowe - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Wendy Stevens - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Robert Forrest - West Yorkshire Combined Authority

John Robins - West Yorkshire Police

Andrew Wright - West Yorkshire Police

Sharon Fraser - Wakefield Council

Samantha Wilkinson - Wakefield Council

Rebecca Westerman - Wakefield Council

**1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrew Carter and Nussrat Mohammed.

**2. Vacancy for the Police and Crime Deputy Chair**

2.1 Following two nominations for the role of Police and Crime Panel Deputy Chair, it was agreed to appoint both Councillor Jackie Ferguson and Councillor Anthony Smith as joint Deputy Chairs to cover the period until the AGM in June.

**2.2 RESOLVED**

**2.2.1 That Councillors Jackie Ferguson and Councillor Anthony Smith be appointed as joint Deputy Chairs on the Police and Crime Panel.**

**3. Minutes of the Police and Crime Panel held on 7th February 2025**

3.1 It was raised that the minutes of the 7th February 2025 should make it clear that Councillor Carter had asked a question based on information that had not been available to the rest of the Panel. It was agreed to amend the minutes to reflect that. With this amendment, the minutes were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

**3.2 RESOLVED**

**3.2.1 That the minutes be amended to reflect that Councillor Carter had asked a question based on information from outside the meeting.**

**4. Urgent Items**

4.1There were no urgent items to add to the agenda.

**5. Members’ Declaration of Interest**

5.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**6. Performance Monitoring Report Q3**

6.1 The Deputy Mayor gave an overview of the report and noted it that this was a first iteration of the new form of reported. Panel noted that there are more comparisons with West Yorkshire’s Most similar Group (MSG) to enable some context around the performance measure, although the limitations of this were also noted.

* 1. Panel began by thanking the Mayor and her staff for the work on the new performance reporting and welcomed the comparison data with other MSG’s
  2. The DMPC was asked for her views on why the report notes that ASB is on the decrease, but public perception is that it is on the increase.
  3. The DMPC responded that feelings of safety have decreased nationally and in West Yorkshire; there is anecdotal evidence that people have a fear around ASB even if it has not directly impacted on them and that it is present and is a problem. We know that ASB *incidents* have slightly increased but ASB *crimes* are down. Panel noted that as part of the Neighbourhood policing guarantee that the Home Secretary has launched as a requirement of the funding each force area will be required to provide a dashboard of data around neighbourhood policing measures, eg the number of ASB reviews and this will also allow better comparisons across the forces for ASB.
  4. Panel asked about the outcome rate for stalking and harassment and why West Yorkshire shows a much lower positive outcome to other MSG’s.
  5. The DMPC stated that this is an area of intense scrutiny by the Mayor and DMPC. It was noted that there have been some temporary staffing reductions in this area but this has now been resolved and it is hoped to improve this figure. She stated that the Women’s Safety Unit is working with the Stalking Co-ordination Unit to bring up the standards of investigations to improve outcomes.
  6. The Chief Constable also commented that for this specific crime type, in terms of comparisons with other MSG’s, the data is hugely affected by data integrity and that the information is reported differently – the actual numbers of prosecutions are not decreasing -it is just the recording of this. Work is ongoing with WYP to look at how reporting could increase.
  7. An explanation of how Most Similar Forces/Group are formed was provided to Panel. It was noted that the ONS looks at 15 different measures and compares all the police forces based on these, the forces are then grouped together based on similar characteristics. There are still some significant differences and there are other forces outside the MSG that also compare with West Yorkshire (such as Merseyside) and so the Mayor’s team also ensures that comparisons are also made with other similar forces.
  8. The Deputy Mayor was asked about the low level of people of an ethnic minority being in senior management positions and if she is happy with the direction of travel this.
  9. The Deputy Mayor stated that she was not content with this and she would like to see significantly more Black and Ethnic Minority officers at senior level. She is pleased that WYP are developing a positive action programme and are looking at programmes to improve the inclusion for officers and staff.

**7. Police and Crime Plan Priority 1 – Keeping People Safe**

7.1 The Deputy Mayor gave an overview of Priority 1 in the new Police and Crime Plan with the focus of paper being to report on the Mayor and her team’s activity to deliver this priority of keeping people safe.

* 1. The DMPC was asked, given the amount of partnership working to deliver initiatives set out in the plan, if she was comfortable that this could be achieved given the current financial climate being faced by many of the partners.
  2. The DMPC stated that she is pleased with the way that partners in West Yorkshire are committed and meeting together regularly. She feels that partners are working as a ‘system’ around the serious violence duty bringing activities together to eliminate serious violence.
  3. Whilst there are clearly issues faced around funding, the Mayor tries to obviate gaps in funding where she can by bringing other funding streams into the mix.
  4. The DMPC was commended for the work on cyber-crime awareness and the success of the safer travel team.
  5. The DMPC commented that the impact of the PCSOs from the safer travel team is huge. The importance of the App as a safe travel tool identifies where problem spots are on buses or bus stations with live access meaning resources can be deployed more effectively.
  6. Panel asked the DMPC about stop and search and if she feels there are enough safeguards in place to ensure a fair stop and search process?
  7. The Deputy Mayor responded that data has been developed over the past 3 and a half years to ensure there is high quality and accurate information around stop and search and other types of searches such as intimate searches etc. This data is reported on every 6 months to ensure robust scrutiny of West Yorkshire Police and as a result the disproportionality in Black communities has reduced. DMPC is conscious that a lot of the GRIP and Hotspot activity is in areas where knife crime has been a problem and these areas have a high proportion of BME communities which is driving up the disproportionality. Disproportionality without explanation is an issue and is something the Mayor and Deputy have been raising for some time and there is a significant amount of training now undertaken to alleviate this issue. The Deputy Mayor is the national lead for race disparity and human rights nationally for PCC’s and brings a lot of this knowledge to West Yorkshire and also feeds back in.
  8. The Chief Constable confirmed that he is satisfied that there are sufficient safeguards in place around stop and search and stated that disproportionality does not necessarily mean discrimination. He went on to state that this area is open to robust scrutiny and there are regular is a review of stop and search powers used on BME people.
  9. Panel asked question around the data on the outcomes of stop and search outcomes and whether this data is available.
  10. The Deputy Mayors answered that there is a significant amount of data on this, which can be broken down by age, district, ethnicity etc and this is sent to the APCC as an example of good practice. This information is publicly available via the Community Outcomes Meeting papers on the WYCA website. The DMPC also agreed to circulate the IOPC national stop and search learning report that was produced a couple of years back.
  11. Panel asked the DMPC about Clare’s Law requests which are the highest they have been and why there is such a rise in number.
  12. The Deputy Mayor proposed that there is more public awareness about Claires Law and a proactive approach to inform the public and potential victims by West Yorkshire Police.
  13. **RESOLVED**

**7.14.1 The DMPC agreed to circulate the IOPC national stop and search learning report that was produced a couple of years back.**

**8. Mayor’s Response to any current issues**

8.1 The Deputy Mayor gave an update on a number of current issues including:

8.2 The successful launch of the new Police and Crime Plan which took place alongside the Violence Reduction Partnership’s showcase. The plan will also be sent to all local MP’s.

8.3 It was noted that Kate Taylor has been appointed as the new WYCA Section 73 Chief Finance Officer.

8.4 The Mayor’s Safer Community Fund Awards will take place on 17th March. There were nearly 300 applications totalling £5m for the award of £1m showing the interest and the need for this funding stream.

8.5 Whilst the detail is still being finalised, the VRP and Op Jemlock has been confirmed which is extremely welcome.

8.6 West Yorkshire has been notified of £8.5m of neighbourhood Policing Grant to increase Police Officer visibility. A report has been be provided setting out the intentions to use the money but hopeful that WY desire to increase the visibility of Police Officers by reducing the number of grey roles by using staff and 45 specials to free up 100 warranted Police Officers to work in neighbourhoods will be agreed. It is thought that the £8.5m is recurring funding.

**9. Published Key Decisions**

9.1 The Published Key Decisions were noted.

**10. Agreed Actions Log**

10.1 The updated Agreed Action Log was noted.

10.2 In relation to the outstanding actions:

Action 5.9.1 *that the* *Deputy Mayor would work with WYP to look at the possibility of correlating an increase in the volume of traffic with the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on the roads*. The Deputy Mayor is looking into this – this is a new piece of work and she stated that there should be something available for the next panel.

Action 6.9.1 – *The Deputy Mayor to look at providing comparisons to other Forces around the profile of ASB*. The Deputy Mayor stated that the data set hasn’t been available for this; but this will change with the new national ASB framework.

**10.3 RESOLVED**

**10.3.1 That the DMPC provide information to the Panel for the next meeting on the correlation of an increase in the volume of traffic with the numbers of people killed or serious injured on the roads.**

**11. Forward Agenda Plan**

11.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

**12. Complaints received by the Panel**

12.1 The update report was noted.

**13. Any Other Business**

13.1 There was no other business raised.

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

14.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00 am on Friday, 11th April 2025 in the Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield.