



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

9 November 2018

Violent Crime Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide assurance to Panel members that there is a coordinated response from both the PCC and West Yorkshire Police towards the threats associated with violent crime.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This report is written in the context of the publication of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy in April 2018. It is also written in line with the PCC's refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2016-21 and West Yorkshire Police's 2017/8 Strategic Assessment.

- 2.2 The Serious Violence Strategy is clear that the national approach to serious violent crime is not solely focused on law enforcement and relies on effective, often localised, partnerships to reduce offending and risk. It describes four main areas of intended activity:

- Tackling County lines and the misuse of drugs
- Early intervention and prevention
- Supporting communities and partnerships
- Effective law enforcement and criminal justice

- 2.3 'Major threats and serious violence' is a key priority within West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021 (refreshed in 2018) and the narrative is included below:

"West Yorkshire hosts the Regional Organised Crime Unit, the North East Counter Terrorism Unit, and the National Police Air Service. Consequently, we play an important role in the response to major threats to public safety, including organised crime, terrorism, serious violence and the use of weapons such as knives and guns. Organised crime, serious violence and the use of weapons, are often linked and we must all work to protect, educate and divert people away from these crime types. I will continue to oversee and support the response to major threats and serious violence provided by our regional teams, local partners and neighbourhood police teams in identifying and preventing major threats and serious violence within our communities."

- 2.4 The PCC currently chairs the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Serious and Violent Crime Task Force.

- 2.5 As violent crime is a broad term and can refer to a wide range of offending, West Yorkshire Police have a suite of complementary strategic plans to provide appropriate resource and tactical responses aligned to threat, harm and risk.

- 2.6 An example of such being domestic crime, which will often fall into a violent crime definition and features heavily under Protecting the Vulnerable. Equally, assaults with injury during the night time economy will fall within the plans of Reducing Crime and Providing Reassurance.
- 2.7 The four main themes contained in the national Serious Violence Strategy, all feature in West Yorkshire Police's Strategic Planning.

3. West Yorkshire Police's Analytical Profile

- 3.1 West Yorkshire Police commissioned an analytical profile on violent crime which was completed and circulated within force during March 2018. This detailed report contains geographic, temporal and offender/victim analysis of all violence with injury offending across West Yorkshire through 2017 and a comparative analysis with previous years' crime data.
- 3.2 The profile highlights a number of significant features of violent crime in West Yorkshire, including:
 - Alcohol/drugs
 - Mental Health
 - CSEA
 - Urban street gangs
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Educational establishments
 - Prison/health establishments
 - Weapons
- 3.3 The profile highlights key activity recommendations intended to effectively combat these features, all of which form part of the five Strategic Plans outlined below:
 - Protect Vulnerable People
 - Attack Criminality
 - Reduce Crime
 - Provide Reassurance
 - Provide Value for Money
- 3.4 West Yorkshire Police has an appointed holistic operational lead for violent crime supported by key individuals at each District that report on the various elements featured above at the Local Policing Governance Board (LPGB). This process is in its' infancy and will develop over time.

4. Current Activity

Early Intervention

- 4.1 Early intervention forms a core part of WYP's overall **Policing Strategy: 2016-2021** and the **Police and Crime Plan: 2016-2021**.
- 4.2 West Yorkshire Police have a specific Early Intervention Strategy which focuses heavily on force culture, structures and partnership responsibilities. This is consistent with the Government's Serious Violence Strategy. The Early Intervention Strategy highlights the importance of shifting policing and partnership activity upstream to reduce crisis management in crucial areas such as child protection, combating organised crime and gangs, domestic abuse and demand management.

Domestic Abuse

- 4.3 West Yorkshire Police has a Domestic Abuse Strategy which covers the force's delivery of an effective service in order to safeguard victims of domestic abuse. It includes leadership and governance, initial contact, first response, investigation, managing victims and offenders.
- 4.4 Progress in these areas is highlighted in the West Yorkshire Police Domestic Abuse Action Plan which is public facing as part of HMIC requirements and has been shared with the OPCC. In addition to the policy, West Yorkshire Police has a Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse as part of a seven police force collaboration to share and implement best practice and also a Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) project to deliver a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) team to improve service to victims.
- 4.5 West Yorkshire Police are the pilot police service for the "Deep Dive Approach" focussed on partners and partnerships and how partners will interact and work collectively, key to this is partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Courts to implement four component areas to improve joint service delivery.
- 4.6 Governance of the Whole Systems Approach and the VAWG DVPO Team is through the OPCC's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board, which has been in operation since 2015. With representation from the police, each local authority, CPS, NHS England, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Victim Support and the Third Sector. This board was also responsible for the development of the PCC's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy, published in 2017 and subsequent Action Plan which partners across West Yorkshire are delivering against collectively.

Organised Crime and Urban Street Gangs

- 4.7 West Yorkshire Police established a Force-wide Organised Crime Group (OCG) governance structure involving partners and localised (OCG) partnerships in order to deliver law enforcement and early intervention.
- 4.8 The use of gang injunctions to combat urban street gangs has been a tactic used by West Yorkshire Police since the first applications under the (then) new legislation in 2013.
- 4.9 These injunctions are a civil tool, sometimes referred to as a GANGBO, which allow the police and/or local authority to apply to the court for an injunction against an individual(s) suspected of being involved in gang-related violence or drug dealing activity.
- 4.10 Injunctions can be applied for in respect of persons aged 14 years or over where two conditions are met. An example of such:
 - I. The court must be satisfied that the subject of the application has either engaged, encouraged or assisted in gang related violence or gang related drug dealing activities.
 - II. It must be necessary to grant the injunction to prevent further gang related activities in order to protect an individual(s).
- 4.11 A range of prohibitions and requirements on the behaviour and activities of a person can be included in an injunction, such as prohibiting them from being in a particular place or requiring them to participate in rehabilitative activities.
- 4.12 If a power of arrest is attached, the police may arrest a person who they suspect to be in breach of a condition or a prohibition.

4.13 Below is a brief summary table of gang injunctions currently effective in West Yorkshire and those that have recently expired:

Location: Keighley Duration: 2013-2015 Total Respondents: 12 (7 and 5) Total Granted: 12	Location: Holme Wood, Bradford Duration: 2013-2016 & 2016-2018 Total Respondents: 10 (4 and 6) Total Granted: 8 (plus 1 re-application in 2016) Total Abandoned: 2 (both respondents imprisoned for other serious offences)
Location: Park Ward, Halifax Duration: 2014-2017 Total Respondents: 6 (3 and 3) Total Granted: 3 Total Abandoned: 3 (2 imprisoned, 1 insufficient necessity)	Location: Keighley Duration: 2016-2018 Total Respondents: 12 (5 and 7) Total Granted: 11 Total Abandoned: 1 (insufficient necessity)
Location: Beeston, Leeds Duration: 2016-2018 Total Respondents: 7 Total Granted: 7 (1 remained an interim order due to inability to locate/serve)	Location: Huddersfield Duration: 2018-onwards Total Respondents: 12 (6 and 6) Total Granted: 12 (5 final, 7 interim)

4.14 There are a number of ongoing cases across West Yorkshire, which may result in similar applications being made to the courts.

Knife Crime

4.15 There are national concerns around violent crime involving the use of knives.

4.16 November 2017, highlighted a significant threat of knife crime, of which West Yorkshire Police established strategic ownership and governance of the issue in its' own right, through the Local Policing Governance Board (LPGB). This resulted in the development of an analytical profile to establish performance and a data tracker through which has enabled the Force to analyse offending patterns and trends.

4.17 A wide range of activities have been undertaken force wide as a result of the analysis of this data:

- Operation Sceptre targeting knife crime across West Yorkshire.
- Test purchase operations have been conducted at 38 retail premises, 8 of those premises failed to comply with legislative requirements in selling knives to person(s) under the age of 18. The results provided opportunities to engage and educate retailers and these premises will be tested later in the year.
- The Force's knife crime awareness package was delivered to over 2000 children across primary and secondary schools.
- Police Officers, PCSOs, schools and public transport providers have worked together to engage with young people to increase awareness of safer routes to school and to provide them with reassurance and advice about keeping themselves safe.
- A knife crime awareness leaflet was developed for parents to make them aware of the signs a young person may display if involved with or carrying a knife.
- Night time economy hot spots were highlighted and knife crime arches and other preventative measures have been put in place to make searches a condition of entry to certain establishments.

- MVP (Mentoring in Violence Prevention) is a multi-agency training/mentoring programme that is being developed in schools by West Yorkshire Police and Police Scotland. The programme works on the idea of 'healthy norms' and can be used to tackle knife crime, sexual abuse, bullying and a wide range of issues facing children and young people.

4.18 West Yorkshire Police is working collectively with the Redthread initiative in A&E departments, our Operational lead has visited Police Scotland to seek learning opportunities and as part of our knife crime strategy, there are off the shelf products available for Districts to use for education, prevention and enforcement.

Night Time Economy

4.19 Analysis of violent crime from the Problem Profile has shown that various night time economies across West Yorkshire have a significant impact on crime and disorder in terms of both demand and severity. There are links to serious sexual offences and organised crime.

4.20 Each city or town has its' own night time economy plan which is directly linked to the principles of early intervention and delivery of safer communities.

- Leeds have a number of other partnerships which are being developed to combat violent crime associated with the night time economy.
- Calderdale work closely with the Street Angels assisting and helping service users and supporting the vulnerable.
- Bradford has a working policing plan to provide a visible and effective street reassurance for the city centre. This is currently being developed.
- Huddersfield has a working policing plan and partnership response to night time economy.
- Wakefield work closely with Street Angels and Street Marshalls, in partnership with the local authority.

4.21 Community Safety Partnerships in 2 districts have achieved 'Purple Flag' status reflecting the respective local partnership's commitment to providing a safe and fulfilling evening and night time environment for the public. Calderdale have successfully retained their status for the last 7 years and Leeds were first awarded in 2017.

Work within Educational Establishments

4.22 West Yorkshire Police has an Education Liaison Officer and a training package on violent crime issues, specifically knife crime which has been delivered to police officers and police staff, including Safer Schools Officers. This is to facilitate inputs given to secondary school students.

4.23 The response from schools has been extremely positive and this has enabled this programme to be carried forward into next year.

4.24 Through joint funding provided by the PCC through Partnership Executive Group funding and the Chief Constable through Proceeds of Crime Act funding, sessions of the Get Away 'N' Get Safe Gangs Prevention Programme created by James Riley has been delivered to primary schools in Bradford, Leeds and Kirklees since February 2018 and will continue through 2019.

4.25 Following the re- investment into Neighbourhood Policing, work is underway to prepare a presentation to be delivered by Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) within primary school education across West Yorkshire.

- 4.26 This will link in with West Yorkshire Police' strategic objectives around our early intervention universal offer and will include knife crime and county lines. The inputs will commence in the new academic year from September 2018 onwards.
- 4.27 The Mentoring to Prevent Violence (MPV) initiative is currently being explored as an additional strategy to combat educational establishment violent crime.

5. Funding Opportunities

- 5.1 The latest round of the PCC's Safer Communities Fund, awarded on the 6 September, specifically invited applications that would tackle all forms of violent crime including those with a focus on early intervention and prevention, supporting diversion from crime, protection and education and those that would provide support for victims of violent crime. A total of £210,703.84 was awarded to 49 projects, which included both local delivery across each of the 5 districts and 4 projects to cover the whole of West Yorkshire.
- 5.2 During July 2018 the Home Office announced the Early Intervention Youth Fund as outlined in the Serious Violence Strategy, released in April, was now open for applications and had been doubled from £11million to £22million over the 2 year period 2018/19 and 2019/20. This fund invited PCC's in partnership with local CSPs or equivalent local partnerships to bid for funding to support targeted early intervention or prevention activity with young people.
- 5.3 With support from colleagues within West Yorkshire Police's Income Generation Team, the OPCC submitted a collaborative bid working in partnership with the police, fire and rescue service and each district CSP which offered both universal and district based interventions, each with a specific focus to best meet the needs of local communities and act as a local test bed for new initiatives. The PCC also joined a number of collaborative bids being progressed by other PCCs to deliver across England and Wales. The closing date for applications was Friday 28 September and the Home Office is yet to announce the outcome.
- 5.4 West Yorkshire Police is re-organising its' funding bid process to provide a much more standardised governance around such activity. This will be co-ordinated to ensure that all funding opportunities are identified and fully explored. Environmental scanning will ensure that opportunities are not missed and the Force's income generation resource will be at the heart of all activity.
- 5.5 Street Doctors is a UK based charity which aims to change the lives of high risk young persons to give them the skills they need to deliver life-saving first aid. It also educates and empowers young persons to give them the confidence and a sense of responsibility for their actions and help change their attitude towards violence. Inputs are provided at locations such as Youth Offending Centres, PRUs, Secure Children's Homes and Youth Prisons and these have expressed a strong interest to work with West Yorkshire Police.
- 5.6 Sunnyvale Fishery and Outdoor Centre in Rastrick, Calderdale have been supported by Safer Communities Fund monies. This provides activities and instructions to young persons aged between 9 and 18 years – often those who are excluded from mainstream education and / or involved in anti-social behaviour. The facility represents an excellent location to provide violent crime awareness to young people across the Force area. The PCC has a planned visit to the facility during November to see first-hand the work it is achieving.
- 5.7 Several other funding bids have been successfully applied to tackle knife crime – namely Terriers Project, PEAK Project. West Yorkshire Police continue to support and encourage partners to submit funding bids.

6. Governance Arrangements

- 6.1 Strategic governance of violent crime is provided through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021 and West Yorkshire Police's 2017-2018 Strategic Assessment. The application of these plans is governed through the Local Policing Governance Board (LPGB). Operational recommendations from the (LPGB) are delivered locally through District Tactical Assessment and monitored through the Local Accountability Meetings chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.
- 6.2 Through the PCC's governance arrangements, violent crime is regularly discussed between the PCC and Chief Officer Team at Joint Executive and Bi-lateral meetings and performance monitored as part of Community Outcomes and Delivery Quarterly meetings.