



West  
Yorkshire  
Combined  
Authority

Tracy  
Brabin  
Mayor of  
West Yorkshire

# Safer Places and Thriving Communities

Policing and Crime Team



## Safer Places and Thriving Communities Strategy Foreword

As one of only two metro mayors with the responsibilities of a Police and Crime Commissioner, I see a once in a generation opportunity to bring together partners and powers to create a public health approach to policing and crime in West Yorkshire.

I'm proud that West Yorkshire Police is one of the best performing police forces in the country, we can't be complacent. People in West Yorkshire want to be safe, feel safe, have trust in their police, and know action will be taken if ever they or their loved ones are harmed.

During my election campaign, in deciding priorities, I laid out ten manifesto commitments to the public, a number of which related to police and crime: keeping women and girls safe; increasing police officer and police staff numbers; putting victims first; and ensuring our police force represents the community it serves.

But I also needed to know what the public thought, so with colleagues and my brilliant Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, we set about one of the widest consultations ever undertaken in West Yorkshire. We met with and spoke to older people, young people, sex workers, police, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, Gypsy and Traveller people, families, community workers, and representatives from business, transport, health, and education sectors, and we heard what needs to be done.

95.5% of respondents agreed that 'safer places and thriving communities' was an important priority for them, with the top 3 areas of focus identified as neighbourhood crime, road safety, and serious violence.

Whilst the Police and Crime Plan goes some way to setting our direction of travel, we must be agile, flexible, and responsive to the current and changing government landscape. As a Mayoral Combined Authority, we can now benefit from devolved powers, which help give our region the freedom to decide how best to meet local needs and create new opportunities. My office has been committed to delivering for you and this strategy shows our commitment to creating safer places and thriving communities.

**Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire**





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Working with our partners to improve road safety for everyone through the **West Yorkshire Vision Zero Board** and tackling vehicle crime and anti-social use of motorbikes through the Safer Streets Fund.



The **Mayor's Safer Communities Fund** goes from strength to strength and is impacting our communities with much needed support and services.



Creating safer public spaces and building women's confidence in the night-time economy through the Safer Streets and Safety of Women at Night funds and supporting educational programmes to fight against damaging misogynistic behaviours.



The **Commissioning Strategy 2022-24** was launched in Autumn 2022 and has been well received and speaks to the amazing provision for community-based services.



Launching a West Yorkshire-wide call for evidence to hear the 'lived experience' of victims of violence perpetrated against women and girls.



Our engagement with the public continues to be a priority and the discussions with the **Youth Advisory Group** continues to inform our work and priorities.



## Why is this a priority?

- Neighbourhood crime, road safety, and serious violence were the most frequently selected areas of focus under this priority.
- It was common to receive feedback that people did not want to see 'low level' neighbourhood crime neglected by the police.
- The Needs Assessment identified that anti-social behaviour (ASB) levels fell during 2020 in the same way as total crime, but have since reverted to normal levels, with youth nuisance coming to the fore.
- Serious violence is still a problem in West Yorkshire with a continued focus on drugs offences and knife crime – work is in place to tackle this alongside nuisance in neighbourhood areas.
- Links are seen between drug and alcohol misuse and serious violent crimes, with organised crime groups (OCGs) targeting the vulnerable, highlighting the need to intervene early to stop this spiral of violence.
- Partners also told us that taking a place-based approach to serious organised crime is an effective tool in tackling a crime type that brings so much harm to communities.

The following links provide further detail around the consultation and engagement that has taken place in relation to this strategy:

[The Voice of West Yorkshire](#)

[Summary Needs Assessment](#)

[National crime and policing outcomes and measures](#)



## Scrutiny and Oversight

The Mayor receives reports and statistical information from the police on their performance against the metrics contained within the Police and Crime Plan and holds the police to account for delivery of her pledges and her vision for West Yorkshire to be a safe, just and inclusive place to be for all.

The delivery and impact of this strategy will be monitored through the relevant metrics of the [Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024](#) performance framework (pages 40-43), [Community Outcomes Meetings](#), and the [Police and Crime Panel](#). In addition, the existing structures of West Yorkshire's community safety governance and partner coordination will be utilised.

The Mayoral Combined Authority maintains strategic oversight through boards and groups such as the Vision Zero Board and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Advisory Group.

We work with the police, partner agencies, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, and victims and survivors to ensure we deliver for those who are most vulnerable, putting them at the heart of our response. We continue to ensure the Mayor's voice is heard at a national level.

This strategy outlines how we work in partnership with stakeholders in West Yorkshire, as well as at a regional, national, and international level. We deliver change with VCSE groups, the private sector, and local communities to improve the lives of all people across our region.



## Working in partnership

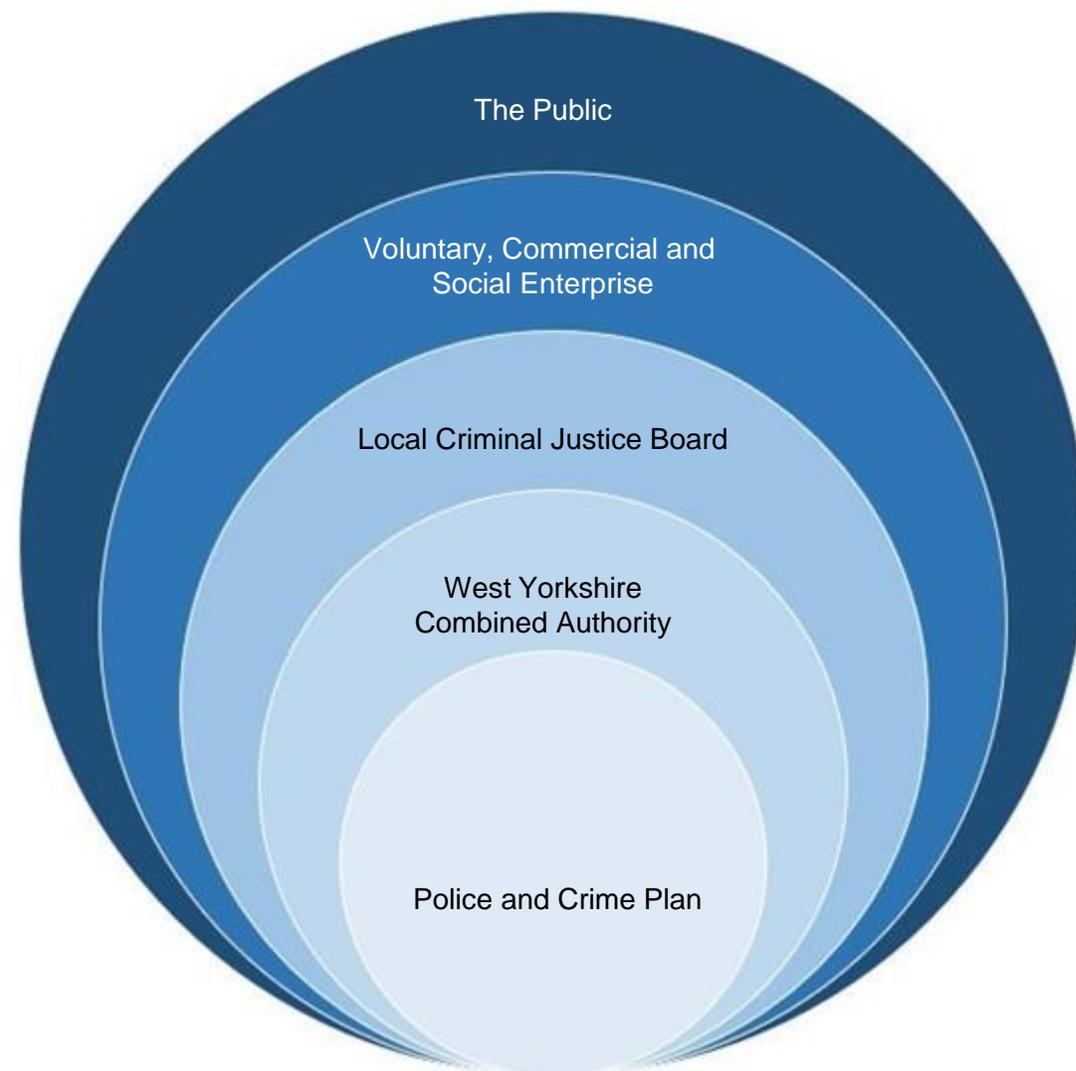
Our work is not limited to this strategy. We continue to build and deliver with partners and colleagues across the Mayoral Combined Authority to ensure we can create safer places and thriving communities.

When we say communities, we mean groups of people with shared interests. This might be due to a shared location, a shared faith, a shared ethnicity or cultural heritage, a shared characteristic (such as LGBTQIA+ communities), or a shared disability. It also includes people across the region who are united by an interest in the same activity. We also recognise that these communities contain a diverse range of views, which cannot be represented by a single spokesperson.

Our Mayor, with Police and Crime Commissioner powers, is in a privileged position to influence not just the police service, but other services and businesses that can help to keep West Yorkshire safe, just and inclusive. This includes responsibilities in transport, adult skills, housing, and culture, and working closely with the business community to ensure change happens. We know that we can only achieve success working together. Our success is dependent on all parts of the region thriving, contributing, and being championed and celebrated.

One of the responsibilities of the Mayor is to commission quality, inclusive services that meet the needs of our diverse communities. This is done using the Commissioning Strategy:

[Policing and Crime Commissioning Strategy 2022-2024](#)



Above: Relationships between the stakeholders involved in the Police and Crime Plan.

# Introduction

Priority Three of the Police and Crime Plan is 'Safer Places and Thriving Communities'. It sets out the Mayor's intention to work with West Yorkshire Police and partners to focus on the harmful and unacceptable behaviour that targets the different communities of West Yorkshire through an ongoing commitment to neighbourhood policing and partnership working in localities.

It tackles the place-based crime that damages people's everyday lives, including serious violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and dangerous driving and speeding.

Following consultation, the Mayor identified three clear themes:

- Neighbourhood Crime and ASB
- Road Safety
- Serious Violence

Under each theme are statements of intent and ambition that reflect the Mayor's desire to ensure that we have safer places and thriving communities across West Yorkshire.

## Themes

*Neighbourhood  
Crime and ASB*

*Road Safety*

*Serious Violence*



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# Safer Places and Thriving Communities

Theme	<u>Neighbourhood Crime and ASB</u>	<u>Road Safety</u>	<u>Serious Violence</u>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low level Neighbourhood Crime</li> <li>High Street Crime</li> <li>Anti-Social Behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug and Alcohol Offences</li> <li>Knife Crime</li> <li>Violence Reduction Partnership</li> <li>Organised Crime Groups</li> <li>Place Based</li> </ul>
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tackle ASB through prevention, intervention and enforcement</li> <li>Tackle inequality and poverty to increase prosperity</li> <li>Support business resilience to cyber criminality and business-related crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards eliminating KSIs</li> <li>Increase safe, healthy and equitable transport for all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop young people becoming involved</li> <li>Target most dangerous criminals</li> </ul>
Cross-Cutting Themes	<p>Trust and Confidence    Equality, Diversity and Inclusion    Safety of Women and Girls</p>		
Outcomes	<p>Reduce Serious Violence offences / increase frontline officers / maintain PCSOs / cleaner, safer, greener / Vision Zero WY-wide</p>		
Indicators	<p>Reductions in: homicides / hospital admissions / knife crime / ASB / KSIs / baseline comparison for neighbourhood crime</p>		

Within this key priority area, we specifically focus on:

- Low level Neighbourhood Crime
- High Street Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour

We ensure that we work with partners to:

- Tackle ASB at the earliest opportunity through a tiered approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement
- Tackle inequality and poverty to help communities to increase their prosperity
- Support businesses to be more resilient to cyber criminality and business-related crime

- It was common to receive feedback that people did not want to see 'low level' neighbourhood crime neglected by the police.
- The Needs Assessment identified that ASB levels fell during 2020 in the same way as total crime, but have reverted to 'normal' levels, with youth nuisance coming to the fore.
- We continue to tackle ASB at the earliest opportunity through a tiered approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement.

## *Neighbourhood Crime and ASB*

We specifically deliver on the following outcomes:

- Maintain a focus on neighbourhood policing through a partnership approach to increase frontline police officers and police staff
- Maintain the number of PCSOs working in our communities
- Partnership approach to 'cleaner, safer, greener' to increase prosperity in neighbourhoods
- Ensure the WYP workforce reflects the communities they are policing

We measure our outcomes through:

- Reviewing our Neighbourhood Crime figures to ensure that they are below baseline
- Monitoring the increased number of additional officers and staff in comparison to the April 2021 baseline
- Improving police workforce representation
- Monitoring cyber attacks on businesses via survey

### **Key links:**

- [Community Outcomes Meetings - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
- [Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
- [West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan FAQs - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)

### **Linked Strategies and documents:**

- [Policing Strategy 2020 - 2025 | West Yorkshire Police](#)

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Within this key priority area, we specifically focus on:

- The West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership

We ensure that we work with partners to:

- Work towards the elimination of people being killed or seriously injured on our roads through the leadership of the Vision Zero Strategic Board.
- Increase safe, healthy and equitable transport for all in West Yorkshire.
- Embed a safe systems approach to road safety in West Yorkshire, bringing together partners to deliver holistic changes to the road environment, including road user behaviour, vehicle standards, infrastructure, speeds travelled, emergency service responses to collisions, and victim support services.

- Through the leadership of the Vision Zero Strategic Board we work towards eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and equitable transport for all.
- We are developing a Vision Zero Strategy for West Yorkshire. This will detail how the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership, including West Yorkshire Police, will work together to improve our approach to road safety.

We specifically deliver on the following outcomes:

- The delivery of an effective Vision Zero approach across all districts in West Yorkshire

We measure our outcomes through:

- Monitoring the reduction of Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) casualties on the roads of West Yorkshire

### Key links:

- [Vision Zero West Yorkshire](#)
- [Community Outcomes Meetings - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
- [West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan FAQs - West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)

### Linked Strategies and documents:

- [Leeds Vision Zero 2040 Strategy](#)
- [Policing Strategy 2020 - 2025 | West Yorkshire Police](#)
- [West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel - Friday, 21 April 2023 – Item 5](#)

## Serious Violence

Within this key priority area, we specifically focus on:

- The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership
- Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)
- Drug and Alcohol Offences
- Knife Crime
- Place-based Serious Violence

We ensure that we work with partners to:

- Stop young people becoming involved in serious violence
- Target the most dangerous and determined organised criminals exploiting vulnerable people, using a collective and collaborative approach

- Serious violence has increased, with drug offences and knife crime remaining problematic in metropolitan areas such as West Yorkshire. Work is in place to tackle this using an approach in neighbourhood areas based on prevention and early intervention.
- Links are seen between drug and alcohol misuse and serious violent crimes, with OCGs targeting the vulnerable, highlighting the need to intervene early to stop this spiral of violence.
- Partners told us that taking a place-based approach to serious organised crime is an effective tool in tackling a crime type that brings so much harm to communities.

## *Serious Violence*

We specifically deliver on the following outcomes:

- Reducing Serious Violence offences through the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership and further partners
- Ensuring fewer communities in West Yorkshire are held in the grip of Serious Organised Crime

We measure our outcomes through:

- Monitoring the reduction in crime figures relating to Serious Violence
- Monitoring the reduction in crime figures specifically relating to Homicide
- Monitoring the reduction in hospital admissions for assault with a sharp instrument
- Monitoring the reduction in crime figures relating to Knife Crime

### **Key links:**

- [Community Outcomes Meetings](#)
- [West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership](#)
- [West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan FAQs](#)

### **Linked Strategies:**

- [Policing Strategy 2020 - 2025 | West Yorkshire Police](#)
- [Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#)
- [VRP Needs Assessment & Response Strategy](#)



**Trust and  
Confidence**

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We recognise that trust and confidence in policing is poor in communities who need those services the most.

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Conscious and unconscious bias exist in every aspect of society. We work with all services to identify and root out bias and discrimination where it occurs.

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Through oversight of West Yorkshire Police and the Chief Constable, we ensure that allegations about police conduct are investigated to the fullest extent.

## Cross-Cutting Theme: 2



**Equality,  
Diversity,  
and Inclusion**

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We recognise that people face different layers of disadvantage and inequality.

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We understand the importance of intersectionality. Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and oppression.

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We continue to tailor our services to address the needs of all, so that they are available in formats that meet different users' needs and capabilities.

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We continue to challenge the unconscious biases that have developed over generations in society. It occurs in every aspect of life, occupation and lifestyle, irrespective of gender, class, ethnicity, faith, sexuality, or where you live.

## Cross-Cutting Theme: 3



### Safety of Women and Girls

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We work with partners to improve outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and violence, including criminal justice outcomes.

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We continue to embed a trauma-informed approach across systems to ensure services are sensitive, empathetic and understand the impact of lived experiences. Women and men must be able to report a sexual assault in a supportive environment .

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Collect the evidence needed to support a change in legislation to fully recognise misogyny as a hate crime against women and girls and ensure that women reporting these offences are treated with respect.

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Challenge the behaviours that put women and girls at risk, including targeted awareness raising campaigns (for example covering coercive control, financial abuse), work to influence and educate young people, and deliver perpetrator programmes that reduce reoffending.

## Help and Support

We understand that the issues raised in this strategy may be sensitive or upsetting. If you, or someone you know, have been affected by any of the issues raised in this strategy, you may wish to contact the following organisations for advice and support.

Organisation	Advice or support available	Contact details	Website
<b>Rape Crisis</b>	Rape Crisis Centres provide independent and confidential services for women and girls of all ages who have experienced any form of sexual violence, at any time in their lives. You can find your nearest branch and use their live chat helpline at their website.	Call: <b>0808 802 9999</b>	<a href="https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help">rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help</a>
<b>Victim Support (National)</b>	Victim Support provides advice and guidance to people who have experienced a crime or traumatic incident.	Call: <b>08 08 16 89 111</b> or live chat at their website <a href="https://victimsupport.org.uk">victimsupport.org.uk</a>	<a href="https://victimsupport.org.uk">victimsupport.org.uk</a>
<b>Victim Support (West Yorkshire)</b>	Victim Support provides advice and guidance to people who have experienced a crime or traumatic incident.	Call: <b>0300 303 1971</b>	<a href="https://victimsupport.org.uk/west-yorkshire">victimsupport.org.uk/west-yorkshire</a>
<b>Childline</b>	Childline provides support for anyone aged 18 or under offering a free, private and confidential service where children and young people can talk about anything. You can call them 24/7 or contact them online.	Call: <b>0800 111</b>	<a href="https://childline.org.uk/get-support">childline.org.uk/get-support</a>
<b>Samaritans</b>	Support and guidance for anyone experiencing emotional distress.	Call: <b>116 123</b> 24 hours a day, every day. Email <a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a>	<a href="https://samaritans.org">samaritans.org</a>
<b>Mind</b>	For information, advice, and support for anyone experiencing a mental health problem.	Call: <b>0300 123 3393</b>	<a href="https://mind.org.uk">mind.org.uk</a>
<b>Crimestoppers</b>	An independent charity allowing you to give information about crime anonymously over the phone or online.	Call: <b>0800 555 111</b>	<a href="https://crimestoppers-uk.org">crimestoppers-uk.org</a>



### In an emergency, always dial 999

If you have any reason to believe that a child or adult is at immediate risk of harm, **always** contact the police on **999**.

You can also report things like Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage online to the police at [westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it](https://westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it)  
For a **non-emergency** incident dial **101**.



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**Thank you**

[westyorks-ca.gov.uk](http://westyorks-ca.gov.uk)

