



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

Policing and Crime Annual Report 2023–24



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Headline achievements



895

We have delivered on the pledge to increase numbers of frontline police officers and staff, with 895 more recruited in the last three years, surpassing the 750 recruits target

Launched a first-of-its-kind dedicated **Women's Safety Unit** which is a pioneering partnership that comprises members from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the region's Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police



Securing Home Office **Safer Streets 4 and 5 funding** to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, and neighbourhood crime.

This year has seen the creation of a **Vision Zero Strategy**, which aims to reduce all road deaths and serious injuries by 2040, with a launch in summer 2024.



West Yorkshire has been recognised nationally for the very high quality of our **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme** with a Gold quality assurance award by The Independent Custody Visiting Association.

£1 million

The continued success of the **Mayor's Safer Communities Fund**, helping to make West Yorkshire communities safer. Grant Round 5 was our largest ever fund with over £1 million awarded in February 2024.





15

The implementation of the Bus Service Improvement Plan, with **15 full time PCSOs** who patrol the region's bus stations and buses to keep people safe.

4 million

Launch of **#JustDont** which encourages men and boys to change society for the better. This campaign has 4 million+ views online.



Delivery of the **Anti-Social Behaviour Immediate Justice pilot**, providing a range of tailored services for adults and children to benefit victims. £2m worth of funding has been awarded to the Mayor and the project will run until March 2025.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority has developed guidance to **support parks and green spaces to become safer** for women and girls across the UK.



The West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending and Rehabilitation Partnership Board has established five priorities for **improved performance for people leaving prison**.

During this year, the Mayor of West Yorkshire successfully **secured £4,818,532** from the Ministry of Justice to support victims and survivors of crime. The funding has benefitted 32 organisations, delivering 74 different types of services and support to over 81,000 victims and survivors.





Mayor's foreword

This annual report marks the final year of delivering the Police and Crime Plan 2021–2024. As your Mayor, I've worked alongside the police, partner agencies and my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Alison Lowe OBE, to make our region a safer place. We have made great strides over the past three years towards building a safe, just and inclusive West Yorkshire. Alongside West Yorkshire Police, we have risen to meet multiple challenges including dealing with increasing costs, decreased Home Office grants and an everchanging political landscape. I recognise it is vitally important that we continue to work to restore public trust and confidence in the police service. My focus has remained on securing stronger frontline policing services so we can achieve the best possible outcomes for our residents and businesses.

This year, we have bolstered frontline policing thanks to local investment with new officers and specialist staff. I delivered on my pledge to increase numbers of police officers and staff, with 895 more recruited in the last three years. This includes a Safer Travel Team to increase bus safety, which was made possible through £1m in funding from my Bus Service Improvement Plan, with 15 full time PCSOs who patrol bus stations and buses across the region. This fantastic initiative aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, increase the safety of women and girls, and reassure and protect more vulnerable travel users.

We have been successful in securing Home Office funding to tackle anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, and neighbourhood crime. Projects include bystander training to improve the safety of women and girls, days of action and new technology targeting anti-social behaviour, such as the inappropriate use of off-road bikes as well as increased CCTV. This investment has supported a range of projects that has made a real difference to our communities.

During the spring, we launched a first-of-its-kind dedicated Women's Safety Unit which is an intervention I'm particularly passionate about. The team is a pioneering partnership that comprises members from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the county's Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire

Police. As Mayor, I want every woman and girl in our region to know that we're here for you, we're fighting your corner, and we will not stop until each and every one of you feels safe.

This year has also seen West Yorkshire recognised nationally for the very high quality of our independent custody visiting scheme. The West Yorkshire scheme was presented with a Gold quality assurance award by The Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) and I'm delighted our work has been recognised nationally for the excellent standard it provides. The scheme plays a crucial role in ensuring West Yorkshire Police uphold a high standard of care in their custody suites.

We have also seen the continued success of the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund, which uses proceeds of crime money seized by West Yorkshire Police to improve community safety. Grant Round 5 was our largest ever fund with over £1 million awarded.

I would also like to highlight West Yorkshire Vision Zero and the great work of the Vision Zero Board chaired by my Deputy Mayor Alison Lowe. West Yorkshire Vision Zero is a road safety partnership aiming to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all in West Yorkshire. This year has seen the creation of a Vision Zero Strategy with a launch scheduled for Summer 2024.

This report details an array of different projects and services we have led on or contributed to over the past year as we conclude my first ever Police and Crime Plan as Mayor of West Yorkshire. As we look forward, my focus is on delivery of further successful initiatives in our communities, in conjunction with partners, to create a Safe, Just and Inclusive West Yorkshire.



Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire

Our work with West Yorkshire Police



West Yorkshire Police serves approximately 2.4 million people living in one of the five metropolitan districts of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield. The Force area is varied, combining busy cities and towns with quiet villages and picturesque rural locations. People are equally varied and represent a diverse range of ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

For this reason, the policing is delivered from five separate police districts, providing most of the day-to-day policing services performed through the region. There are also teams of specialist police and support staff personnel based at headquarters and at various other locations around the Force. The overwhelming majority of police officers are engaged in operational duties that contribute towards the community safety of our residents.

Over the past year we have worked with West Yorkshire Police to ensure consistent performance across all areas of crime and all victims receive a good level of service in a timely manner. In March 2024 the Force had the country's second fastest average answer time for 999 calls during the latest quarter (5.7 seconds).

Neighbourhood crime (domestic burglary, personal robbery, theft from person and car crime) continues to be a priority for us. When looking at the 12 months to March 2024, this was 26% below the baseline target set which equates to over 12,000 fewer victims.

There has been a significant increase in Stalking Protection Orders (SPO) for victims in West Yorkshire with the aim is to protect the victim as a breach of an SPO is a criminal offence. At the start of the Mayor's first term in office, there were only three in place and now there are 15 with 29 more going through the judicial process. This is a huge step in the right direction for the Force's strategy in supporting victims and survivors of stalking offences.

As well as increasing the number of frontline police officers and staff as part of the Mayor's pledge, the focus has been on ensuring that they better reflect the communities that they serve. The percentage of police officers from ethnic minority backgrounds is now higher than it has ever been and nearly 40% of all officers are female. This is reflected in the results from

the Crime Survey of England and Wales which shows that in comparison with its most similar forces, West Yorkshire has the highest rating for those who feel that the Force treats them with respect. They also have a higher than average rating for those who say that the Force is reliable and it is hoped that this will increase the overall confidence in the Police.

Currently only 6.2% of people feel they are at risk of household crime, compared to a 7.7% most similar force average, while perception of the risk of personal crime is even lower at 2.5% (2.8% average).

Victim satisfaction also continues to be a focus, and this is particularly true for victims of domestic abuse. Currently 82.2% of victims state they are satisfied with the police response to this crime, and this is a constant over the whole year. Recently the Force has included victims of stalking in this assessment and have achieved a satisfaction rate of over 75.8% for this crime type. This compares with 71.9% satisfaction for victims of all crimes.

Justice for victims continues to be a driver and we see an increase in all areas for positive outcomes. We saw that during the pandemic the courts were unable to function resulting in a backlog of cases. In order to mitigate some of this, West Yorkshire Police has concentrated on ensuring its files are of the best possible standard to avoid delays. In the year up to March 2024, 85.8% of their cases were being accepted at first submission compared to a national average of 64%.

Priority 1

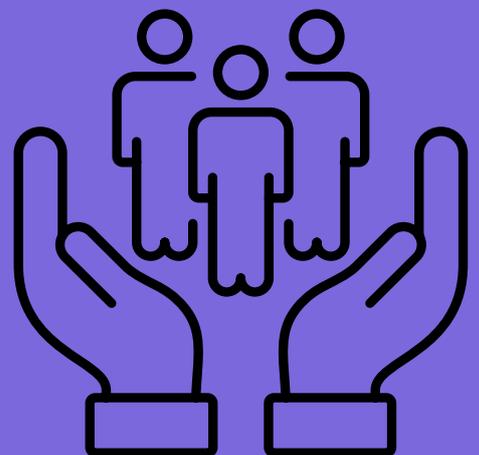
Supporting victims and witnesses and improving criminal justice outcomes

Our objective

Deliver services that meet the victim's needs, we will also work with partners including the Local Criminal Justice Board to advance the response to victims and improve criminal justice outcomes for all.

Anticipated outcomes

Victims are made aware of their rights and are supported by a range of well-used, high-quality services and perpetrators are supported to reduce reoffending. Working alongside partners this will improve prosecution rates for all with a victim-centred approach.





Our work with criminal justice partners to ensure the continuation of the drive to deliver high-quality services for victims and witnesses continues with the support of dedicated policy management resource.

The Child Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel has been launched with a membership consisting of youth justice services, looked after children services and corporate parenting, children’s social care, and West Yorkshire Police. Operating to Child First Principles, members are held accountable for the operation of the West Yorkshire Joint Protocol ‘Pace Bed’ (for more information please see page 25). In addition, the panel scrutinises West Yorkshire Police in the application of police powers to search children, in particular where that search includes the removal of more than outer clothing, often referred to as Strip Search.

During this year, the West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending and Rehabilitation Partnership Board has established five priorities for improved performance, for people leaving prison, and crucially, those in contact with the criminal justice system and in need of diversionary activity. These initiatives include increasing opportunities for employment and training, understanding the

housing offer and improving access, and reducing short sentences (less than 12-month custodial sentences where risk of violence is not a factor). In addition, the board is working within the Harm to Hope programme, a 10-year drugs strategy to cut crime and save lives, and the Combatting Drugs Partnerships in each district to increase the access of those at risk of reoffending to treatment options. A workstream specific to women, tackling repeat, short periods of imprisonment and noting the damage this does to families, has been established. The board is working with statutory and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) partners to establish more options for diversion and first-time offending.



Independent Custody Visitors

In 2023–24, 51,602 people were arrested and detained in West Yorkshire Police custody. During this year, 26 dedicated Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) volunteers offered face-to-face visits to people held in custody suites across our region. Volunteers came into contact with almost 1,500 detained people, undertaking 282 visits to custody suites. During these visits, they were checking that people’s rights, dignity and entitlements were being upheld.

On average, ICVs spoke to 32% of people detained 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



Age

Over **7.3%** of victims supported by commissioned services were **under the age of 18**.

3.7% did not state their age, while those **18 or over** made up **over 89%** of victims supported.

Just under **2 in 5** people (38%) supported were aged **18–34 years old**.

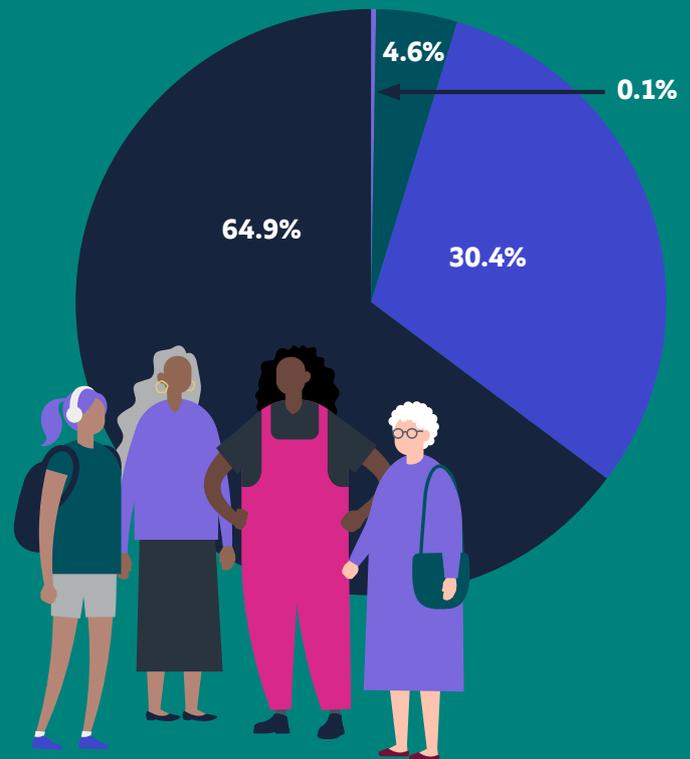
Gender split

64.9% (52,814) of victims supported using this grant were **women, including trans women**.

30.4% were **men, including trans men**.

0.1% were **non-binary**.

4.6% (3,722) did not state their gender.



Ministry of Justice grant for victims' services 2023–2024

Between 2023 and 2024, the Mayor of West Yorkshire successfully secured **£4,818,532.55** from the Ministry of Justice to support victims of crime across West Yorkshire.

This money was spent on **31** services which supported over **81,000** victims of crime.

- **£100,000** spent on services to specifically support victims of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Over **£230,000** to specifically support victims of Domestic Abuse.
- Over **£650,000** to specifically support victims of Sexual Violence.

Priority 2

Keeping people safe and building resilience

Our objective

- Work in partnership to protect the most vulnerable in our society including understanding exploitation
- Raise awareness of hate crime and modern-day slavery
- Prioritise the safety of women and girls

Anticipated outcomes

- Partners work across boundaries to support vulnerable people with innovative approaches that give access to support services
- Improve workforce awareness of exploitation particularly of young people





Raising awareness of hate crime through community engagement

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor do all they can to promote and support community cohesion across West Yorkshire. They have recognised that diversity is one of our greatest strengths and that we must come together during troubling times locally, nationally, and internationally. Tragically, horrific events such as those in the Middle East will have a long-term impact on our communities here and they will continue to work closely with the police and all faith and community leaders to tackle hate in all its forms, ensuring perpetrators are brought to justice and using their role to support communities.

The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership is chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2024. The forum continues to attract a growing list of representatives from local and national anti-slavery and trafficking charities, housing services, private sector organisations, and academia, with the objectives of building partnership projects in response to modern slavery and human trafficking, and promoting initiatives which raise public awareness of the signs of these hidden forms of exploitation.

Meetings during the past year have included input from organisations such as the Bristol-based charity Unseen, who co-ordinate the National Anti-Slavery and Exploitation Helpline, and from West Yorkshire Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise group Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The principal modes of exploitation in West Yorkshire remain sexual exploitation and labour abuses (e.g. cannabis farms, car washes, and an emerging pattern of exploitation seen through domestic servitude and in employment in the care system). A focus of the partnership this year has been to build a strong partner response to victim support, and strategies to aid the police find the perpetrators.

Cross cutting theme

The Safety of Women and Girls



On International Women’s Day, 8 March 2024, West Yorkshire Combined Authority launched a national first — the Women’s Safety Unit. This dedicated team will support the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to deliver the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy, which sets out a long-term plan to bring about change.

The Unit brings together new and existing staff from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority’s Policing and Crime Team, the region’s Violence Reduction Partnership, and West Yorkshire Police.

The Unit 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 unit will support partners to deliver a public health approach, with the involvement of multiple services, working together to implement programmes across private, education, online, and public spaces.

The purpose of this unit is to establish a collaboration between the Mayor’s Policing and Crime Team, Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police 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 violence against women and girls.

The additional resource will provide the structure to support, embed and report on the performance of West Yorkshire Police against the Operation Soteria national operating model (to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape cases). The unit will support the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to 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 risk assessments are of the highest quality and investigations are taking place, consistently, and that through this, we will achieve better outcomes for victims.

Launch of #JustDont campaign

The #JustDont campaign is the latest step in our fight to improve the safety of women and girls. This campaign launched on 19 September 2023, in Leeds City College. The video tells the story of five men who make excuses for their inappropriate behaviour and harassment in everyday situations and escalates to a chilling finale. The campaign aims to empower men and boys to change society for the better. The campaign’s video was created following detailed research and focus groups which found men are often not aware of the issues facing women on a daily basis. By bringing attention to these issues, we hope to instigate behaviour change by encouraging men and boys to have conversations with their friends and family, and to reflect on their own behaviour.

The campaign was informed by the Mayor’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy. An agency was used to produce the campaign and they conducted thorough research, testing the campaign with male and female focus groups, both online and in-person. The Combined Authority worked closely with partners within the safety of women and girls field and was involved in the concept development, casting, storyboard, script and launch of the campaign. Key words, comments, tones, and the messaging of the campaign were all tested to encourage interactive engagement following the launch of the video.

The campaign film has achieved more than 1 million organic views on TikTok in under a week, appeared on BBC Look North and local radio and was aired before a Leeds Rhinos rugby match. It has since gone viral with 4 million+ views online, and now used with young people in workshops and promoted across the community safety partnerships and beyond.



“What? I was just saying... I know where she lives.”



#JustDont

“What? I was just telling her to smile more.”

86% of young women in the UK have experienced sexual harassment in public –

it's not banter, it's not harmless, it's not okay.



Safer Parks

In line with the strategic theme of 'Safe Spaces', West Yorkshire Combined Authority has developed guidance to support parks and green spaces to become safer for women and girls across the UK. This work was launched at a conference at the University of Leeds in May 2023. This guidance followed a research study of a cross-section of more than a hundred women and girls from West Yorkshire which found that the majority of those surveyed believed their local parks to be unsafe. The research – funded by the Mayor and carried out by researchers at the University – concluded that feeling vulnerable in parks is a barrier that needs to be urgently addressed to ensure that women and girls feel able to use, enjoy and benefit from these spaces. Informed by the research findings, the guidance published aims to address that barrier with a range of practical measures, including creating openness and visibility, escape routes, better lighting and the positive presence of park staff and members of the community. This research is a partnership between the Mayor, University of Leeds, Make Space for Girls and Keep Britain Tidy, and is aimed at park managers, local authorities, police and community groups.

The research undertaken highlighted that parks are essential for everyone as they give residents access to nature, spaces to relax and meet friends, and room for activity. A good park can be at the heart of the community, but these benefits are not equally open to all. Women are three times more likely than men to report feeling unsafe in parks during the day, and that gets worse after dark. Better design and management cannot solve all the problems which keep women and girls out of parks, but with the right planning, funding and support, the benefits of parks and green spaces can be enjoyed more equally by everyone.

In March 2024, West Yorkshire Combined Authority arranged for parks staff and volunteers to receive bystander training from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, a non-profit organisation that supports victims of stalking. This builds on the work undertaken in the Just Don't campaign, where people are encouraged to act if they feel safe to do so.

Priority 3

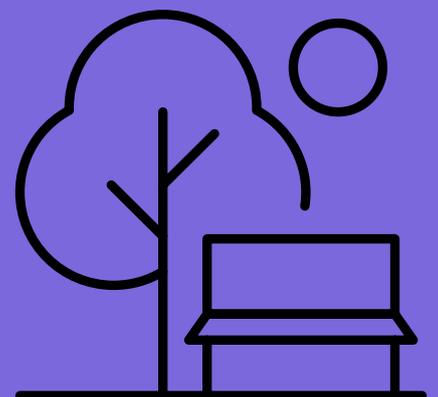
Safer places and thriving communities

Our objectives

- Work to reduce serious violence particularly amongst young people
- Tackle the causes of anti-social behaviour through a targeted approach
- Eliminate traffic fatalities through the new Vision Zero Board and increase safe transport for all
- Ensure communities are safe by targeting organised criminals

Anticipated outcomes

- Lessening of serious violence especially in young people through the Violence Reduction Unit taking a public health approach to this arena
- Focus on neighbourhood policing to drive out organised criminals from areas
- Through the Vision Zero Board provide scrutiny and oversight of safer roads
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour calls to the police and communities feeling safer





Vision Zero

As part of the work to deliver an effective Vision Zero approach across all districts, during 2023–24 a draft Vision Zero Strategy was developed with a launch scheduled for Summer 2024. To understand the priorities of both the public and our partners for the strategy, an online survey ‘Safety on the Roads of West Yorkshire’ ran during Summer 2023, receiving 1,165 responses in total. In October 2023 a further engagement event with partners was held to review the survey results and develop additional understanding of potential barriers and opportunities.

Following the initial baselining and governance work completed in 2022–23, a partnership Communications Group and Data Group have been established. Partners identified a lack of resource to support communications and behaviour change work; subsequently funding has been secured for a Vision Zero Communications Officer role to deliver road safety messaging and coordinate work across the region. Similarly, the joint work of the Data Group is intended to increase our understanding of collision risk in the context of recent increases in the number of people killed and seriously injured. Some of their early work has included child and pedestrian casualties, analysis of collision descriptions, and consideration of new datasets.

In response to feedback from the Vision Zero Board highlighting our post-collision response as an area for improvement, the Major Collision Enquiry Team and the Roads Policing Unit from West Yorkshire Police have been collaborating with the Vision Zero Partnership (previously the Safe Roads Partnership) to improve the notification process and information sharing around serious and fatal collisions. The Partnership have also agreed to fund an Independent Road Victim Advocate (IRVA) role in West Yorkshire to provide victims with face-to-face support. The IRVA will be recruited by Brake, the road safety charity, early in the 2024–25 financial year.

Engagement during the Vision Zero Strategy consultation highlighted that support from legislation at the national level was required to achieve our collective road safety aims. The Vision Zero team accompanied Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Alison Lowe and road safety campaigner Dr Ian Greenwood to Parliament in early 2024 to brief West Yorkshire MPs on Vision Zero and secured support for our objectives.

Work with the Violence Reduction Unit (now VRP) to reduce serious violence in West Yorkshire

Over the past year, significant strides in collective efforts to tackle the underlying causes of serious violence across West Yorkshire have been made, most notably in the Summer of 2023, when a pivotal moment was reached in ambitions to become a Violence Reduction 'Partnership'. Placing even greater emphasis on our collaborative approach, it marked the national introduction of a Serious Violence Duty, with legal expectations for key agencies.

A major milestone was the creation of the West Yorkshire Youth Commission in conjunction with 'Leaders Unlocked'. They met for the first time in April 2023 and have gone from strength to strength, developing a 'Big Conversation' report incorporating vital peer to peer research. There have also been important communications campaigns and engagement efforts, which have continued to support communities on crucial themes such as knife crime, violence against women and girls, and child criminal exploitation.

In addition, the flagship 'Navigator' programme, which sees support workers placed in A&E departments of hospitals, led to a national conference for best practice. Efforts to become a 'trauma-informed system' by 2030 also remain on track, with a charter now launched to assist organisations.

The Violence Reduction Partnership has launched its annual report for 2023–24 which provides an overview of the continued development of the VRP. Research reports produced by the VRP's knowledge hub can be accessed on our website here and an evaluation of our violence reduction projects can be found on our website.

Home Office Safer Streets Fund 4

The Mayor was awarded at total of £1,236,138 from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund 4 between April 2022 to March 2024 to deliver a range of projects in partnership with Local Authorities, Community Safety Partnerships and West Yorkshire Police.

A number of key interventions were delivered with this funding to support the safety of women and girls in the night-time economy. This included the creation of safe spaces hubs in the night-time economies, focusing on

post-midnight times, when issues start to peak. In addition, we were able to fund the development of the street marshals offer across the districts, to create more capable guardians who can provide support and advice to those in need. Street marshals are shown to have the ability to de-escalate tensions, therefore reducing violence. Furthermore, the Ask for Angela behaviour change campaign, a national scheme that helps anyone who is feeling vulnerable on a night out to get the support they need, has engaged 797 venues across West Yorkshire.

The fund has also been used to tackle motorbike enabled anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime in hotspot areas of West Yorkshire. Through partnership workshops, community safety partners across the region highlighted the impact that motorbike anti-social behaviour and associated crime, including vehicle crime and robbery, was having in certain communities in West Yorkshire. Interventions have been developed to tackle the issue with a three-strand approach. This includes enforcement against owners misusing their vehicles or those accommodating misused bikes, for example parents of young people. A youth outreach and diversion programme has been developed working with local voluntary sector providers in specific geographies. In addition, a public engagement campaign in targeted areas has been launched in order to build community relations, facilitate intelligence and enforcement, and reduce communities' tolerance for anti-social behaviour and wider criminality.

Home Office Safer Streets Fund 5

The Home Office launched the Safer Streets Round 5 funding process on 6 July 2023 with funding for interventions over the period from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025. This fund was launched to tackle neighbourhood crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG) and anti-social behaviour (ASB). The funding has been directly awarded to the Mayor as opposed to an open competitive bidding process. Funding has been awarded to Local Authorities, West Yorkshire Police and organisations such as Getaway Girls in Leeds, a non-profit organisation that has supported over 13,500 young women to learn new skills, build confidence, resilience and aspiration over the past 30 years. VAWG policing patrols have also been funded in Kirklees, and West Yorkshire Police patrols in Bradford have used funding to disrupt bike enabled anti-social behaviour.



Overall, 70.3% of residents said they felt safe in their neighbourhood

Public Consultation on Community Safety

Listening to residents' perspective on community safety is an essential part of the work of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and our longstanding 'Your Views' survey remains an important link to public opinion. The survey collects data on residents' views about neighbourhood issues of concern, experience of crime, and satisfaction with the work of the police and community safety partners.

2023's survey attracted 2,751 responses from across our districts. Overall, 70.3% of residents said they felt safe in their neighbourhood, a slight increase from 68.5% of residents on the previous year's results. Other headline results included:

- Road safety and dangerous driving was the top concern for residents across the region, with 74.6% identifying it as a problem in their neighbourhood

- There were slight falls in the proportion of respondents identifying issues with litter and fly tipping (60.1%), dangerous driving (74.6%), and hate crime (6.9%)
- 16.8% of respondents were concerned for the safety of women and girls in their local area compared to 19.7% surveyed during 2022

When we asked respondents to identify their top three community safety issues which concerned them most of all, the top responses were dangerous driving and speeding (identified by 60.6% of respondents), the lack of visible police presence (52.8%), and anti-social behaviour (42%). These results are consistent with the top three concerns from the previous survey conducted in 2022.

Priority 4

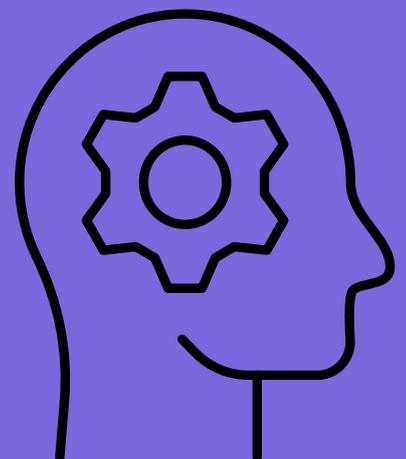
Responding to multiple and complex needs

Our objectives

- Protect vulnerable young people to ensure they are not drawn into a life of criminality
- Embed a trauma-informed approach across all services
- Ensure that services are available for all vulnerable people and criminal justice works for all
- Work to reduce the effects of drugs and alcohol in our communities

Anticipated outcomes

- Delivering innovative approaches to help those who are vulnerable in our communities, due to addiction or mental health challenges
- Greater engagement with lesser heard communities
- Ensuring services for all, especially young people are trauma informed and provide access to services and opportunities



Police and Crime Evidence (PACE) Beds

West Yorkshire was one of three areas to present at the Youth Justice Board Policing Roundtable in April 2024 when we presented on our protocol for providing foster care to criminally charged children. Section 38(6) Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984 places a legal duty on the police to transfer children who have been refused bail to local authority accommodation rather than keeping them in the police station overnight and there is a legal duty placed on Local Authorities to facilitate this. The denial of bail for children being detained by the police is rare. The law aims to ensure that children are detained for the minimum amount of time possible and that their psychological well-being is considered. This year, a survey was sent to membership of the West Yorkshire Child Custody Scrutiny Panel, one year into the life of this group, to review how it operates and the current terms of reference. This panel is concerned with child remands to custody (pre-court) including the observance of the county-wide West Yorkshire Joint Protocol – Pace Beds.

The West Yorkshire Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum

Reinstated in March 2022, this is a place for the region's senior strategic leaders from Criminal Justice, Mental Health NHS Trusts, Acute Care NHS trusts, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and West Yorkshire Police to discuss matters arising from legislation, practice, performance and resourcing, where policing and criminal justice intersect. This forum now has a chair drawn from the health partnership, Sarah Turner (Bradford District NHS Trust) and a deputy chair, Carmaine Gibson-Holmes (South and West Yorkshire NHS Trust). The forum liaises on the Right Care, Right Person National Partnership Agreement, managing the impact and opportunities that arise from the framework, and ensuring co-operation, effective risk-based decision making, and the successful promotion of the agreement. The forum provides a professional space to discuss issues arising from deployment decisions. West Yorkshire Police held two events in April for emergency services organisations. The Combined Authority's Policing and Crime team are engaging with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise partners who work within the mental health and neurodiversity space at a roundtable event scheduled later this year to develop a communications and escalation plan.

West Yorkshire Combating Drugs Partnership Strategic Board

The Board's objective is to address those issues which call for a co-ordinated response from key partners working in the criminal justice and substance misuse space. The Board brings together partners from the police, prisons and probation service, and district public health services, to help co-ordinate West Yorkshire's response to the Government's 'From Harm to Hope' 10-year drugs strategy.

The board's ambition is to shape the work taking place under the strategy's three workstreams: to break supply chains; reduce demand; and enhance treatment pathways; and is closely aligned to the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan's 'Responding to Multiple and Complex Needs' priority.

A key example of the board's work is to promote the use of the anti-overdose treatment 'Naloxone' in West Yorkshire which is currently being trialled by officers across the region. This forum has also helped develop work on a West Yorkshire approach to Nitrous Oxide use, and sign-posting support for those receiving alcohol and drug-treatment orders at local courts through liaison and diversion services.

A recent focus of the board has been working together to prepare a West Yorkshire response following the rise of synthetic opioids entering the UK illegal drugs market. These are substances that are synthesized in a laboratory and that act on the same targets in the brain as natural opioids (e.g., morphine and codeine) to produce pain relief effects. They are incredibly dangerous and when taken at the same dosage as natural opioids the effects can be fatal.

Cross cutting work

Consultation and engagement



Place-based Consultation and engagement

Throughout the year the Consultation and Engagement team have undertaken extensive communication with the public. This has been conducted in several ways and focused on a number of key areas which are outlined below:

- Understanding the impact of anti-social behaviour in communities through attending locally based community meetings, engaging at large scale community events, and supporting the Immediate Justice ASB pilot. The survey associated with this pilot asked for members of the public to feed back their experiences of anti-social behaviour and how they would like to see those responsible make amends. The pilot saw a range of tailored services for adults and children trialled 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.
- Face-to-face engagement on the Vision Zero Survey. The consultation highlighted that nearly 66% of those surveyed (1165 respondents) said they had been affected by a road traffic collision.
- Face-to-face engagement with members of the public about the police Council Tax precept. The team were keen to hear views on the Mayor's plan for police funding for 2024–25 and understand what policing priorities are important to people. In these discussions, drugs, serious violence including gang activity and knife crime, and neighbourhood policing were top of the agenda for the residents we engaged with.
- The 2024 Youth Engagement Conference which is an annual event to give a voice to young people from across West Yorkshire to gather views on feelings of safety and their top crime concerns. The conference is an opportunity for young people and professionals to collaborate, listen and learn, create opportunities for change and identify new ways of working together. The team reached over 2,000 young people through events such as this.





£1,421,660 total fund

91 projects supporting early intervention and prevention

33,909 people impacted

59 projects supporting the safety of women and girls

44 projects supporting equality, diversity and inclusion

117 community based projects

Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund uses proceeds of crime money seized by West Yorkshire Police and puts it back into communities to improve community safety and combat the harms of crime. The fund is open to voluntary, community, not for profit and statutory groups and promotes partnership working across the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in West Yorkshire. All prospective projects must align to the priorities, areas of focus and cross-cutting themes within the Police and Crime Plan 2021–24.

The Mayor has now awarded five grant rounds with Grant Round 5 being the largest to date, with over £1 million awarded. Grant Round 5 was funding aimed specifically at reducing offending and re-victimisation, addressing childhood vulnerability, poor mental health, and experience and/or recovery from drugs and alcohol substance misuse. We also encouraged projects which used a trauma-informed approach to support those vulnerable to criminal behaviour to reduce reoffending through improving skills, employment and housing. The team also welcomed early intervention projects which support diverting vulnerable children and young people from exploitation.

Over the period of April 23 – March 24, the fund allocated £1,421,660 to 117 projects. 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 of 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 4 and 5 in total will impact a minimum of nearly 34,000 people. This includes children, 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 and abuse and serious violence. At the time of publishing, the fund has now invested £3.04million in 357 community-based projects since 2021.

Case study 1

Victim Support – West Yorkshire Independent Stalking Advocacy Service (ISAC)

Victim Support is an independent charity dedicated to supporting victims of crime and traumatic incidents. They provide specialist help to support people to cope and move on to the point where they feel they are back on track with their lives.

The Independent Stalking and Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC) team support victims of domestic stalking aged 16 and above. The service is available to people of any gender, although currently cases referred into the service are predominantly female. The team provide advocacy, information and security items including personal alarms and video doorbells, which help victims of stalking to feel safer in their homes and also help to collect evidence of stalking. This funding enables them to provide more high-risk clients with video doorbell cameras so victims can use this footage in court should the stalker attend their property. £15,050 has been allocated to this service.

Case study 2

Leeds Trinity University – Supporting secondary victims of cold case and long-term missing persons

This is the first phase of a larger project, seeking to identify the support needs of the families of unsolved homicides (referred to as "secondary victims"). Secondary victims are not often recognised in policy or practice underpinning the agencies within the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Yet, they experience exacerbated trauma when they must continue to fight for answers and justice over long periods.

These families frequently report a lack of communication, transparency, or support from the police, which hinders their grief process. A single point of contact (SPOC) is infrequently assigned to secondary victims once the case becomes unsolved, hindering effective communication and obtaining justice. This study will co-create workshops and resources for secondary victims to help them navigate the CJS, and effectively liaise with the police through the incorporation of appropriate advocacy skills. This will be supported by the police and voluntary organisations within the local community. £6,087.36 worth of funding has been allocated to this project.

Cross cutting work Commissioning



Safety of Men and Boys Scoping Report

West Yorkshire Combined Authority commissioned LimeCulture, a national sexual violence and safeguarding organisation, in February 2023 to work with partners and providers to undertake a scoping exercise on the topic of safety of men and boys across the region.

A rapid review and scoping exercise took place in order to:

- Determine the current position in relation to the safety of men and boys in West Yorkshire
- Engage local stakeholders in the early scoping and development of the strategic direction for West Yorkshire in relation to the safety of men and boys
- Explore priority concerns relevant to the safety of men and boys, informed by the local and national evidence base relating to male victims of crime
- Identify initial key themes and recommendations to inform the strategic direction for West Yorkshire in addressing the safety of men and boys

The report findings aim to influence changes in commissioning across the system and support local and regional approaches to future commissioning of multiple-needs services. Eleven recommendations have been made to drive the next stages of development in this area.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Immediate Justice Pilot

At the end of March 2023, the Government published its Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan. Part of the action plan is to provide dedicated funding to support Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners, working with councils and others, to target enforcement in the areas where anti-social behaviour is most prevalent. West Yorkshire is one of ten Immediate Justice pilot sites, and the Mayor has been awarded up to £2million grant funding until 31 March 2025.

Working with the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership's Adversity Trauma and Resilience service,

the team were able to look at the Government's ASB Action Plan through a trauma-informed lens, to support our delivery approach and external communications. This means that services in West Yorkshire will work in a way that is empathetic to what individuals have experienced, rather than pinpointing what is wrong with people.

Across the region, the Immediate Justice approach provides a range of tailored services for adults and children to benefit victims. This includes completing unpaid work, perpetrators repairing damage they have caused, and the option of restorative justice, where the victim can communicate with the person responsible for the crime.

Who are the delivery partners?

To deliver the pilot, the team works with a range of delivery partners who include: HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS); West Yorkshire Youth Justice Services (YJS) – Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield; Restorative Solutions CIC; Victim Support; and West Yorkshire Police.

How is the Immediate Justice Pilot delivered?

Immediate Justice in West Yorkshire is delivered through a range of activities and interventions for both children and adults. For children aged 12 to 17-years-old, Restorative Justice workers in each district of West Yorkshire Youth Services support and deliver reparative activities. The positive activities include health and wellbeing sessions, educational sessions, and 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 are strengths-based and help children to see the value of good behaviour, promote inclusion, and recognise their valuable place in their communities. This approach diverts children away from anti-social behaviour and prevents further offending. Restorative Justice workers also contact victims to ensure their views are represented, their thoughts about suitable activities considered, and they are informed about the outcomes. A total of 290 children have been referred to Immediate Justice, of which 20% were female and 80% were male.

In terms of how the process works for perpetrators of anti-social behaviour (ASB) who are adults, once an investigation by the police is concluded, a Community Resolution, an Outcome 22, or a Conditional Caution may be considered. As part of this, if appropriate, the offender will enter the Immediate Justice scheme, and will either undertake supervised unpaid work, an ASB awareness course, or both.

In Immediate Justice, the police will refer the offender for supervised unpaid work, delivered by the Probation Service. If individuals receive a Community Resolution or an Outcome 22, they would undertake one seven-hour day of supervised unpaid work. If individuals receive a Conditional Caution, they would undertake two seven-hour days of supervised unpaid work.

Immediate Justice unpaid work activity is delivered in public spaces within the community impacted by the crime. This will have exceptions, and alternative activities are available to those with disabilities, injuries, and neurodiversity. Unpaid work takes place seven days a week across West Yorkshire and includes: removing graffiti, clearing wasteland, and decorating public spaces and buildings to benefit the community.

The activity also enables individuals to make positive changes to their lives and aims to reduce the occurrence of reoffending. A total of 242 adults were referred to the scheme and of these 21% were female and 79% were male.

Support for victims

Direct support is available to victims of anti-social behaviour provided through a West Yorkshire-wide victim support service. A link to the website is available here victimsupport.org.uk/west-yorkshire and the telephone number is 0300 303 1971. Lines are open Monday to Saturday, 8am-8pm.

When the offender has been identified, restorative workers will consult with the victims about the reparative activity the offender undertakes and feedback after offenders have completed ASB awareness courses.

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

We have commissioned the Workforce Development Trust to undertake an evaluation of the pilot to evidence our approach and use this learning to inform future services. The full evaluation report was scheduled to be published in the Summer of 2024.

The Immediate Justice website link is available here for more information: westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/anti-social-behaviour-asb-immediate-justice/

For further information in relation to the Mayor's Policing and Crime community-based commissioning please visit westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/commissioning/



Cross cutting work

Strategic Partnerships



In recognition of the importance of effective partnership working for the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, two new roles were created and recruited with this specific focus. In place for around half of the 2023–24 year, this team have supported work across all priorities, covered elsewhere in this report. Some additional work is summarised below.

Governance review

The Strategic Partnerships team reviewed and assessed the structure and set up of the governance mechanisms covering Policing and Crime, consulting with colleagues and partners to get their input. This review resulted in a range of recommendations, with the aim of further developing the efficiency and transparency of the governance of this area of work.

Effective partnership funding

The Mayor continues to utilise her Community Safety Fund to support place-based work by Community Safety Partnerships across the five districts of West Yorkshire. This funding is used by each Community Safety Partnership to support delivery of interventions, projects and services in line with the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan, while having the flexibility to respond to local priorities and needs. The Strategic Partnerships team worked with members of each Community Safety Partnership to better understand the priorities, benefits and challenges in each district in relation to the delivery of the funding.

Listening to our partners

The Strategic Partnerships team has committed to delivering an assessment of the challenges and risks facing partners, as well as looking at opportunities to improve future collaboration. This work aims to inform the breadth of work undertaken by the Policing and Crime team, to ensure we operate in ways that work for partners. A Partnership Survey has been developed to provide partners with the opportunity to share insights in a fair and consistent way and the subsequent learning will help to inform future delivery.

Refreshing partnership mechanisms

Also assessed was the structure and effectiveness of the various formalised boards and forums that the Deputy Mayor and Policing and Crime team convene, support and attend. This included mapping of attendees and terms of reference against the Police and Crime Plan to ensure they are fully fit for purpose. Again, a series of recommendations was produced and will be implemented, with partners, during 2024-25.



Cross cutting work 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 2023–24, the Policing and Crime Casework team assisted over 1,000 members of the public who contacted our office with enquiries relating to policing and crime (1,098 cases logged for 2023–24).

Casework received covered a wide range of issues affecting the public, including reports made to West Yorkshire Police and their response, neighbourhood issues, traffic issues and fraud.

Quarterly surgeries with the 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 five public surgeries during 2023–24.

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

Complaint reviews

The Mayor’s Policing and Crime Casework team conducted 203 reviews of the outcomes of formal complaints handled by West Yorkshire Police during 2023–24.

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.

Mayor's pledge Police Service Funding and officer recruitment



The Mayor of West Yorkshire oversees the police budget, which includes setting a Council Tax precept for policing. At a time when inflation is at record highs, we've seen a 20% reduction in government funding for policing over 10 years.

The positive response to the precept survey, which was a public consultation to set West Yorkshire Police's budget for 2023–24, made it clear just how much residents value the police, but to maintain this service, the Mayor has had to increase the police section of council tax by 6.78%. It means most paid between 19p and 26p extra per week, with the majority in West Yorkshire being in Council Tax Bands A, B or C. Without this, we would face more severe pressures, forcing cuts across policing operations.

The precept proposal resulted in an overall budget of £694.040m with the largest share (55%) originating from the Government's core grant for police services. A full record of the budget and accounts for 2023–24 is available at westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/finance

The funding was used to help bolster frontline policing with new officers and specialist staff. The Mayor delivered on her pledge to increase numbers of police officers and staff, with 895 more recruited in the last three years.

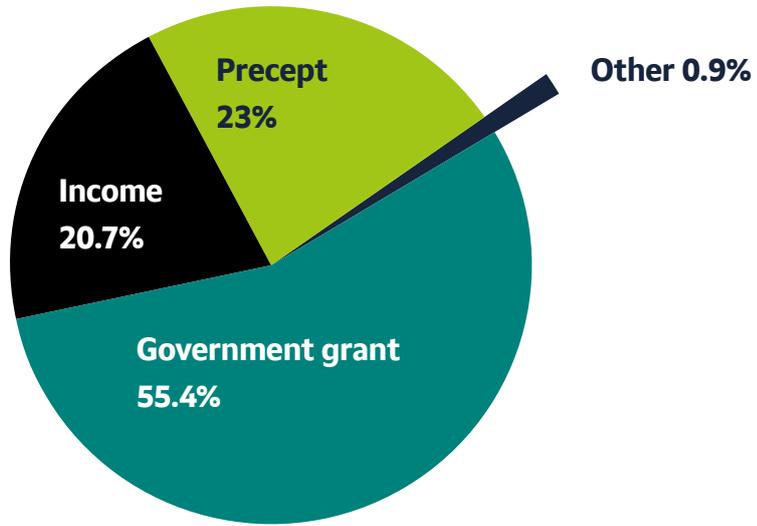
Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, Cllr Al Garthwaite, said at the time:

"Having read the Mayor's report and listened carefully to her responses to our questions, as a Panel, we unanimously support the Mayor's proposal for increased funding for the police, through the precept element of the council tax.

We have not taken this decision lightly. As Councillors, we are acutely aware of the increased financial pressures on residents at the moment. However, we also know that keeping our neighbourhoods safe is incredibly important to our communities, and we want West Yorkshire Police to continue to build on their work in this area. As a Panel, we commit to continuing our scrutiny of the Mayor in relation to these areas of policing, and to hold her to account for her commitments to create a safe, just and inclusive West Yorkshire."

2023–24

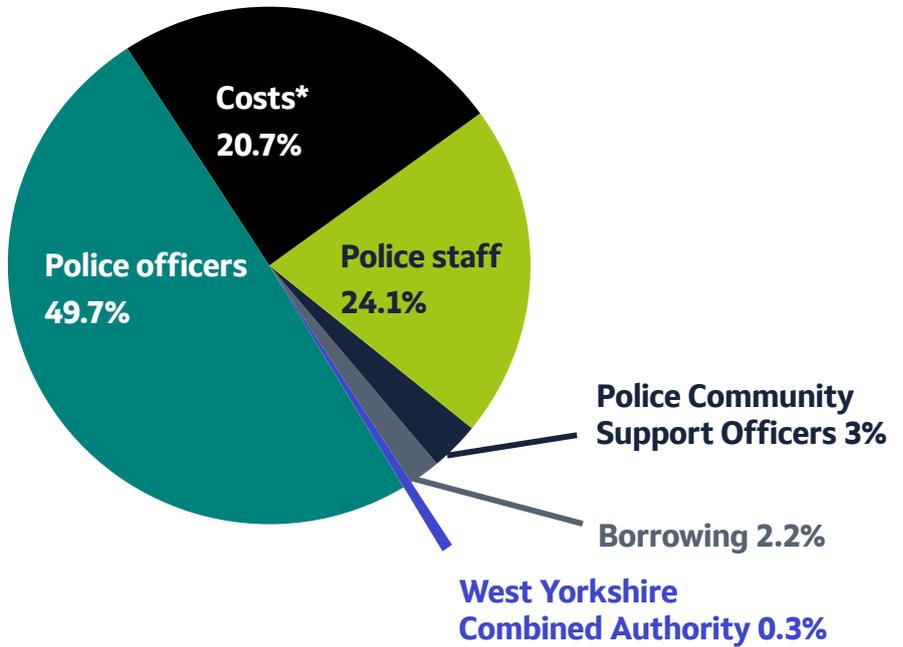
Where the money came from



2023–24

Where the money was spent

* Running costs e.g. premises and vehicles



Budget	2022–23 £m	2023–24 £m
Gross expenditure	649.293	694.040
Council Tax requirement	147.863	159.533



The funding was used to help bolster frontline policing with new officers and specialist staff

The 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.

Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and elected mayors with PCC responsibilities must have regard to the SPR when issuing their Police and Crime Plan for policing challenges which go beyond their Force boundaries. Chief Constables must have regard to both the Police and Crime Plan and the SPR and will be held to account for delivery of the functions, and the Mayor holds the Chief Constable accountable for doing so through our governance framework.

A revised version of the SPR was published nationally in February 2023, which strengthened the detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The identified threats were: serious and organised crime (SOC), terrorism, cyber, child sexual abuse, public disorder, and civil emergencies. These remain from the 2015 version, with the addition in 2023 of violence against women and girls (VAWG), reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.

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 West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

Violence Against Women and Girls

During March 2024, West Yorkshire Combined Authority launched a national first — the Women's Safety Unit. This dedicated team will support the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to hold the Force to account for our deliverables regarding violence against women and girls. The unit brings together new and existing staff from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Policing and Crime Team, the region's Violence Reduction Partnership, and West Yorkshire Police. Other notable activities during the past year include the launch of the

#JustDont campaign and guidance to support parks and green spaces to become safer for women and girls across the UK. As an exemplar Force, being pathfinders in innovation and accelerating the embedding of the VAWG Framework, West Yorkshire Police continue to lead in many new trailblazing initiatives.

Terrorism

West Yorkshire Police 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 new CONTEST Strategy. West Yorkshire Police have also been working to ensure that the Manchester Arena Inquiry recommendations have been fully implemented. This includes major incident planning with live tests alongside network operators. West Yorkshire Police have reported back to the chair of the inquiry and the plans have been signed off.

Serious and Organised Crime

West Yorkshire Police, with key partners, delivers the Home Office Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy through Programme Precision. The centralised function (Force Precision) has enhanced serious and organised crime sections, to ensure prominence for crime types such as fraud, organised immigration crime, modern slavery and human trafficking, drugs and County Lines. 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. In addition, Clear Hold Build (CHB), a framework for bringing the tackling of serious and organised crime threats into neighbourhood policing, is being rolled out across West Yorkshire. During 2023–24 there were

three CHB areas – BD3 in Bradford, Harehills in Leeds and Ashbrow in Kirklees. Building on this initiative, the Deputy Mayor is supporting police and partner collaboration on these projects through the newly formed West Yorkshire SOC Partnership Board.

National Cyber Incident

West Yorkshire Police and West Yorkshire Combined Authority report on cybercrime on a quarterly basis which is presented to the Police and Crime Panel. This reporting includes useful insights from the Cyber Dashboard including the top five reported crime codes, the number of reports and reported losses and compares with our most similar forces. The Economic Crime Unit Team have regularly been involved in initiatives to contribute to cyber threat reduction. For example, the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit's Cyber Crime Unit has launched the first Cyber Blue Line (CBL) Community Engagement Vehicle. This vehicle is a fully mobile and digitally-equipped resource that enables the Cyber Prevent and Protect messaging to be disseminated to a wide and varied audience in an immersive, engaging, and interactive way. The CBL vehicle is equipped with three gaming stations for both educational games and traditional games. CBL also has a fully-equipped Virtual Reality (VR) experience scenario.

Child Sexual Abuse

West Yorkshire Police's approach to child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) has developed over the years to match the changing demand and complexity in this area. Each district has a dedicated Child Safeguarding Team, a Child Vulnerability Exploitation Team (CVET), an Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) and a Public Protection Unit. At a Force level there is also a Modern-Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Team who work with partners and officers to investigate and understand complex and organised offending, an Abusive Image Assessment Hub and a Digital Forensic Unit. Extensive training has been undertaken with officers and staff outside of our safeguarding teams to re-enforce their understanding of social care referral processes (Public Protection Notices). This training has recently been refreshed during October to December 2023 through mandatory full day face-to-face training with all patrol teams across the Force covering all aspects of child protection.

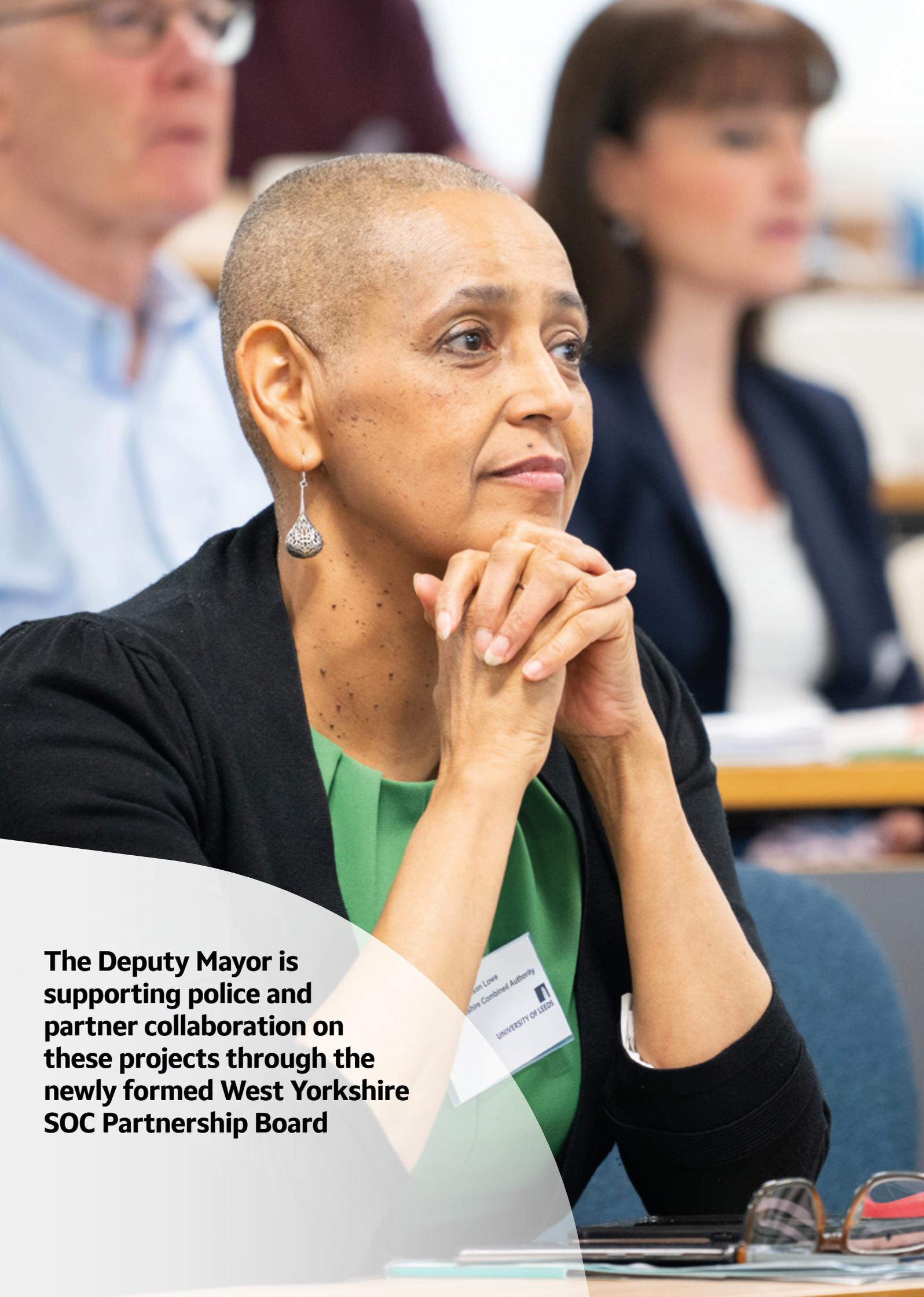
Additionally, the Combined Authority support victim care through our commissioning and contract management of the Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service (CSAAS) at the West Yorkshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). The Mayor funds the provision of Children and Young Persons' Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CHISVA / CYPISVA) across West Yorkshire and match funds with Local Authorities in Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield the Ivison Trust Parent Liaison Officers. The Parent Liaison Officers work with multi-agency partners to tackle child exploitation as an independent source of support and contact for parents and carers whose children are being sexually and criminally exploited external to the family. The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) commissioned an [evaluation](#) of the Ivison Trust Parent Liaison Officers which is available on our website.

Public Disorder

The Force has a designated Public Order Public Safety (POPS) Lead supported with designated practitioner leads in POPS and police mobilisation, in line with guidance by the National Police Chiefs' Council. Throughout the year no-notice exercises take place to test West Yorkshire's capability to respond and draw upon specialist Police Support Unit resources. Additionally, and as potential threats have changed over the last few years these no-notice exercises have included the mobilisation of specialist resources such as PRT (Protester Removal Team) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Responses (CBRN).

Civil Emergencies

The West Yorkshire Resilience Forum (West Yorkshire Prepared) coordinates the actions and arrangements between responding services to prepare for and respond to civil emergencies when they occur. We also help people and communities recover after adverse events. The partners of West Yorkshire Prepared meet to ensure that agencies across West Yorkshire are prepared for major emergencies and co-ordinated in their planning, training and exercising. The partners work collaboratively for the benefit of the communities they serve. West Yorkshire Prepared also undertakes risk assessments and produces a [Risk Register](#) to outline the types of risks that may occur locally and gives advice on how to be better prepared for such events. Membership of the forum has been updated and includes West Yorkshire Police and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.



The Deputy Mayor is supporting police and partner collaboration on these projects through the newly formed West Yorkshire SOC Partnership Board

**The Mayor and the
Chief Constable will
regularly meet to drive
activity and help deliver
our vision for policing
and community safety**



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 come to the meeting including the annual reports from other subsidiary groups such as the Independent Custody Visitors and the Joint Audit Committee.

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](#).

Community Outcomes Meetings

Quarterly, themed meetings, with questions from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on reports submitted by West Yorkshire Police on topics of importance to the public. Filmed recordings of these meetings are available on our [website](#).

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 West Yorkshire Police and the Combined Authority. West Yorkshire Police and the Combined Authority provide updates on budget monitoring, the scheme of delegation, and details of contracts and particular projects.

The draft terms of reference are being developed for proposal to the new Joint Independent Ethics Committee members. Independent members and a chair will be recruited via an external recruitment campaign, and be in role ahead of the first committee meeting, which is expected to take place in Autumn 2024.

Women of
West Yorkshire
2023



Work on 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, other agencies, and the Government on relevant work, to support colleagues nationwide to meet and exceed their equality duties.

The Deputy Mayor also plays a key role in the implementation of the national Police Race Action Plan. The action plan sets out changes across policing to improve outcomes for Black people who work within or interact with policing. 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.



Performance monitoring

Measure category key
Police Measures (Po)
Partnership Measures (Pa)
WYCA Measures (CA)

Priority 1

Supporting victims and witnesses and improving criminal justice outcomes

Category	Metric	2018–19	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	Change
Po	Increase victim satisfaction with the police	74.9%	72.6%	71.8%	71.9%	0.1%
Po	Increase satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse	86.0%	85.1%	83.5%	82.2%	-1.3%
Po	Maintain high level of calls answered in target	90.1%	85.6%	87.9%	89.3%	1.5%
Po	Improve outcomes for victims of rape	144 (4.2%)	296 (8.1%)	280 (7.7%)	327 (8.7%)	+47 (1.0%)
Po	Improve outcomes for victims of Serious Sexual Offences	453 (6.6%)	603 (7.8%)	664 (8.2%)	719 (9.1%)	+56 (0.8%)
Po	Improve outcomes for Domestic Abuse	5115 (9.6%)	4,132 (6.8%)	4,513 (7.0%)	4,142 (7.5%)	-371 (0.5%)
Po	Increase proportion of crimes with a victim initial needs assessment	Not available	97.0%	98.9%	99.1%	0.2%
Pa	Decrease ineffective trial rate (Magistrates Court)	14.8%	25.4%	21.3%	27.3%	5.9%
Pa	Increase volume of early guilty pleas: Crown	37.7%	37.8%	37.3%	39.8%	2.4%
Pa	Increase volume of early guilty pleas: Magistrates	63.5%	70.2%	68.8%	73.8%	4.7%
Pa	Decrease average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution (number of days): Qtr 1	43.6%	75.3%	68.4%	N/A	N/A
Pa	Decrease average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution (number of days): Qtr 2	38.1%	75.3%	57.1%	90.0	N/A
Pa	Decrease average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution (number of days): Qtr 3	45.8%	82.0%	100.1%	N/A	N/A
Pa	Decrease average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution (number of days): Qtr 4	72.0%	72.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Priority 2

Keeping people safe and building resilience

Category	Metric	2018–19	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	Change
Po	Monitor the number of young persons flagged as at risk of criminal exploitation	Not available	650	653	646	-7
CA	Monitor indicators from Cyber Dashboard (Action Fraud)	Not available				
Po	Reduce number of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse	48.1%	33,393	35,937	31,273	-4,664
Po	Reduce number of repeat victims of Hate Crime	Not available	2,731	3,007	2,362	-645
Po	Increase use of Domestic Violence Protection Order	236	441	555	387	-168
Po	Increase use of Domestic Violence Protection Notice	155	456	554	383	-171
Po	Increase use of Stalking Prevention Orders	Not available	1	3	15	+12

Performance monitoring

Measure category key
Police Measures (Po)
Partnership Measures (Pa)
WYCA Measures (CA)

Priority 3

Safer places and thriving communities

Category	Metric	2018–19	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	Change
Pa	Reduce number of Homicides	24	26	26	30	+2
Pa	Reduce hospital admissions for assault with a sharp instrument	260	240	195	205	-30
Pa	Reduce Knife Crime	2,599	2,395	2,293	2,285	-102
Po	Reduce number of ASB incidents		35,377	27,031	27,340	+309
Po	Keep Neighbourhood Crime below baseline	46,162	29,337	33,810	33,791	-19
CA	Monitor cyber attacks on businesses via WYCA survey	Not available				
Po	Increase proportion of workforce from ethnic minorities		6.5%	7.2%	8.5%	+1.3%
Po	Increase proportion of female officers		37.1%	39.1%	39.6%	+0.5%
Pa	Reduce those Killed or Seriously Injured on West Yorkshire roads: fatal		65	50	42	-8
Pa	Reduce those Killed or Seriously Injured on West Yorkshire roads: serious		1348	1400	1324	-76
Po	Recruit 750 police officers and staff by April 2024: Officers		5,669	6,070	6,066	-4
Po	Recruit 750 police officers and staff by April 2024: Staff/PCSOs		4,252	4,350	4,439	+90

Priority 4

Responding to multiple and complex needs

Category	Metric	2018–19	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	Change
VRP	Monitor VRU early intervention programme attendees	Not Available	Not Available	18,948	9,331	-200
Po	Reduce number of repeat missing children below baseline level	1,458	985	946		-34
Po	Reduce number of repeat missing adults below baseline level	933	407	354		-10
Pa	Reduce re-offending rate for drug-related crime (over 12 months)	25.7% to June 2019	21.6% to Mar 2020	21.8% to Mar 2021	21.4% to Mar 2022	0.4%
Pa	Reduce the number of first-time entrants to Criminal Justice System: Adults	Not available	2,836	3,831	3,576	-255
Pa	Reduce the number of first-time entrants to Criminal Justice System: Juveniles	Not available	518	474	474	0
Po	Increase number of offenders referred to drug treatment services via Liaison and Diversion Services	Not available	457	482	441	+23





**West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority**

**Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire**

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Policing and Crime

Wellington House
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds LS1 2DE

Email policingandcrime@westyorks-ca.gov.uk

Web westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policingandcrime