**Community Outcomes Meeting (COM)**

Date: Tuesday 18 June 2024

**Present**

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| Tracy Brabin – Mayor of West YorkshireAlison Lowe – Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC)  Julie Reid – Head of Policing and Crime, WYCA  | Catherine Hankinson, DCC, WYPDamien Miller – ACC, WYP  Pat Twiggs – ACC, WYP Russ Hughes – Chief Supt, WYP |

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| **Also present.**

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| Rachel Hannan – Consultation and Engagement Officer, Policing and Crime Joshua Powling, Digital Communications Officer, Policing and Crime  | Paige Cowling, Consultation and Engagement Officer, Policing and Crime Ella Rotherham-Brown, Mayoral Support Manager   |

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1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies.**

The Mayor introduced the meeting, welcomed those in attendance and provided an overview of the agenda.

1. **Notes of the previous meeting on 27 February 2024 and Matters arising.**

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.

1. **Mayors Announcements:**
2. **Mayoral Election –** The Mayor said she was delighted to have been re-elected and was looking forward to the next 4 years in office.

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1. The Mayor noted the recent sentencing of Rashane Douglas, who had been sentenced to 28 years imprisonment for the double murder of Joshua Clarke and Haidar Shah, and 6 years imprisonment for wounding with intent of Brandon Coupe in Halifax in October 2023. She commended West Yorkshire Police for this outcome and was hopeful it would bring some reassurance to local communities.
2. **Annual West Yorkshire Policing Awards -** The annual West Yorkshire Policing Awards took place on Friday 7 June. The awards recognised the exceptional work of police officers, staff, volunteers and partners over the past year. The Mayor said it was wonderful to see the recognition for teams and individuals who had shown extraordinary dedication and bravery, and had contributed greatly to keeping the people of West Yorkshire safe.
3. **Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund -** The most recent round of the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund had now closed for applications. This round was the first time that applications were welcomed for projects to deliver on Clear, Hold, Build priorities in three Home Office pilot areas in West Yorkshire. .
4. **Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel** – Applications were open to become a member of our new Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel. The Panel would objectively and independently review matters of disproportionality, looking at areas such as strip searches, use of force and access to services for police custody in West Yorkshire. This was a unique opportunity to make a positive contribution as the Panel would play an important role in supporting the Mayor and DMPC to hold the Chief Constable to account on both good and poor practices that impacted on people detained in police custody.
5. **Item 4 – Exception Paper - Custody – access the full report** [**HERE**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12481/item-4-custody-cover-paper.docx)

The Mayor knew that Black and mixed-race people were over-represented in the arrest figures and said to help us understand why, she needed more information around the choices an officer made between arrest, and voluntary or informal attendance (VA).  She asked for the full VA demographic data outside of this meeting. She also asked what the demographic proportions were of suspects shown on crime to get a true picture. She said they were looking to establish whether a protected characteristic signified whether an individual was more likely to be arrested, or allowed to voluntary attend for interview, for a similar set of circumstances where they were a suspect for a crime.

ACC Twiggs said that they arrested just over 51.5k people a year, of that approx. 8.3k people voluntary attended interviews. This figure included adults and children. 4.5% of VA was with the black community compared with the census, which was 3.1%, this showed there was disproportionality present. In Leeds the VA rate increased to 8% compared with the local population of 5.6% which showed increased disproportionality. This mirrored the picture with arrests, and they believed one of the primary reasons for this was due to the proactive targeted activity on the youth violence problems within some Leeds communities where knife and machete activity affected a lot of young black people.

The Mayor asked how many of the 8.3k voluntary attendees were children. ACC Twiggs did not have the figures but would provide them outside of the meeting.

ACC Twiggs said WYP tried to deal with children outside of the custody environment wherever possible. If a child did need to be brought into custody they undertook risk assessments, ensured access to Liaison and Diversion and if they needed to be kept overnight for court, they were kept in a section 38 Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) bed rather than a police cell.

In terms of the suspect and offender records WYP had approx. 191k people recorded for the last calendar year. The ethnicity breakdown in this data showed the black community represented 3.6% which was much closer to the census data.

The DMPC said that VA was not always a bad thing and for young people it was preferential. We knew that nationally, arrests of Black and Minority Ethnic people were also disproportionate to their numbers in the wider population. She would like to see the proportion of VAs versus arrests made by ethnicity as if individuals were choosing VA this was positive.

The DMPC added that His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) highlighted 2 areas for concern and 15 areas for improvement and this report was on the WYP website should members of the public be interested. There was a closely monitored action plan in place and WYCA had a working party with ACC Twiggs to offer any support.

The Mayor stated there was no data in the report about the numbers of children being admitted to custody, or the force’s policy or ethical view of this. She asked for the data to be shared and asked what the force’s approach to children being admitted to custody was.

ACC Twiggs said there had been 3829 children arrested last year which was a slight increase on the previous year of 4%. This was mostly in Leeds District and they believed this was a direct result of the proactive activity to address the Urban Street Gangs and their drive to reduce knife crime in young people. He confirmed that children were classed as those under the age of 18, most arrests were of those aged between 14-17.

The Mayor was aware that WYP were facing challenges with the quality of CCTV in Private Finance Initiative (PFI) suites, she asked how the force was mitigating against this risk e.g. use of Body worn video and when the PFI footage issue was likely to be resolved.

ACC Twiggs said the quality of the CCTV was ok but was not the high-definition standard that they had elsewhere. Because of how PFI worked it was slower to change as they had to work with the company that over saw it. They had a current trial ongoing at Leeds of a new HD camera that they were hopeful would bring things up to standard. They were waiting on the outcome of this before they could set a date for roll out.

The Mayor asked when custody officers wore Body Worn Video. ACC Twiggs said they would only be used if e.g., CCTV failed and they needed to monitor an individual, they were not deployed into cells as people’s privacy needed to be considered.

The Mayor said there were cold spots within the CCTV at Elland Road. ACC Twiggs said that the HMICFRS also picked this up and they had now been rectified.

The Mayor then asked in terms of the HMICFRS inspection; what improvements had been made to the data and governance of Custody Services in WYP, what was WYP doing to improve the oversight and data capture around use of force in the custody suite.

ACC Twiggs began by explaining that force within a custody suite could include similar measures to those used on the street, from laying hands on someone, use of PAVA spray, handcuffs and baton. He said that taser was never really used in custody.

In terms of governance, there was previously a custody and criminal justice board, however this did not do the custody issues justice. They had therefore separated those boards. This allowed for a more detailed and focussed set of data. WYP were developing a Power BI App which would allow them to have a daily focus on use of force. This was still in trial stages but once fully live it would allow the force to see daily where force had been used. There were some challenges around recording use of force as currently the two systems used to record force (when on the street via their handheld device, and when in custody) did not speak to each other. Officers were responsible for recording and justifying every use of force. They were currently looking at work arounds including AI for this by simplifying the systems. ACC Twiggs said these improvements should be live in the next few weeks.

The DMPC asked about other forces who had not had this issue highlighted as a problem in their inspections and had learning been taken from them.

ACC Twiggs said it was a problem with all of the Niche forces across the country (approx. 30) and so far, nobody had come up with a work around for this. Some forces were developing similar Apps to WYP and they had linked in with forces that were ahead of them in this development.

The Mayor asked for reassurance that when errors did happen that management or disciplinary action was taken.

ACC Twiggs confirmed this was the case, they had increased their monthly monitoring and dip sampling, and the data was sent back to districts where relevant action was taken. The Custody Services team looked at every use of Public Address/Violence Alarm (PAVA) spray in custody as this was another area of concern from the HMICFRS inspection as there was disproportionality between WYP and other forces. Several referrals had been made to the Professional Standards Department regarding the potential misuse or overuse of PAVA in custody.

The Mayor said that use of PAVA in an enclosed space such as custody was completely different to use in an outdoor space. ACC Twiggs said use of PAVA was a level of force below e.g. use of a baton and they were concerned that if they removed PAVA from custody settings that higher uses of force would be used. He did agree that PAVA in enclosed spaces was a problem in terms of cross-contamination.

The DMPC pointed out that the HMICFRS report stated that some uses of PAVA they had reviewed should never have reached that stage. She said it was important for officers to understand how high the threshold was for PAVA use and the importance of managing escalation. ACC Twiggs said they were alive to this and they were monitoring the use, particularly with new officers.

The Mayor asked whether they saw a difference between newer officers and experienced officers. ACC Twiggs said they had seen some differences, but they were still exploring the reasons for this.

DCC Hankinson said they had been looking at this force wide, to ascertain whether it was a case of newer officers being less experienced in negotiation and therefore resorting to higher levels of force more quickly so they could adapt their training accordingly. ACC Twiggs said they had also introduced mandatory Custody Inspectors courses which focussed on use of force and recording. The central Custody Services team had also conducted in person briefings with all custody staff around issues with use of force.

The DMPC said finally that at the next meeting a Use of Force paper would be discussed which would separate out disparities around use of force in custody.

**Actions:**

**WYP to**

1. **provide the full Voluntary Attendance demographic data including a breakdown of adults and children and proportion of VAs compared to arrests by ethnicity**
2. **Provide data on number of children admitted to custody.**
3. **Update WYCA when the updated use of force recording was live.**
4. **Safeguarding - Child - to access the full report** [**HERE**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12482/item-5-safeguarding-cover-paper.docx)**.**

The Mayor asked to start the discussion with a brief overview of the current trends in child safeguarding linked to offending that West Yorkshire Police were encountering. She said she knew from talking to the public that child safety was a big concern.

ACC Miller said WYP followed the national trends in relation to child safeguarding. Offenders operated both online and offline so there were no physical force borders. They got their national insights from the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) who produced a totality report. Unfortunately, this report could not be shared publicly, however a public facing version was available on the VKPP website. They also received the Complex and Organised Child Abuse database which showed their rank regionally and nationally in relation to offending. The force had a good working relationship with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) lead and the VKPP.

The VKPP had done a peer review and WYP assisted with peer reviews of other forces which allowed best practice to be shared. The force was outstanding in terms of crime data integrity so any referral with any mention of neglect or abuse would be recorded as such, and they worked with partners to ensure the wrap around care was provided. Because of how these crimes were recorded WYP sat outside of the national trend in terms of neglect and abuse. ACC Miller said they had also seen an alarming rise nationally in child sexual abuse, this was particularly in relation to school age children sharing images. It was an offence to possess, take or share an indecent image of a child. All incidents were recorded, however where both parties were under 18 and the images had not been shared wider than the individuals involved, means other than a criminal route would be pursued. If the images had been shared further or one of the parties was over 18 this would be taken down a criminal route.

The Mayor said there were many challenges there, one being to identify what was a misguided young relationship and was sharing images on a phone sensible for young people. ACC Miller said that Pol-Ed covered topics such as this.

The Mayor said that Pol-Ed was a programme that most schools in West Yorkshire had taken up. ACC Miller agreed, 92% of schools were now signed up to the programme.

The DMPC asked for reassurance that even where children were not criminalised, the images were uploaded to the national database. ACC Miller confirmed they were as this allowed them to identify children who were subject of offending but had not yet been identified but may be during an investigation.

The Mayor said that the ‘Working Together’ document placed the Chief Constable as a lead safeguarding partner in West Yorkshire alongside our Local Authority Chief Executives, and Chief Executives of the Integrated Care Board. She asked how those working arrangements were operating e.g., how often were they meeting, were the minutes published and what were current topics under discussion.

ACC Miller said that the changes came in the latest round of ‘Working Together’ which was updated for 2023 and published towards the end of last year. Practices they had in place prior to this included the District Commanders which sat on the Local Safeguarding Boards and fed into the Protecting Vulnerable Persons (PVP) Board that ACC Miller chaired. Information from this board was then fed directly to the Chief Constable. Through ‘Working Together’, the Chief Constable became the lead Safeguarding partner (LSP), in West Yorkshire they had kept the level below at Commander level as they had relationships at a local level. They would still report into the PVP Board but the Chief Constable would be the LSP. They were currently arranging a meeting between the Chief Executives and the Care Board Chief Officers which was still to be finalised. They also had the National Facilitator for Safeguarding Children Reform from the College of Policing come to talk through the process in West Yorkshire who had agreed this model was fit for purpose. WYCA had a seat on the PVP Board which received regular updates from Commanders in relation to their local safeguarding partners and progress.

The Mayor asked who was on the PVP Board. ACC Miller said it was chaired by himself and included the 5 District Commanders, WYP Safeguarding Governance Department, people from Corporate Services and WYCA. The Mayor said she was trying to include voices of lived experience wherever possible and wondered if this could be developed further.

ACC Miller said discussion topics would be decided once the meetings were scheduled, however key topics were fed into the PVP Board from the District Commanders. The key topic at the moment was the restructure of Working Together and how best to do this.

The Mayor said it was great to see multi-agency working to tackle bigger problems in society. She asked from the 12 recommendations they were working on, which areas would have the greatest impact in safeguarding children in West Yorkshire.

ACC Miller said the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs would have the biggest impact. They were looking at the ongoing quality training provided to the staff who worked in the hubs in relation to information sharing. The key to providing an effective response was sharing information between partners. They had also delivered quality training to front-line resources which included patrol, neighbourhood policing teams and operation functions and this had mainly been around Police Protection Notices. Improving the quality of the referral was key. He added they had also worked on the staffing levels of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs, increased demand in child safeguarding had resulted in an increased workload so they were working on increased staffing levels to prevent delays. They had also made sure that partners were part of the initial joint triage process.

The Mayor asked what the initial outcomes were from this new way of working. ACC Miller said they assessed based on a BRAG rating (Blue, Red, Amber Green). Blue meant there was no identified risk, Green highlighted a safeguarding concern which would be dealt with within 72 hours, Amber 24 hours and Red 2-3 hours. He said the triage and sharing of information was vital to ensure all available information was gathered.

The Mayor then asked what further improvement to safeguarding might be expected from adopting the Child Protection Team model being tested in other areas of the country. ACC Miller said this was a national review which WYP were not part of, they had not been privy to the specific objectives or testing mechanisms and they were waiting for the review to be published. There was no date for publication yet, but once it was they would take it and implement it as it would be seen as best practice.

The Mayor said when she went out and about people raised concerns with her about sex offenders in the community and the management of those. She asked how many sexual harm prevention orders had been requested and how many agreed to in the last 12 months.

ACC Miller said they only became aware of them once granted, from 1 April 23 to 1 April 24 there were 299 sexual prevention orders granted. The Mayor asked for clarity on what the prevention order meant.

It set out requirements around how the individual had to behave, but also how they could be managed. If their conditions were breached it gave the police the power of arrest.

The Mayor asked with regards to the management of the orders, what the current picture was and how this had changed. She also asked how many were high-risk and if the proportions changed. ACC Miller said in terms of registered sex offenders there were 3474 currently in West Yorkshire. This was an increase of 240 since 1 April 2023. He could not publicly break this down any further, however the number of high-risk offenders being managed had reduced. The main reason for the increase in registered sex offenders was in part due to online offending as more people were being convicted of possession and sharing of indecent imagery and these individuals were often being managed within the community.

The Mayor asked whether the 299 individuals with the sexual harm prevention orders were the most dangerous. ACC Miller said not necessarily, the most dangerous were the ones registered as high-risk sex offenders.

**Action:**

**WYP to consider the voice of lived experience on the PVP board.**

1. **Neighbourhood Policing and Anti-Social Behaviour – access to the full report** [**HERE.**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12483/item-6-neighbourhood-policing-and-asb-cover-paper.docx)

The Mayor began by asking what messaging WYP had shared with partners and communities regarding officer and PCSO visibility. She also noted abstractions and vacancy factors, and whether WYP understood how this impacted trust and confidence at a local level.

ACC Miller said it was a positive message as they were in a much better position to this time last year. They were on their way back to the 575 PCSOs and some of the Police Constable (PC) vacancies they were carrying within Neighbourhood Policing were due to an uplifted budget by 66 full time equivalents which meant they were currently recruiting. He anticipated those would be filled by September 24. The number of abstractions from Neighbourhood Policing had been minimised and was now monitored.

The Mayor thanked the public for agreeing to the police precept and she was able to get commitment from the Chief Constable that this money would go to PCSOs to reassure the public on the streets.

The DMPC said she was pleased to see that the College of Policing were developing a new career pathway for Neighbourhood Policing. She asked what involvement WYP had with this and whether they would be committing to rolling out that course. ACC Miller confirmed they had engaged with the College of Policing and had asked to be part of the pilot.

The DMPC added that we had been asked for examples of good practice that we could share with the College of Policing and so asked them to share anything they would like us to pass on.

The Mayor then asked what the reasons were for the decrease in volunteer hours for Specials and Police Support Volunteers. ACC Miller said this had been a national decrease. He felt the biggest reason for this was the police uplift programme as specials were becoming Police Officers. Additionally, they saw a massive reduction in people volunteering during Covid and pre-Covid levels had not returned. Finally, he said that the training programme that was provided for Specials was not fully accessible to those who worked full time because of the time commitment required. They had therefore shortened the initial training programme and had had a recent drive of Special Constable recruitment.

The Mayor asked if this was the same for support volunteers. ACC Miller said these individuals did not get the same training as Specials as they were brought in for a specific role. The Mayor and DMPC offered their help in publicising recruitment for these roles.

The Mayor noted that the data spoke about the increase in incidents finalised as harassment which had increased by 25.6%. She asked whether this was due to changes in recording. ACC Miller said that some of the increase was due to changes in crime recording, as the system was updated. He also said where there was a continued course of conduct. This was now looked at up to a 3 month window, anything further than 3 months was recorded as a new crime. He added that although these factors accounted for some of the increase, it did not account for all of it, and they had seen some increase in this crime type.

The Mayor asked what the plan was to increase the number of PCs in Neighbourhoods, whether there was an understanding of where these vacancies were sat and how this was controlled. ACC Miller said they had just completed the Local Accountability meetings and they now had a Power BI App which showed where all the vacancies were across districts. They had increased the budget by 66 full time equivalents who should be in post by September 24. He said the reason for the delay was that they had to bring people through training and patrol first before they could be released to neighbourhoods. This process was being managed by District Commanders and overseen by the Reassurance Board.

The Mayor asked which areas had increased numbers of staff on neighbourhoods and whether this continue or was it due to short term projects. ACC Miller said the PCs were permanent, and the uplift officers were full time postings with no plans to remove them.

The Mayor then asked what understanding had come from the Solving Problems in Neighbourhood meetings, whether there was any understanding of shared themes across the county and how this was communicated. ACC Miller spoke about repeat demand locations and key individuals who were causing issues in those areas. From this they had learned that there were certain themes with those individuals and locations including mental health, domestic abuse, CCE and CSE. They had created a ‘What Works Well’ library to ensure best practice was shared. Best practice was also shared through a Neighbourhoods Learning Forum and the Chief Inspectors Steering Group. Each district also had to report one piece of best practice back to the Reassurance Board chaired by ACC Miller.

Finally, the Mayor said that the Reassurance Board sounded like a great idea and would be great information for out CSP’s. She asked whether the information was shared with them.

ACC Miller said the information was not shared as the Reassurance Board was an internal meeting, however WYCA did have a chair on there. He said any best practice that should be shared with CSPs could be done so through the District Commanders who attended the meeting.

**Actions:**

1. **WYP to share any examples of good practice with WYCA in relation to Neighbourhood Policing following a request from the College of Policing**
2. **WYCA to help promote recruitment for Special Constables and support volunteers wherever possible.**
3. **The Mayor to create a video to promote Special Constable and support volunteer roles**
4. **Hate Crime – access to the full report** [**HERE.**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12484/item-7-hate-crime.docx)

The Mayor welcomed the detailed report, she asked aside from its production what data and information was available/updated on the WYP website to increase trust and confidence that all hate crime was addressed when reported.

ACC Miller said equality data as well as a separate report about equality of objectives and progress to date were both available to view on the website. The Mayor encouraged the public to take a look as she was aware that people felt that Hate Crime was rising and she encouraged everyone to report.

The Mayor noted that the number of hate crimes recorded in 2023/24 had reduced by 10.2% from the previous 12 months and that the recent increases in 2024 were associated with the ongoing Israel – Gaza conflict. She asked based on the sharp increase in reporting of Anti-Muslim and Anti-Semitic incidents at the start of the conflict and the continued reports throughout the following months, what reassurance if any WYP could give communities across WY in respect of their ongoing work, especially at district level. She also asked what WYP would say to anyone who was fearful of reporting.

ACC Miller said in relation to the events in the Middle-East they had a dedicated Detective Sergeant and Detective Constable who had investigative oversight of anything Middle-East related and made sure any reasonable lines of enquiry were followed. They also determined whether an offence had been committed or not and then sent this back to districts to ensure they investigated to the correct standard. They also had a bronze community within the structure and the districts provided a daily tension monitoring report. In addition to this they had their Independent Advisory Groups and District Scrutiny Panels who looked into investigations to ensure they had received the correct response. ACC Miller encouraged the public to report all incidents to the police. Any individuals who did not want to report to the police could also report to a Hate Crime Reporting Centre.

The Mayor said there was an election in 2 weeks’ time which could potentially be a hotspot for Hate Crime, she asked for reassurance that WYP were alive to this. ACC Miller said they were alive to this, and they had a structure in place for the elections.

The report referred to evidential difficulties which negatively impacted the positive outcome rates, the Mayor asked for more information about the issues and how they related to the different strands. ACC Miller said they were an outstanding crime data integrity force and recorded anything that came through to them as an offence. One of the key strands they had an issue with was disability hate crime. Some of these reports came from a third party e.g., a carer, so the crime was recorded and investigated, however when they went back to the victim, they were sometimes unwilling or unable to engage with officers. This meant that evidential difficulties had to be recorded.

In terms of victim satisfaction by service delivery area, the lowest score was around the outcome. The Mayor asked what more could be said about this and whether WYP understood the lower rate across Kirklees compared to other districts. ACC Miller said up to March 2024, the satisfaction for outcomes was 53.6% for hate crimes, compared to 57.4% for all other crime. He said victim satisfaction increased to 65.7% when an officer attended an incident, however when dealt with over the phone it fell to 47.6%. Therefore, if an officer was not going to attend, an aide memoire had been put in place to ensure that the correct information was given over the phone and that the reporter understood that there would still be an investigation. In relation to Kirklees, who were at 56.3%, this was a sample size of just 80 individuals so although lower, was not statistically significant. It did however allow WYP to draw some meaningful conclusions at a force and district level.

The Mayor said what would help with understanding hate crime was a force that reflected the community it served, which was being worked towards, but she also welcomed the launch of the Community Engagement Tracker in November 2023. The purpose of which was to record and monitor community engagements by officers and staff who had visited multi-faith establishments, communities and any other events which formed part of West Yorkshire Police’s ‘Community Engagement Strategy’.  The Mayor asked what learning had been taken from the monitoring and how WYP were sharing best practice across the force.

ACC Miller said this was currently a pilot which was running across Leeds and Wakefield and was going well. Once the pilot was complete, there would be a post implementation review and if the outcome was positive, it would be rolled out across all five districts. The pilot allowed detail down to street level about what had been done in the community, highlighting any communities that were being missed and what had worked well.

The DMPC added that Mark Rothery was doing some excellent work in Harehills with a football tournament that was a great example of community engagement with 500 local people involved.

The Mayor said it would be great to roll something like that out across West Yorkshire. ACC Miller said the ‘What Works Well’ forum was a great place to share initiatives like this so that other areas could replicate. They also mentioned CATCH as a great initiative, again in Harehills.

The report mentioned the proactive internal work in Kirklees, the Mayor asked how many WYP officers and staff had reported hate crime incidents and whether there was any information around the perpetrators e.g., were they external.  ACC Miller said over the last 12 months there had been 680 reports of Hate Crime by officers and staff, an increase of 208 on the previous year. He was unable to share details regarding perpetrators, however he said all districts apart from Calderdale had seen an increase, particularly disability, faith, race and sexual orientation.

The Mayor asked what Calderdale was doing right. ACC Miller said Calderdale had smaller numbers reported so the changes were not significant. He said the important thing was the messages that had been given to staff about recording hate crime, so more staff were now doing so.

Finally, the Mayor welcomed all the positive work in schools and colleges which included the Pol-Ed uptake/resources. She asked who was capturing the feedback and intel discussed and shared in the sessions. ACC Miller said they had a brilliant Pol-Ed team and as mentioned 92% of schools were signed up. He encouraged the remaining schools to sign up. In terms of capturing feedback, Google Forms were available online relating to pupil engagement and school staff engagement. These forms also asked for suggestions for improvements. Pol-Ed had also been rolled out in two other force areas and they had been asked to feed information back. There was also a stream on the WYP website and Pol-Ed staff visited schools who delivered sessions. They also routinely monitored the National Police Chief’s Council and the College of Policing for any arising issues that should be added into the Pol-Ed offer. Additionally, the University of Huddersfield were assessing the full Pol-Ed package to understand the benefit it was delivering.

The Mayor asked whether there was anything within Pol-Ed on suicide prevention, she had visited Three Dads Walking and had suggested it might be a good opportunity to talk to young people about this topic.

**Actions:**

1. **WYCA to discuss with WYP about including suicide prevention and Three Dads Walking into the Pol-Ed package.**
2. **Mayor to write to the schools who had not yet signed up for Pol-Ed to encourage them to do so**
3. **WYP to send over a list of schools who had not signed up to Pol-Ed**
4. **Stop and Search - access to the full report** [**HERE.**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12485/item-8-stop-and-search-cover-paper.docx)

The Mayor was aware that WYP always aimed to stop and search legitimately and proportionately, however monitoring was important. She noted that previous data used to refer to children as young as 5. The report now showed data from age 10. She asked for the numbers of children stopped and searched aged 9 and under.

ACC Miller said there was only one stop and search under the age of 9. This was an 8-year-old in Leeds who was stopped and searched on suspicion of being in possession of an offensive weapon. This resulted in no further action.

The Mayor asked whether this age category could also mean that officers searched a pram. ACC Miller said this could potentially happen.

The DMPC asked whether the body worn video of the search of the 8-year-old was reviewed. ACC Miller was unsure but would check and report back.

The Mayor said as usual she could see that far more men in general were stopped and searched compared to women, she asked whether the positive outcome rates differed pro rata. ACC Miller said the positive outcome rate for women was 28.3%, and for men 33.6% for the reporting period July – December 2023.

In relation to all stop and searches of children, the Mayor asked for a breakdown of where they were taking place e.g. schools, colleges, educational premises. ACC Miller said there was no location categorisation in the data that allowed this breakdown, so they had looked at key words. They found 36 records out of 1716 which showed stop and searches on these premises. This would not however take into account any searches that had been conducted e.g., on the street outside of a school. ACC Miller said they had brought in a policy whereby any child that was stopped and searched had a mandatory Police Protection Notice referral through to Children’s Social Care.

The Mayor then asked whether WYP were monitoring any positive/negative community impact in respect of stop and search and the relevant actions from the Race Action Plan which was now 6 months on. ACC Miller said every stop and search was reviewed by a Sergeant which included scrutiny of the paperwork and body worn video. Any learning was fed back to the officer and any misconduct was referred to Professional Standards. This would also be fed into education and training at a wider level. Stop and search of Black individuals was reviewed in each district through the Continuous Improvement Teams in line with the Race Action Plan. This was also monitored by the force Race Action Plan Tactical Delivery Group and dip samples were carried out at force and local level of body worn, paperwork and supervisory oversight.

Stop and search complaints from the public were assessed by the Professional Standards Department. WYP also fed in randomly selected stop and searches into their scrutiny boards for review. Complaints could also be made through 101 and the QR codes on handheld devices allowed immediate feedback. The Mayor congratulated WYP on the QR code and felt it was a good development. Additionally, all officers were in the process of attending their 2-day Cultural Awareness Course, and the Stop and Search iLearn had recently been re-written which was mandatory for all officers to complete annually.

The DMPC asked about the search exposing intimate parts, she said of the 9 instances where this took place, 8 were from Black or Asian Mixed ethnicity. She asked what analysis had been done of those circumstances and whether they were satisfied that every consideration had been taken in the decisions surrounding these instances. ACC Miller said each of those should have been reviewed by a supervisory officer, however, to provide reassurance he would have them reviewed independently by local policing and report back.

The Mayor said in terms of confidence in the complaints trigger it was good to see that at least one young complainant had the confidence to report an issue. She asked ACC Miller to say more about the 6 out of 7 cases mentioned in the report which were finalised showing the service provided was acceptable. She asked for help to understand the basis of the complaints and the Professional Standards Department outcome. She also asked since the introduction of the Trigger how many stop and search complaints were upheld, officers dismissed, and disciplinary/advisory actions taken.

ACC Miller said there was an error in the paper and there had actually been 12 complaints rather than 7. All 12 cases had been investigated through the Professional Standards Department or the Independent Office for Police Conduct. ACC Miller provided an outline of the cases and the reasons they were deemed as acceptable. He said that the body worn video in every circumstance was vital in upholding or negating complaints. The Mayor asked whether any of the complaints had come via the QR code. ACC Miller said the QR code was a feedback opportunity, not a complaint route.

The DMPC asked whether WYP were assured that they were using handcuffs proportionately and only where necessary. ACC Miller said the answer was no, he had done a review personally and there had been a number of occasions where they were justified and a number where they were not. The Stop and Search iLearn included a significant element on handcuffing. Handcuffing should only be used in extreme circumstances.

The Mayor asked whether the live trial on section 163 road traffic stop and searches had started and what early feedback could be shared at this stage. She also asked for an overview of what the live trial was. ACC Miller said the Home Office had originally stated that everyone stopped under a road traffic stop would have to submit a form. They then retracted this, however WYP still wanted to deliver the original ask so they developed a new App which would record the circumstances of s163 stops. The App had been piloted, however there was an issue with the system. It was currently held in testing, once the issue was resolved and the App re-tested they were hoping to roll it out in July/August. The Mayor asked whether it had been rolled out elsewhere. ACC Miller confirmed this was a West Yorkshire system that we had developed.

The DMPC asked whether it could be sold to other forces. ACC Miller confirmed it could.

The Mayor noted the training, which was very positive, she asked how it was having an impact on the quality of stop and search encounter.

ACC Miller said the data showed West Yorkshire had conducted 397 searches under s60 and from those there had been 22 arrests (5.5% arrest rate).

The highest force was Greater Manchester with 954 stops and 22 arrests (2.3%). The number of authorised s60 stops were on a decreasing trend.

**Actions:**

**WYP to check whether the body worn video of the stop and search of the 8-year-old was reviewed and deemed satisfactory.**

1. **WYP to have the 9 searches exposing intimate parts reviewed by local policing independently and report back.**
2. **Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) – access to the full report** [**HERE.**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12486/item-9-spr-cover-paper.docx)

The Mayor gave an overview of the SPR, and asked which of the seven elements of the SPR WYP considered to be their greatest priorities now in terms of responding to demand.

DCC Hankinson said the seven elements were included in the SPR because they were all significant threats. She said the ones that had been added latterly were the greatest threats at the moment such as Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). She said the reason for this was that elements such as Terrorism, Serious and Organised Crime and National Cyber Security had structures that had been embedded a long time and were delivering a cross-force response. DCC Hankinson felt CSA and VAWG were the biggest threats because they were focussed on vulnerable individuals in society and the other elements e.g., Counter Terrorism Policing had been coordinated across policing for a longer period of time and the structures in place meant they could mitigate the risks more easily.

The Mayor said that the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) was a good example of this. DCC Hankinson said there were a number of ROCU’s across the country, they provided high level specialist capabilities and tackled issues such as cyber threats. She explained in terms of Public Order that every force understood what they needed to do, and regular testing was undertaken to ensure a quick and effective response if needed. CSA and VAWG were much newer in terms of national capabilities.

The Mayor asked whether AI was a threat in terms of Child Sexual Exploitation. DCC Hankinson said it was an area that teams were beginning to specialise in, such as the ROCU. They were also seeing more AI used in cyber-attacks. She said part B of the SPR was about understanding the capability and capacity required to mitigate and address the treats. The Mayor said their ethics panel would be able to help here in terms of identifying the criminality where an AI generated image of a child was produced.

The Mayor then asked whether there were any areas where the requirements of the SPR had placed additional pressures on day-to-day operations. DCC Hankinson said yes, particularly CSE and VAWG in terms of increased demand and safeguarding over the last decade.

They had therefore increased the number of officers in this area. Although this had been at the expense of other areas, there were finite resources and strategic decisions had to be made to protect the most vulnerable.

The Mayor asked whether there was anything that could be done to mitigate the pressure in those areas. She asked whether more recruitment was the only way, or whether there could be more innovative ways to deal with the issues. DCC Hankinson said there were possibly more innovative things that could be done. They undertook non-recent investigations which was about getting closure and a result for victims of crimes that had happened a long time ago, she said West Yorkshire was very proactive in dealing with those. She said prevention was better than cure, so the related campaigns and Pol-Ed were important. They also had domestic abuse perpetrator programmes which aimed to reverse their behaviour if it was low level, however this was not as effective for high-risk individuals.

Looking specifically at the Serious and Organised Crime strand of the SPR the Mayor asked whether WYP had any comments on the use of developing technologies by criminals (e.g. developing use of cryptocurrencies, AI, and the Dark Web). She asked whether there was anything WY communities could do to build resilience to these threats. DCC Hankinson said anything that offered new opportunities for criminal networks was a concern, crypto was one of those, however they had advanced crypto investigators and so were building capability and capacity to understand and move with the developing threat. They had already had some successful prosecutions where significant amounts of assets had been taken from criminals. They also had specific teams who worked similarly with the Dark Web. In terms of advice, she said the best things to think about were password protecting devices and accounts and individuals should think about where their own data sat. She recommended the [Stop! Think Fraud](https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/) website. Businesses had a key role to play in protecting everyone’s data and the WYP Cyber Protect Officer provided training for businesses across West Yorkshire. The Mayor added that Age UK did training for vulnerable adults also.

1. **Future Agenda Items**
* Road Safety
* VAWG
* Drugs and Alcohol
* Serious Violence and Organised Crime
* Use of Force
* Exception Paper - Technology in Policing
1. **Any Other Business**

None

1. **Next Meeting**

17 September 2024, 1430 - 1600