



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

Wednesday, 24 June 2020

Via Skype

PRESENT

Mark Burns-Williamson - West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Jayne Sykes - Interim Chief Executive (CX)

John Robins - Chief Constable (CC)

ALSO PRESENT

Ch/Supt Kate Riley – West Yorkshire Police

Sharon Waugh - Engagement Manager

Allison Kemp - OPCC Liaison Officer

Celeste Armitage – Engagement Officer

Opening Comments

The PCC opened the meeting, he introduced himself as PCC and stated that due to the ongoing COVID situation and restrictions the meeting was being held via SKYPE and would be recorded. The agenda for the meeting had been changed to allow for discussion on two issues of current community concern those being the WYP response to policing COVID and reassurance to BAME communities following the sad death of George Floyd.

1. Notes of the previous meeting including matters arising

The PCC introduced the meeting the notes of the previous meeting held on 10 March 2020 would be agreed at the next meeting on 15 September 2020.

2. Urgent Items – reassurance for Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities

The PCC acknowledged that the recent months had been a challenging time for all communities in regards to both COVID and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests following the sad death of George Floyd. He said he wanted to explore those issues and to provide some reassurance to all West Yorkshire (WY) communities but particularly BAME communities. He had invited public questions to support greater transparency and those questions would be discussed and answered in the meeting.

He spoke about the recent statement from the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) regarding the work they intended to undertake to address the issues of diversity and issues that had fallen out of the BLM protests and he asked the Chief Constable about the statements' impact on West Yorkshire.

The CC explained that all CCs had come together and signed up to the NPCC joint statement. He said that from a West Yorkshire perspective there was absolutely no place for discrimination, bias or racism in any setting within WYP but he acknowledged that society as a whole and therefore any public sector organisation was not free from this. It was important that the public had confidence in WYP to tackle and confront those issues and he explained that in WY there were longstanding and well established Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) who were at the forefront of this work with communities. He then spoke about the very sad death of George Floyd and expressed that he was heartened by the way his family had called for unity and non-violence and added the humility they had shown was outstanding. Thankfully, there had not been any disorder or violence related to this in WY, though he was aware of the protests in other areas. He added that WYP had received positive feedback for the way they had policed gatherings and protests. He also said whether we liked it or not what did happen in America effected policing here in WY and across the Western world and therefore the perception of the violence and unjust policing in America did effect and cast a shadow over here.

On one hand, British policing was very different from America as we police with consent and positive engagement but on the other hand British policing had been judged in the past to act in the manner that had been perceived as unjust, unfair, insensitive and bias, institutionally discriminatory and institutionally racist - so in today's society whilst we might not recognise the events of the past or those from over the sea we do understand and can see the lived experience of people and how the past has shaped the current. He said this was why as CC it was vital that he set the right standards and policing style along with his Chief Officers so it focussed our minds on how we police our communities here in WY. It also focused the minds of those from BAME communities of how we in policing were looked at, seen and judged just for being in policing so he added all WY officers and staff were determined to get things right he said we have shared values with our communities and all officers and staff had been briefed and instructed in that regard. They were continuing to engage, talk and really listen to communities.

The CC added he knew it was critical that our front line got it right, they must do this as the results will dictate policing over coming months and years and this included response officers and traffic officers, their actions would dictate how we were seen in WY over the coming months and years. We know that officers do an incredibly difficult job, they understand their effect on communities, they understand their effect on BAME communities but they now more than ever need to understand the effects of their actions, reactions and their words. They have a tightrope to walk on many occasions between protecting the public and policing with consent in some of the most difficult and challenging environments but the frontline as well as deserving our support deserve our overwhelming respect. He explained they have had a very clear message about treating everyone fairly, with respect and about being decent and caring. He added his message to all communities was that officers and staff were still here for policing, NPT's were at the forefront of all we do and local officers were policing communities they knew well which included the challenges they faced. The national statement and a unified approach in policing was a determination that this is a critical moment in policing where we need to get things right and improve things going forward.

The PCC said he was pleased to see the statement from the NPCC, he also stated that himself and his colleagues were absolutely committed to work together and he condemned any form of discrimination or racism. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) was supportive of the statement and also looking at what should be done at a national level working with communities including Councillors and MP's to debate issues and challenge inequality. There was work to do and he was in frequent contact with the CC.

The PCC said given the comments from Chief Constable Dave Thompson (West Midlands Police) who said he recognised the force was not "free from bias, discrimination or even racism" was there anything more the CC would want say regarding the West Yorkshire position.

The CC said that no organisation which was self-reflective and learning could say for definite that it was free from bias, discrimination and racism. WYP had put a significant amount of training into it and that it had absolutely no place within policing. He explained that he was supported by a professional standards department (PSD) whose objective was to root it out, a complaints team that allowed the public to report incidents, and delivered a training regime which ensured that where there were any biases or unconscious biases they were confronted head on and addressed. He stated that relationships with communities with NPTs were strong and that had shown over the last few weeks with BAME communities but that he agreed with his colleagues' statement.

The PCC also commended officers for the way they had policed the recent peaceful protests in parts of WY and also the way the protesters had undertaken their activities which ensured WY had not seen some of the scenes that other areas had, he also spoke about the attacks on officers. He said he was a huge advocate of NPTs and knew they had played a key role and were the bedrock of our work with communities.

Moving on to stop and search figures for Operation Jemlock the PCC asked how these had impacted on overall stop and search disproportionality in WY and asked if we understood the impact and reasons for this.

The CC explained that Operation Jemlock was the police operation to combat knife crime in WY and was proactive and not related to COVID or BLM. Operation Jemlock had run for some time and it focussed on areas where most serious violent crimes occurred in order to prevent them.

The CC stated that Op Jemlock had been a success and he went on to provide some related figures which included: knife crime was down by 268 offences, robbery was down by 578 offences, robbery with a sharp implement was down by 156 offences and hospital admissions from people injured with a sharp instrument were down by 10% as was serious violent crime as was knife crime on under 25s which was down by 13%, homicides were down by 20%, robbery down by 14% and robbery with sharp instrument down by 20%. These figures showed that there was a significant reduction in risk of harm to people in WY, which had been achieved by deployment of officers into those hotspot areas, where crime had occurred or areas where there was intelligence of a specific threat.

He further explained that all of their data was published for transparency, officers had body worn video (BWV), and all stop and searches were scrutinised. In addition to this, all Operation Jemlock staff had received unconscious bias and community engagement awareness training to understand the effects of their actions within communities.

The impact of Jemlock had increased stop and search by about 10/11%, through their targeted approach, however there was increased disproportionality in that there were more people from a BAME background being stopped and searched which showed an increased disproportionality though Jemlock stop and search activity compared to standard stop and searches, this was one of the dilemmas in policing in that brought down harm and knife crime but it was disproportionate. He was working with academics and analysts to understand this further. Despite this, the overall outcome statistics and reduction of harm were positive and no public complaints had been received though he understood what members of community would say about that. To understand disproportionality a whole host of work had been undertaken to look at geography,

sociology, street population, officer profile, intelligence and community information so he could better understand the reasons for this.

The PCC asked aside from street population what other factors impacted on disproportionality here in WY and were these discussed with officers.

The CC spoke about racism, he stated that he wanted to be clear that he did not believe there was racism within the stop and search figures. Other factors included discrimination, unconscious bias, offender and offence based information, street population, socio-economic, poverty based information, needs, harms and risks and advantages and disadvantages within society.

He said that disproportionality was looked at in as many different ways as possible which included gender, as figures showed that more men and boys were stopped than women and girls, the same with age as more young people were stopped than old, and those from BAME communities. He explained they were currently working through the different elements. To ensure compliance they worked to HMIC recommendations, college of policing training, and scrutiny from the PCC, unconscious bias training was delivered to all front line staff and information was also taken from academic and community based groups.

He explained they were keen and committed to understanding the data and the disproportionality and to be sure there was no discrimination, which he explained was why all of their data was published in terms of demographics, demand and deployment mostly to ensure no discrimination or bias. He also added that they held scrutiny panels where members of the public were invited in to watch body worn video as well as ride along where the public were able to see stop and searches first hand. He said he published data and was aware of the need to jointly publish data to ensure we are open and transparent to scrutiny.

The PCC asked how we were monitoring and responding to community tensions on the back of the recent demonstrations and counter demonstrations, and what we were doing to address community cohesion in the areas of greatest concern.

The CC explained they were undertaking daily community tension monitoring where various elements and intelligence were analysed, they also conducted force equality and human rights impact assessments and community impact assessments after significant incidents, but most importantly, they used their front line staff to engage and understand how communities were feeling, working with statutory partners and the third sector. He explained that each district had a community engagement plan, and that officers engaged with a wide range of groups. Community engagement plans were broken down into areas/wards and engagement with groups took place to ensure WYP had listened and understood. He acknowledged they were not perfect but had listened and were monitoring to ensure they were in the right place at the right time to ensure support for communities.

The PCC added that we all had a role to play in support of that particularly; local Councillors, community safety partners and third sector he had conversations and thanked those who had started the work and kept things on an even keel and he spoke about the importance of policing by consent.

Finally, the PCC asked how we could offer reassurance around training and decision making when it came to use of force and what improvements had been made since his last report in ensuring police officers completed data accurately.

The CC stated that use of force by public officials was a breach of peoples' human rights, however in policing it was necessary and due to this they needed to make sure they got it right every time, this was where tensions and perceptions were impacted and he added that there were times when it was not got right. All Use of Force was subject to complaints and review whatever level and officers would be dealt with. They would also receive feedback, further development and support.

The CC added he was confident that WY had some of the most robust, documented use of force training in the country and that skilled and dedicated trainers were constantly putting them through situational training as well as engagement and unconscious bias, they were bound by the code of ethics and the use of force programme which dealt with hand skills and speaking to the public all the way up to the use of force. HR training and BWV were also at the forefront and it was very clear what was done could see violence and attacks on officers but also behaviour of police and proportionality of what they were doing. He added he looked forward to national guidance and further transparency.

He explained WYP were subject to rigorous complaints procedures, feedback, development and support. He was confident they had some of the best use of force training in the country and were constantly putting people through awareness training as well as engagement, diversity, equality and unconscious bias training. They were bound by the code of ethics, and he was confident they had done as much as they could regarding training, also adding that body worn video was at the forefront of everything they did which allowed them to monitor use of force, there was however still some disproportionality there. The CC added that police officers and staff were put in difficult and dangerous situations but they must act proportionately and justly in all circumstances.

The PCC added that previous reports on Use of Force were available on his website, however in light of recent events he had agreed to look at how the information and topics covered were publicised. He was also aware with regards to disproportionality that the census data was about 10 years old now and that a new census would be carried out next year, it was important to understand how communities had changed in that time to ensure future analysis was as accurate.

ACTION: To review how information on topics such as use of force, complaints, stop and search and deaths in custody were publicised.

3. Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable Announcements:

The PCC thanked everyone that had taken the time to submit questions for this meeting, he advised that a number of them were quite detailed so any that were not answered today would still get a written response.

- a) Community Conversations - The Community Conversations survey was open until 29 June, He said that so far results were showing some worries around the interpretation of the restrictions and the relaxations of those. He acknowledged the extra vulnerabilities within BAME communities and said that social distancing was still really important as everyone was desperate to avoid a second spike.
- b) Safer Communities Fund – The PCC stated that this was one of his key commitments when elected as PCC. He spoke about the latest Safer Communities Fund grant round which was launched on the 14th April, this was funding made available through proceeds of crime monies. The extraordinary grant round focused on issues that had been heightened during the pandemic such as domestic and sexual abuse, mental health and drugs and alcohol. He added that he was pleased to say he had awarded 32 grants to projects across WY totaling just under £170k, who would deliver over the next few months in what was still going to be a challenging environment.

- c) Safeguarding week - The PCC advised he and his office along with WYP and many partners were taking part in a number of initiatives for both adults and children to support this.

He reinforced that it was important to carry out safeguarding throughout the year, not just this week.

- d) Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) – The new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) would launch this week. It was a purpose built facility in the heart of WY and would house a number of specialist services. The center housed both children’s and adult’s services under the same roof for the first time and also incorporated video live links to the courts among other services. The aim of the center was to increase confidence in those that had suffered to come forward and know they would receive the best support possible. The PCC then thanked all partners involved for their hard work in getting to that point.
- e) Community Concerns - As well as the public questions, included in this meeting, the PCC stated that he also carried out a regular casework facility within the office, which was important and that his understanding of key issues from communities were informed by these and other discussions. This supported his accountability meetings with the Chief Constable and would influence the refresh of the current Police and Crime Plan which set out community priorities across policing and Community Safety. Wider context

4. **COVID Update and discussion**

The PCC stated that COVID had significant impact on policing and community safety and that they had been meeting regularly to discuss it and he asked the Chief Constable to tell him more about the work the force had been doing around each of the outcomes within the Police and Crime Plan.

The CC stated that in terms of the outcome ‘Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour’ they had seen a reduction in crime and call demand and reports during the height of the restrictions however since the restrictions had been lifted there was an increase in calls, crime and ASB, not yet back to the levels before but more towards pre-pandemic status. They had maintained their NPT approach of engage, explain, encourage and only using enforcement when necessary. Throughout the restriction period, NPTs had been at the core of tackling crime and of warning and informing communities about the spread of the virus. Because of the restrictions, they had cancelled a number of training requirements and had seen a large increase in calls relating to anti-social behaviour and COVID related matters coming in but due to putting resources in different places they had been able to cope with that increase in ASB calls and also calls around COVID related matters. The time had also enabled them to ensure they were on top of all their criminal investigations, and that victims and witnesses had been updated.

NPTs had also continued with their engagements throughout this time and come up with a new engagement strategy which allowed them to continually involve communities in setting local priorities. He also added that a new anti-social behaviour policy was also due to be launched. The CC also stated they had had some significant positive developments by protective services within their Serious Organised Crime investigations and that they had adapted and changed adeptly and robustly which had resulted in further seizures of drugs, firearms and weapons.

With regards to the next outcome ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable People’, the CC spoke about how some people had exploited the current situation, and preyed on the more vulnerable in society. He commented that there were people who sought to exploit vulnerable people during COVID. He reassured that processes had been reviewed, investigations had been progressed and that young and older and all vulnerable people within our society had been safeguarded. They had

continued to tackle all aspects relating to this area, which included indecent images of children, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), interfamilial abuse, and domestic abuse (DA) which had occurred and continued during the lockdown period.

They had also used Safeguarding week to promote work both internally and externally. The CC then referred to a number of communications campaigns that had been used to raise awareness of these issues and discussed some of the partner and third sector organisations that the force had worked with in tackling these issues. He expressed his thanks to the CPS in achieving some of the domestic violence charges they had seen throughout this period. He spoke specifically about the DA in your hands campaign, about Independent Sexual Abuse Advisors (ISVAs) and the dial 55 helpline and about third party reporting. IDVAs, Victim Support, Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and multi-Agency partnership working was all vital and he referred to HM court protection orders for DA abuse victims' and thanked the courts and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for their support. He spoke about the online reporting tool for DA victims which included a quick exit button for calls for service, and the arrests, management and monitoring of registered sex offenders which included intelligence activity for CSE and abuse offenders.

In regards to the third outcome 'Making Sure Criminal Justice Works for Communities', the CC stated that the current circumstances had been an unprecedented and was a challenging situation for the wider criminal justice system. He thanked the PCC for his chairing of the Local Criminal Justice Board and cross agency work and setting off the recovery plan. He added that WY had been innovative in keeping processes going and had for example used Skype to facilitate solicitors and interpreters and had continued to adapt and work with partner agencies to ensure work continued wherever possible. They had adapted and changed how they worked to ensure files arrived with the CPS and changed methods of working with partner agencies. Sadly, there were restrictions placed by national structure but he was grateful for the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) work.

Finally, with regards to the fourth outcome 'Supporting Victims and Witnesses', the CC explained that officers had continued to use online, telephone and face to face to ensure victims and witnesses were kept up to date. They had also implemented new IT systems to support this. The CC gave particular mention to the Witness Care Unit (36 people) who looked after 18,312 civilian victims and witnesses, their work with the current restrictions was outstanding.

He said they were the 4 areas of the plan and the PCC had been updated regularly, WYP was progressive and had changed and adapted when they had to but were committed to outcomes.

The PCC thanked the CC and the force for the work they had done throughout this period, he noted they had seen a number of big reductions across various crime categories. He welcomed that the vast majority of the public had complied with restrictions and went on to speak about staff wellbeing, which included the procurement of PPE.

He added that he had also been concerned around Domestic Abuse and had secured some additional funding to support a number of organisations which provided Domestic Abuse services. He acknowledged also that the challenges with the Criminal Justice System (CJS) were out of anyone's control but they were raising concerns regarding the backlogs nationally. Some CJS issues were outside of his control but he had made national representations around the backlog which was sadly inevitable during this period.

In terms of the COVID breaches that had been recorded, the PCC asked whether there had been any work around looking at bias, and how WYP had engaged with BAME communities in this period.

The CC stated that in terms of the enforcement activity there had been 591 penalty notices issued as a last resort for breaches in the legislation of the corona virus restrictions which had not been taken lightly. He reinforced that these were only given as a last resort. He explained they had worked through the ethnicity of those reports which have a Self-Defined and Officer Defined ethnicity recoded but that not everybody would have provided Self Defined data, there was disproportionality, but not bias.

There was no disproportionality associated for those with black or mixed heritage but there was for those with Asian heritage. As you may be aware the population of WY is made up of 13.1% of individuals with Asian heritage, and 33% of the penalty notices given were to individuals from this group. However, officers had been responding to calls for service from the public who were reporting breaches, so officers were deployed, both NPTs and operational support, to those areas. Analysis had shown that calls and deployment demand directly correlated with the ticket numbers but these were the areas where members of the public were stating that breaches had occurred. They were not an officer based random approach but were community based intelligence reports. He added that scrutiny panels had looked at and these along with Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) and had reviewed BWV and other data as part of the review process.

The PCC added it was important to understand the context, national work and fuller picture, the census data was due next year and that in comparison to other nearby forces such as North Yorkshire we had issued a very low number of penalty notices. The CC confirmed this was due to their approach of using enforcement as a last resort. The CC reiterated that overall enforcement was very low and aimed at those who posed a greater risk of spreading the virus.

The PCC then asked in terms of missing people what measures were being taken to ensure that vulnerable children were safe.

The CC stated that this was one of the good things to have come out of COVID, in that there had been a significant reduction in vulnerable children missing from home or care and those levels had not returned to normality with the easing of restrictions. They had however continued to work with the Local Authority and children's services to ensure the correct response was provided for each individual case, this included those vulnerable children who had not taken up their place at local schools. They had trigger plans and engagement and had worked with other agencies to plan, prepare and respond to ensure a reduction in those who went missing repeatedly. They also looked at causes and ensured it was safe for them to return home.

The PCC welcomed the reduction, he said schools were opened for some of our most vulnerable but was saddened that the places for the most vulnerable had not been taken up. The CC had worked with children's services in each district to identify the most vulnerable.

5. Public Questions

The PCC then moved on to the questions that had been sent in from the public, he reinforced that all of those not answered today would receive written responses.

Question 1.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, has the number of Officers and PCSO's on patrol in West Yorkshire communities increased?

Chief Constable's response:

Yes, more officers and staff have been out on patrol for routine policing activity. Although there has been more work to do and more policing incidents to cover. West Yorkshire Police have also continued recruiting during this period, to bring more officers and staff into the Organisation and retirements and 'exiters' have reduced meaning there are more people overall in the organisation at present. Special constables and volunteers have also supported policing in West Yorkshire at this time, some are also key workers themselves released from duties or have been furloughed from their jobs which has again increased capability and capacity to the streets. Training except for essential training has stopped and the combination of all these factors has resulted in more people being out on the streets/available for front line duties. There have also been less crimes recorded but more complex situations for officers and staff to deal with. He had been very impressed with the approach of all individuals mentioned, as they have stepped forward during this situation and put themselves in vulnerable situations when others have been shielding. He thanked them for their professionalism.

Police and Crime Commissioner added:

Volunteers across policing including partners and organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch had all played a vital role. Special constables had put in vital hours over and above what they usually do and their commitment was outstanding. Clearly, the volunteering ethos was really welcome he also wanted commend all who had played their part to provide important visibility and reassurance during the Policing of COVID which was ongoing.

Question 2

Some people feel that speeding and dangerous driving have increased in the lockdown, particularly with less traffic on the roads. Is this an issue which has been picked up and if so how are we dealing with the concerns at a strategic level?

Chief Constable's response:

Unfortunately, this was a sad consequence of the pandemic circumstances. Traffic volumes had been reduced and some people had taken that opportunity to use excessive speed. Speed was one of the fatal four and contributed significantly to fatalities. He was thankful of the support from the OPCC to raise awareness and reduce casualties on the roads of West Yorkshire through educational projects and grants given to charities such as BRAKE and road safety projects and charities. He said the data WYP had was currently being mapped and analysed. They were working with the West Yorkshire Casualty prevention partnership, using proactive cameras, NPT officers, proactive roads policing team all to combat this. Sadly WYP can't be everywhere all the time, but doing what they could during this difficult time to reduce speeding was vital. On the larger transport networks like motorways it was easier to enforce, but usually the inner city and rural roads could cause more damage and were harder to enforce. He was confident that the partnership approach was there, the enforce approach was there but that more should be done educate and make people aware of the dangers of speed regardless of the volume of traffic on the roads. He confirmed that WYP had enforcement and prevention ongoing throughout COVID.

Police and Crime Commissioner added:

It was ironic that there was much less traffic on the road that some drivers are using roads as speed tracks. He had approached by the partnership for a 'vision zero' approach which was a longer term ambition. He had been keeping an eye on social media and the good work of

Roads Policing teams and Operation Steerside in Bradford. He thanked the Chief Constable and added he knew the work would be ongoing targeting issues as and when they arose.

Question 3.

At present what strategy do West Yorkshire Police have to tackle the Islamophobic hate crime?

Chief Constable's response:

WYP were one of only 2 forces in the country who were recording crime correctly so they knew their data was accurate. He said that hate crime was isolating, upsetting and damaging to community cohesion. It was often against people who had no choice of the characteristic they are being targeted for.

WYP had a hate crime strategy and hate crime coordinators to support it across each district. Every victim of islamophobic hate crime was entitled to support and would receive a quality service and treatment from his officers and staff. WYP actively encourage the reporting of Hate Crime and aim to ensure people have confidence to come forward. They can also report to a third party centres or support organisations such as Tell Mama, Victim Support, Stop Hate or other hate crime alliances. WYP were supportive and they encouraged people to report. They also scrutinised their response to it all hate Crime through hate crime scrutiny panels who ensured what they had done was appropriate, as a learning organisations any feedback would inform training and practices. They give training to call takers, NPT, front line officers. This included religious hate crime it was a societal issue to prevent it but WYP played a role in enforcement. He said one Hate crime was one too many. He said 182 Islamophobic hate crimes took place last year and 187 have this year, so it's remained constant. But they did see increases during international events. It was a hate crime type which they focused on as they appreciated the impact on individuals and communities. They needed to work with other partners and the voluntary sector to continue the education and awareness to ensure they prevent such crimes as well as just deal with them.

Police and Crime Commissioner added:

As PCC he had invested in support across all hate crime including Islamophobia and had work with a number of organisations in WY such as Tell Mama. He had also funded the introduction of the Stop Hate UK app, which was the first of its type.

Question 4

What impact has COVID-19 had on Domestic Violence and the impact on children's mental health and what support do the police feel they need from mental health services in order to address this need?

Chief Constable's response:

There was a small reduction of Domestic violence at the beginning of the COVID and they had expected an increase post COVID in his professional opinion, he expected they would have seen some historic reporting but had not seen this so far. WYP had seen an increase since restrictions had been lifted but the reports were not for historic cases they tended to be within a 3-day period of the incident. So putting people in close proximity had not had an effect on reporting so far but he would hold his and see how it went as restrictions continued to be lifted.

WYP had some significant concerns about vulnerable children during the lockdown and children not having access to teachers, professionals or friends to show their emotions about being victims or being present when domestic violence had taken place. They were focused on listening to the voice of the child meaning listening to them properly to understand the harm that had taken place. They have made referrals into children's services and other mental health services during this period, as part of core policing to safeguard people and that included children. He did not think there was more support needed, except for the challenges that all organisations faced around budget cuts and pressures. He reported regardless of this he felt most organisations shared their ethos to support children. He summarised and said that they hadn't seen the increases that they had thought but would support children.

Police and Crime Commissioner added:

The professional view around potential increases was a national view set against the very unique time of lockdown restrictions when families home for longer periods and isolated. He felt there was a longer term analysis to come out of the current situation. He also felt that mental health services had seen chronic under funding for a long period of years. He suspected that's it was an area that needed a thorough re-look and investment for therapeutic services and work with schools. These were issues that went way beyond policing.

The PCC thanked all those who had submitted questions.

5. Future Agenda Items

These items will now be discussed at the next meeting on 15 September 2020

- ASB
- Drugs and alcohol
- Mental Health
- Use of Force – to be reviewed pending WYP update prior to the meeting
- Neighbourhood Policing
- COVID Update

6. Any other business

No items of any other business were discussed

7. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on 15 September 2020.