Our priority

As technology develops, so too does criminality, and more and more crime is now taking place online. Crime carried out in 'cyber space' is borderless and often comes with a level of anonymity for the offender which would not be seen with many conventional crime types, posing challenges for those who are trying to prevent, detect and prosecute such criminals. We need to do more to understand the threat of cyber crimes such as online fraud, grooming, and cyber bullying, and educate the public about these risks. We will also work with private industry to develop the right tools and skill sets to properly investigate and prevent these crimes.

How we are going to deliver

The vast majority of cyber crime is preventable but there is a lack of awareness and understanding of the growing threat of criminality enabled by online technologies. The term 'cyber crime' can be misleading and can alienate some people who may believe that it is restricted to hi-tech organisations, or that defending themselves will take specialist knowledge. Our main objectives are to raise awareness of what cyber crime is and how it can be prevented, to tackle offenders, and reduce the opportunity for cyber crime to take place. To do this effectively we will:

- Involve victims, communities and partners in conversations around current threats to assess understanding and develop better ways to reach people at risk of cyber crime. *Listening to people.*

- The full impact of cyber crime is still unknown. We need to encourage our communities (including businesses and individual victims), to have the confidence and awareness to report cyber crime, so we can fully understand the scale of the problem. *Understanding our communities.*

- Work together with partners from all sectors, including the police and academia, to develop the right skills and tools for those working to prevent, investigate and protect against the evolving threat of cyber crime. *Working together.*

- With the police and partners we will develop ways to identify victims more effectively and provide the appropriate support and prevention advice. Frontline staff across all key organisations will be aware of the current threats and best practice around cyber crime prevention, identification and support for its victims. *Preventing and intervening earlier.*

- Engage with specialist organisations, research institutes and the private sector around emerging threats and work on joint problem solving initiatives to raise awareness of these threats. We will identify options for prevention and ways to reduce the impact of the crime on victims. *Improving our services.*

- Ensure our police service is adequately resourced to tackle cyber crime, including getting the right people into the right roles, keeping them, providing appropriate training, and exploring opportunities to pool partner resources, knowledge and expertise. *Providing resources.*

How we will know whether we've delivered

We will measure our progress against this priority through our Community Outcome Meetings, through which an in-depth report into cyber crime will present the progress of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and relevant partners against the objectives above. It will draw on a range of information sources available including HMIC inspection reports, national guidance, and statistical indicators. In addition to this, we will monitor police and partner performance through our Delivery Quarterly process, and will carry out other detailed analysis where necessary. Indicators of progress will include:

- More people will feel confident to report cyber crime.
- More people will be aware of the risks of cyber crime and how to avoid becoming a victim.
- HMIC will grade West Yorkshire as GOOD with regards to how effectively it tackles cyber crime.