

Our priority

Child sexual abuse including child sexual exploitation (CSE) remains a key priority. The intensive work in West Yorkshire toward safeguarding vulnerable children has led to a significant increase in the number of investigations and successful convictions related to CSE, and has had a positive impact on the confidence of victims who come forward. Partners will continue to raise awareness of this devastating crime, ensure that the police and partners are sufficiently resourced to catch and convict those who sexually abuse and exploit children, and provide support for those who have been affected.

How we are going to deliver

Our main objective is to reduce child sexual abuse across West Yorkshire and therefore our focus has to be on prevention and early intervention; providing information to children, young people, families, carers, those who work with children, and the wider community. By doing this we can empower people to identify vulnerabilities, recognise the risks, and raise concerns - keeping themselves and others in their community safe. We must also work together to identify those who would cause harm, intervene and investigate, and appropriately and confidently share information and best practice across agencies. Where harm has taken place, we must work together to provide support for victims and their families through and beyond the criminal justice system. To do this effectively we must:

- Bring the voice of the child and young person into our policy and service design. **Listening to people.**
- West Yorkshire Police and partners such as local authorities, safeguarding boards, colleagues working in education, health and social care, and national bodies such as HMIC, will gather information and intelligence to develop a profile of the problem in West Yorkshire to direct our joint efforts. **Understanding our communities.**
- We will learn from professional challenges and internal audits across organisations, and develop a partnership approach to sharing information, intelligence, and best practice. This will help us to develop policies and procedures that continue to provide a consistent, cohesive and coordinated approach to child sexual abuse and exploitation across West Yorkshire. **Working together.**
- The police and partners will use all information available to identify and focus on those who are at risk. We must identify gaps in delivery, areas of vulnerability, and emerging threats, to help prevent CSE through proactive partnership work. **Preventing and intervening earlier.**
- All relevant agencies must ensure any recommendations from external or internal scrutiny are implemented and monitored. **Improving our services.**
- Encourage and support new initiatives around raising awareness, prevention and therapeutic support - funding innovative projects where possible. Within the OPCC, the Safer Communities Fund and Partnership Executive Group will help to support key projects. **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 in-depth reports into the prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 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 available including HMIC inspection reports, national guidance, and performance data. Our Delivery Quarterly report will also monitor our progress against outcomes, for example through our **safeguarding vulnerable people**, and **supporting victims and witnesses**. Indicators of progress may include:

- Increasing the proportion of convictions for child sexual abuse.
- Funding more projects and initiatives focused on tackling child sexual abuse, with a focus on raising awareness, empowering people, and therapeutic support for those affected.
- Safeguarding boards in West Yorkshire will comply with their statutory roles and responsibilities.