

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

8 January 2018

SUBJECT: Missing People Update

Report of the Chief Officer Team

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This update report shows the Force's current position in relation to Missing People and outlines the work being undertaken by West Yorkshire Police to safeguard missing people and achieve the outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force activity in respect of Missing People.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

3. Missing People is a Priority in the Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2021. West Yorkshire Police deals with nearly 5,000 missing person calls every year, 20% of which are considered to be 'high-risk'. The reasons why people go missing are complex and can be linked to their mental health, emotional or physical abuse, or exploitation.

Every time a person goes missing, the police are put under great pressure to find them and work with partners to keep them safe. We need to work better together to tackle the root causes and prevent people from going missing in the first place, this will not only reduce the risk of harm for the individual but will also reduce the demand on our police service.

KEY INFORMATION

4.
 - On 6th December 2016, the Police and Crime Plan 2016 – 2021 was launched, naming Missing People as one of the 16 policing priorities going forward.
 - In December 2016, a workshop was held on Missing People to bring together a wide range of partners to discuss the issue and how we can tackle this with a partnership approach. The attendees to this event included statutory and non-statutory partners, community groups and charities working to affect this issue as well as service users.
 - A meeting on the 8th May was held at the OPCC to approve the report which was written following the Missing People workshop in December. A number of outcomes/actions have been discussed with Safeguarding colleagues and a number of the actions have been incorporated into the Missing Best Practice Meeting which is held quarterly.

- The Safer Communities Fund has awarded 8 projects with grants which focussed on Missing People, totalling £31,950.00. Successful applicants can be viewed on the PCC's [website](#).

PARTNER CONTRIBUTION

5.

- WYP have developed a Joint Protocol for the local authorities to adopt
- The OPCC is represented at the Missing Best Practice meeting chaired by WYP and attended by Care Managers and police officers from each district.
- The PCC worked with the Safeguarding Comms Group of West Yorkshire Police to develop a new Missing People communications campaign working in partnership with a number of the local authorities. The campaign targeted 12 – 17 year olds and will include communications on social media. This was released on International Missing Children's Day on 25th May and received a great response on social media. In total, #runningaway posts on Twitter were seen by an estimated 77,854 Twitter accounts. The most popular post gathered 8,326 impressions after being retweeted 17 times. The posters were also shared on the Force's Instagram and Snapchat accounts in hopes of reaching a younger audience.
- This campaign was successful in a SCF grant to enable it to be extended for a 12 month period and target more vulnerable young people

ATTACHMENTS

- [Chief Constable's report on Missing People](#) (PDF 287KB)