

Mark Burns-Williamson

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

Newsletter



June 2018

World Cup Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign

We are reaching out to football fans, with the World Cup in mind, urging them not to lose it all for football. During the Euro 2016 tournament, and other major sporting events, police have seen spikes in domestic abuse incidents. There are no excuses or justifications for being violent or abusive. Domestic abuse and domestic violence are completely unacceptable and it's something no-one should have to live with at any time. It's vital victims know that it's never their fault and that they do not have to put up with it. I urge any victims of domestic abuse to report these incidents whether that is to West Yorkshire Police or another agency. Likewise help is available to offenders who recognise and want to change their behaviour.



Youth Advisory Group

My Youth Advisory Group met in Bradford last month to discuss what support should be available for young people who are victims of sexual assault. The group hold meetings and provide feedback to help inform my decisions, policy and engagement. At their most recent meeting they had a guest speaker from the NHS, who consulted with them on the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, in particular the Children and Young Person service. They fed back a number of key points including the effects of mental health issues, using text messages as a less formal way of communicating and the need to continue to raise awareness of these services with teachers and in schools. Over the summer the group will be visiting West Yorkshire Police's Learning and Development Centre and Headquarters and meeting with the Chief Constable. We are looking for new members to join the group so for more information please visit my website.

Close Pass protects West Yorkshire cyclists

A project to protect cyclists is being rolled out across West Yorkshire. After being contacted on social media and at my road safety summit about the possibility of introducing the scheme, I asked West Yorkshire Police to look into it. In May 2017, they piloted an initiative, now known as Close Pass, which uses plain clothed officers on proactive patrol identifying and dealing with motorists who pass too close for comfort, fail to give way at junctions or are distracted from having a proper view whilst driving. Road safety in the main boils down to respecting other road users, in this case, giving cyclists a safe amount of room when passing. It's a simple message, and it only takes simple actions to avoid causing harm and avoid unnecessary collisions. Find out more



National Volunteers Week and National Specials Weekend

1 June marked National Volunteers Week and National Specials Weekend which was an important opportunity to recognise and thank people who dedicate their time, without financial reward, to help keep our communities safe. Within my office, and West Yorkshire Police, we are very lucky to have a large number of dedicated volunteers. These roles range massively, from Special Constables, Community Volunteers, Independent Custody Visitors to my Youth Advisory Group and I just wanted to say another big thank you to them all for their hard work which really does make a difference.



To find out more or contact me: 01924 294000



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Scams Awareness Month

I am raising awareness of scams throughout June as part of national Scam Awareness Month. The month is an opportunity to learn more about scams, how to avoid them and the support available for victims. I became a SCAMbassador in January and I work with members of the community in and at a national level to educate and support those who may be vulnerable to scams. Scams damage lives and can severely affect people both financially and emotionally. I want to do what I can to help prevent people falling foul of scammers so I am happy to carry out my work as a SCAMbassador.

Find out more