

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

19 June 2018

SUBJECT: Violent Crime Update Report

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. **This report updates the Force's current activity in response to serious violent crime in West Yorkshire, and in particular with regard to the Home Office's Serious Violence Strategy, released in April this year.**
2. The report describes West Yorkshire Police's assessment of the problem profile for violent crime in the county, **including work on domestic abuse, action against knife crime, liaison with schools, and operations to improve safety in the night-time economy.**

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the PCC uses this report to scrutinise West Yorkshire Police's response to violent crime, in particular the **early intervention projects in development** to reduce these offences.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

4. Violent crime does not feature as a specific priority in the current Police and Crime Plan, but violence is an element of offending under a number of our priority areas, for example, domestic abuse, CSE, honour based abuse, and 'major threats'.
5. **The refreshed Police and Crime Plan has revised the emphasis of the Major Threats priority to include serious violence**, including crimes linked to knife and gang violence.

KEY INFORMATION

6. In the wake of the publishing of the Government's Serious Violence Strategy, and public concern about knife crime, gang activity, and the County Line offences, a range of preventative and enforcement activity is underway or in development:

Recent OPCC activity:

7. The meeting on knife crime with the Home Secretary in May, and your and Jayne Sykes' involvement in the APCC's Serious Violence Task and Finish group.
8. The support for last year's weapons amnesties, taking over 200 weapons off the streets of West Yorkshire.
9. The support for the GANGS project – a series of sessions in schools in West Yorkshire which challenges the myth of the glamour of street gangs.

10. Grant round 14 of the Safer Communities Fund has just closed to bids for projects which will tackle serious violent and knife crime in West Yorkshire.
11. Grant Round 13 has already provided nearly £30,000 to local community initiatives to tackle violence in West Yorkshire, including the Leeds Street Team, Street Doctors, Global Diversity Positive Action (Kirklees), and West Yorkshire Police's Knife Crime Prevention programme.
12. Your £50k PEG fund investment in the Huddersfield University and Leeds/Kirklees YOT project exploring the linkages between inappropriate use of social media and violence amongst young people.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

13. West Yorkshire Police produced their **Knife Crime Strategy in June**.
14. In February, the police ran **Operation Sceptre, their week of action against knife and violent crime**. This included targeted enforcement work including; test purchases of knives to warn retailers who break the law; and intelligence gathering work to identify individuals involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. This operation is due to run again later this year.
15. West Yorkshire Police's **gang mentor project with the St. Giles Trust**, working to divert young people on the fringes of urban street gangs away from a life of offending.
16. In addition to this, **the Force is keen to build a relationship with the organisation Redthread**, who have successfully addressed gang-related violent crime in London and Nottingham, basing themselves in hospitals to support people admitted with injuries, and signpost them to organisations who can help them move away from gang activity.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – Violent Crime Update \(322KB\)](#)