



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT (SEPTEMBER 2013)

ISSUES RAISED

Mark raised a number of issues with the Chief Constable at a meeting on 11 November 2013, and asked what the issues were affecting performance, and what was being done to address and understand it. The following issues were raised:

- Despite some areas of good performance, there are concerns around specific crime types and public perceptions.
- A 3.7% reduction in **total crime** is still being seen however this is slowing up and not uniform across districts.
- Encouraging decreases of 11.8% seen in **burglary** however Bradford's latest 12 month figures are showing an increase.
- An apparent 4% reduction in the **volume of safeguarding activity** undertaken since April 2013.
- **Shoplifting** has increased by 10% (in line with a number of other forces who have experienced increases of up to 14%) for the year to June 2013 set against a 1% increase nationally, and this increase now stands at 12%.
- There appears to be an increase in the volume of **bicycle theft** (up 4%), a crime type that has not been an issue for West Yorkshire previously.
- The latest figures show that **sexual offences** have increased by 76%, and as at June 2013 the force had the largest increase in this offence type across the country.
- **Violence without injury** offences have increased by 10%.
- **Confidence** in the police – the belief that they are doing a good or excellent job – is now getting worse over time, especially for those living in Bradford and Calderdale.

Other issues discussed were:

- **HMIC value for money profiles** – these were released publically on 14 November and scheduled for discussion at the Community Outcome Meeting on 25 November – see HMIC website for the profiles
<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/west-yorkshire-value-for-money-profile-2013/>

- **Satisfaction with service in response to anti-social behaviour** – despite it showing no change over time (and currently standing at 81.7%) satisfaction levels had previously been improving. The police service is keen to understand why this has changed.
- **Racially or religiously aggravated offences** and **public order offences** – while both are showing decreasing volumes over the past 12 months, more recent figures indicate an increasing trend within some districts.

RESPONSE FROM WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

- West Yorkshire Police has recently introduced an initiative called Operation Viper. This is the 24/7 strategic oversight of the allocation of resources and is about doing the basics right. It builds on the principles of Operation Optimal – first used to tackle burglary – and uses predictive policing methods to predict where crimes will occur and where resources need to be. Workload is monitored locally on an hourly basis and opportunities for proactive targeting of known or wanted offenders are identified and executed. Areas of particularly high risk are being targeted. Simple changes to police tactics are resulting in offenders and multiple offenders being taken off the street quicker.
- The police has reviewed the way it manages the performance of divisions and departments internally, with monthly local accountability meetings and a monthly force level accountability meeting. The most recent force level meeting identified an issue with the processing of forensic samples, which was addressed at the meeting and led to an immediate process change to ensure a 24 hour deadline for the turnaround of forensic samples. This should result in more timely apprehension of burglary suspects, stopping them from committing further offences.
- Changes are being made to internal software systems to allow the police to focus on the right offenders, and ensuring that resources are in the right place at the right time. Abstractions from key areas have been addressed and there is a potential review of whether shift patterns of regular officers and staff are optimal.
- The use of volunteers to focus on crime prevention is being expanded, including the use of volunteers with specialist knowledge. There will be a big drive to recruit special constables and volunteers. Some special constables to be recruited through businesses.
- While safeguarding activity appears to be reducing, this is linked to changes in private family law, a new national agreement for Cafcass and the introduction of a new triage system in Bradford and Leeds. It therefore represents a reduction in output activity linked to bureaucracy of processes rather than a reduction in activity.
- A shoplifting seminar has been scheduled for 17 December, which will bring together major retailers and key partners in the county to understand the issue and discuss what can be done to help address it. The force is working with supermarkets to enhance crime prevention measures, including the use of ANPR on petrol forecourts.
- Performance around sexual offences is now stabilising. Proactive work is taking place identify crimes and encourage people to come forward, which will contribute towards the increase. Historic offences used to account for 1 in 10 of

all cases reported, but now accounts for 1 in 5. The approach to tackling child sexual exploitation has also proactively identified previously unknown offences with offenders receiving significant custodial sentences for their offending. West Yorkshire Police has completely overhauled its recording practices to ensure accuracy and consistency. Work continues to improve investigations, training, and first response to the needs of the victim whilst maximising evidential opportunities. A proposal has been put to the CPS to joint fund dedicated rape and serious sexual offence lawyers.

- The increase in the violence without injury rate appears, in part, to be linked to changes in the recording of domestic violence offences. In some areas verbal disputes are now being recorded as a crime. Work is underway to understand this further.
- The force needs to understand the reasons behind the apparent increases in some areas for racially/religiously aggravated offences and public order offences given that there is no apparent reason for this.
- Confidence in the police – there is a need to ensure that vacant posts within NPTs are filled and that abstractions are reduced. The nature of the tasks that NPTs undertake will be reviewed, with an emphasis that the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan are addressed. Work is underway to understand the factors that affect public confidence, and work has been completed to understand and tailor existing engagement activity.