

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

MAKING SURE CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKS FOR COMMUNITIES

27 June 2017

**SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report outlines the Force's position in relation to the Use of Force as of 12 May 2017.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Use of Force matters.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. The Use of Force by West Yorkshire Police officers and staff is of vital importance to our efforts of keeping West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe. It directly links to the outcomes of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and often safeguarding vulnerable people and is also crucial for maintaining public confidence in the police.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>4. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) appreciates that Use Of Force can be a concern by the public but that West Yorkshire Police Officers are required at times to use force in order to achieve our Policing purposes which include protecting the vulnerable, attacking criminality and reducing crime.</p> <p>5. The PCC backed a campaign called 'Protect the Protectors' in February 2017, which incorporated protecting all emergency services colleagues from assaults. The campaign to protect the protectors has three key points; to improve recording of assaults on officers and staff across England and Wales, toughen up sentencing rules and support for more sustainable funding into key services like policing.</p> <p>6. The PCC is aware of the WYP requirement with regards to the use of Bite and Spit Guards for frontline officers. Body Worn Video was funded by the PCC in September 2016. He invested £2 million pounds from a 'Transformation Fund' to support the project and promised to put victims of crime, in particular the most vulnerable first, and the use of body worn cameras provides increased support to victims and witnesses and reduces the number required to attend Court. Their use also means increased benefits for police accountability and transparency which will help resolve complaints and increase confidence in the police all round.</p>



## Use of Force

**Paper requested by: OPCC for Community Outcomes Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Report on behalf of: Superintendent Baker**

**Report Author: Inspector Richard Cawkwell**

**Date of Report: 12.5.17**

### **Overview**

West Yorkshire Police Officers are required at times to use force in order to achieve our Policing purposes which include protecting the vulnerable, attacking criminality and reducing crime.

The force has high levels of public demand and Police Officers are despatched to well in excess of 1,000 incidents every 24 hours. These logged incidents do not include the countless other interactions that our officers have with the public as part of daily business.

Our Officers arrest on average 135 people in a 24 hour period which equates to 4050 detainees per month.

Our Police Officers are duty bound to be in harm's way every day and face threats which vary in terms of risk. Many Policing encounters involve no more than good effective communication and problem solving. However other incidents and arrests require uses of force the level of which can vary dependant on the threat that the officers are facing.

Our Police Officers and staff do get assaulted in the line of duty and the force now has improved incident reporting processes which focus on investigation and welfare support by the 1<sup>st</sup> line manager concerned. DCC Robins chairs a monthly group meeting which drives this work.

Appendix A contains details of assault data which was discussed at the last Gold meeting chaired by Mr Robins.

The reality is that our Police Officers and staff need to be correctly trained and equipped in order to safely fulfil their roles. It is a sad reality that there is less respect for the Police and emergency services and we do need to “protect the protectors”

### **Tactical Options**

In WYP our Police Officers are equipped with the following as standard scale of issue;

- Rigid handcuffs
- Baton
- Leg restraints
- PAVA Irritant spray
- Body armour and Yellow Tactical vest

Taser Officers carry the Taser X26 CED (Conducted Energy Device) in an overt chest mounted holster.

Firearms Officers carry conventional firearms as well as less lethal weaponry such as Taser and AEP (Attenuating energy projectile - also known as the baton gun)

We also have dog officers who patrol with General Purpose Dogs (GPD, in the main German Shepherds) who are another less lethal option for higher levels of threat and risk.

The force is moving towards a roll out of Bite and Spit Guards to all front line officers following approval by the COT. The PCC has been briefed on this by the report author and IAGs are in the process of being briefed.

## **Policy and Training**

Appendix B is the policy in relation to use of force in WYP. Policy is directly influenced by Authorised Professional Practice (APP) and relevant use of force legislation which is referenced in the document. This provides the legal and ethical basis from which to train our people.

In terms of training all student officers when they join the organisation receive 5 days of intense Officer Safety Training (OST). This training focusses on use of force legislation, the National Decision Model (NDM) and the practical tactics which are trained in the gymnasiums at Carr Gate. The practical tactics employed are drawn from the Personal Safety Manual, an NPCC / COP document containing all approved OST elements.

All Officers are required to undertake the Job Related Fitness Test (JRFT) which is the bleep shuttle run test.

Following on from this initial training. Officers are required to attend on an annual basis for OST refresher training throughout their career.

In terms of Taser, Officers are nominated by their Inspector, subject of a vetting process and then receive initial training to national standards. The Officers then maintain accreditation by an annual refresher. All Taser training requires passing a qualification shoot and the ability to perform under pressure when facing higher levels of threat and risk.

Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO`s) after selection have to undertake 12 weeks of intensive training which is again governed by national standards and governance held within APP Armed Policing. Following passing all elements of the initial course, AFOs have to undertake continuous refresher training and maintain high rigorous standards in order to remain in the role.

Detention Officers (DO`s) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO`s) receive OST on an annual basis which is tailored to their roles which are clearly different to that of warranted officers.

## **Review of Use of Force**

All Officers and Staff who use force are required to complete the national use of force reporting form. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 all forces were required to submit to the home office details of use of force data. The use of force form captures all elements of force ranging from compliant handcuffing and low level restraint through to the discharge of conventional firearms. The use of force form is available on the Samsung mobile devices which are carried by all of our officers.

Supervisors are required to assess use of force reports before they are finalised. This is the opportunity to highlight any issue that may exist. Body Worn Video (BWV) is an ideal means by which to review operational deployments and use of force. Any concerns over excessive force are referred to the Professional Standards Department (PSD)

All Taser use is subject of review by a senior Police Officer. All Taser firings are reviewed by the duty Silver Cadre Chief Inspector at PS Ops. This again involves an assessment of BWV and use of force reports / statements of the officers. If any concern exists over the proportionality of use the permits of officers are suspended and a review process takes place with the final decision resting with the Divisional Commander for PS Ops.

All firearms deployments are closely managed by accredited Commanders of at least Inspector rank and all deployments are subject of de brief. Any concerns would be addressed by the Commander involved.

### **Future plans**

The main piece of work at this time as previously mentioned concerns Spit and Bite Guards. The delivery of this training will take place in the annual OST refresher at a point in the near future. The content of the training is still being worked on as it is vital that the messaging we deliver around the use of this piece of PPE is clear and concise. Any Officer who uses a guard for a spitting incident will be subject of review by a senior officer at district who is the duty operational commander. The progress of use of the guards will be reviewed and will be reported to the Gold group chaired by Mr Robins.

