

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

8 October 2019

**SUBJECT: Serious Violent Crime**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report provides an update on how West Yorkshire Police are responding to Serious Violent Crime.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the PCC uses this report to scrutinise West Yorkshire Police's response to serious violent crime.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. Serious Violent Crime is now featured within the refreshed Police and Crime Plan under Major Threats and serious violence. The PCC has said he will continue to oversee and support the response provided by regional teams, local partners and neighbourhood policing teams in identifying and preventing serious violence within our communities.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>4. The Government's Serious Violence Strategy is centred on 4 main themes: tackling county lines and misuse of drugs, early intervention and prevention, supporting communities and local partnerships and law enforcement and the criminal justice response. Taking the strategy and current public concerns into account, the PCC has:</p> <p>5. Reviewed the West Yorkshire Police response to Knife Crime with the Chief Constable</p> <p>6. Being assigned to the Home Office Government Task Force on Serious Violent Crime</p> <p>7. Is part of the Association of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Serious Violence Task and Finish group</p> <p>8. Supported weapons amnesties and WYP lead campaigns across the serious and violent crime arena.</p> <p>9. Supported Programme Precision a Partnership response to Serious Violent Crime.</p> <p>10. Provided funding through the Partnership Executive Group fund for investment in the Huddersfield University and Leeds/Kirklees YOT project exploring the linkages between inappropriate use of social media and violence amongst young people and for initiatives such as the GANGS project – a series of sessions in schools in West Yorkshire which challenges the myth of the glamour of street gangs.</p> <p>11. Grant round 14 of the Safer Communities Fund was launched in 2018 to tackle serious and violent crime from all angles including prevention, early intervention, diversion, protection and education, 49 groups received funding totalling £211,509.34, projects will complete in October 2019.</p>

12. Grant round 13 also 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.
13. Received £1,121,395 from the national Early Intervention Youth Fund. Specific projects endorsed and co-ordinated by the Police and Crime Commissioner will be supported over a two year period to help divert children and young people away from violent crime.
14. Responded to the Home secretary's Announcement on new powers to tackle Knife Crime 31 Jan 2019
15. Will be working with the Home Office to host a West Yorkshire Partnership Event involving partners who are working together to tackle Serious and Violent Crime (March 2019).
16. Funding a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Coordinator to support voluntary sector Partners in all areas, including vulnerable young people, substance mis-use and community support work.
17. Supported the launch of Knife Crime Awareness Week (March 2019)
18. Attended the Serious Violence Youth Summit at Downing Street (April 2019)
19. Held a serious violence event in conjunction with the Home Office (July 2019) which brought key partners together to help understand what the public health approach looks like in tackling serious violence. The event also publicised the #knifefree campaign which will be re-run over the summer.
20. Received £3.37m from the Home Office to deliver a Violence Reduction Unit in 19/20 which will cover the whole of West Yorkshire and aims to strengthen the response to serious violence across the county.
21. Continues to chair the Local Criminal Justice Board and the West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending Board, both which address issues within the CJ system to improve process and outcomes, and ensure those involved in crime are supported to exit criminality.

#### **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

Early Intervention Youth Fund - The PCC working together with West Yorkshire Police, Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Prison Service will lead delivery of a holistic programme of early intervention projects with the aim of preventing serious violence within our county. Partners have identified a number of key connected strands of effective targeted programmes, initiatives and community co-productions for those individuals and communities at high risk of serious violence.



**Title: Serious Violent Crime & Violent Crime**

**COT Sponsor: ACC Hankinson**

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## **SUMMARY**

This report will provide an update regarding West Yorkshire Police (WYP) response to the additional funding provided by the Home Office totalling £4,020,000 to tackle Serious Violent Crime and knife crime.

The Home Office have set out how they intend to monitor the police surge to suppress serious violence. The Home Office primary objective is to **reduce serious violence in public spaces** with *a focus on reducing knife crimes committed against young people.*

The key measures of success at a national level are as follows:

- a reduction in **hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object** and especially among those victims aged under 25
- a reduction in **knife-enabled serious violence** and especially among those victims aged under 25
- a reduction in all **non-domestic homicides** and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

The Home Office also stipulated that the additional funding had to be spent focussing on the four key areas listed below:

1. **Hot Spot areas : Prevention and Enforcement**
2. **Individuals and groups : Intelligence and Targeting**
3. **Investigative response : Description of activities and outputs**
4. **Equipment and technology : description of investment to build capability**

## **ONGOING WORK AND DEVELOPMENTS**

This report will provide an update around West Yorkshire Police Operational activity to meet the Home Office objectives **and** will report updates in the below key areas requested by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

## **Serious Violent Crime**

### **Governance**

In response to the Home Office Funding allocation West Yorkshire Police have established a small team under Operation Jemlock reporting to Assistant Chief Constable Local Policing that consists of:

- Detective Superintendent
- Chief Inspector
- Police Sergeant
- Police Constable
- 5 Acting Police Sergeants for 10 month period until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

The projected costs for these officers for the financial year is **£491,661**

Detective Superintendent Chris Gibson has responsibility for Force Oversight on serious violent crime and knife crime, with a serious violent crime / knife crime point of contact in each of the 5 policing Districts to deliver the Force 4 P Plan to tackle and reduce serious violent crime.

The Operation Jemlock team manage the daily surge activity and night-time economy patrols with 5 dedicated Sergeants on the operational teams to deliver a consistent proactive approach to enforcement activity and community engagement.

Over the next 7 months, the Force will seek to build on the excellent increase in arrests for Serious Violent crime by ensuring a robust and consistent approach to investigations to ensure offenders are charged at the earliest point in the investigation and remanded in custody to prevent the commission of further offences. A review of the resources in this area will likely lead to some dedicated accredited investigators to improve positive outcomes / charges.

### **Prevention and Enforcement Activity**

Operation Jemlock has provided an additional 2550 officers from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> August delivering 16,820 hours of additional high visibility / daily prevention activity maximising opportunities for community engagement, community reassurance and problem solving.

On a daily basis since the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 West Yorkshire Police has deployed 2 serials of 1 X Sergeant and 7 police officers in an East and West Serial to cover both sides of the Force where demand is at its highest resulting in an additional 467 officers and 4320 hours of additional high visibility policing and reassurance patrols

Resources have been focussed with up to date daily intelligence packages and details of offenders wanted for or linked to serious violent crime resulting in a significant increase in arrests and best use of stop and search with no recorded adverse community impact. OP

Jemlock officers are deployed from 3 sites within West Yorkshire and will brief jointly with Neighbourhood teams to ensure local knowledge is shared.

Operation Jemlock has provided an additional 320 officers deployed in the violent crime hotspot areas in all 5 Districts during Night Time Economy hours delivering an additional 1950 hours high visibility and reassurance activity to prevent and reduce violent crime and knife crime.

Because of this prevention and enforcement activity West Yorkshire Police has achieved the below results up to the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019:

**Arrests – 734**

**Stop / Search – 743**

**Intelligence – 1125**

**Weapons recovered – 78**

**Vehicles seized – 142**

### **Individuals and Groups: Intelligence and targeting**

West Yorkshire Police has reviewed the processes around generating Intelligence from members of the public specifically around the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources. This has achieved a greater focus on offenders who commit serious violent crime and carry weapons resulting in increased actionable intelligence to arrest offenders.

Officers will submit intelligence reports under the OP Jemlock operation enabling capture of performance data, quality assurance, assessment and dissemination to take place with actionable intelligence being tasked through the Op Jemlock team or District intelligence units.

Offenders who are arrested and identified as members of Organised Crime Groups (OCG) are prioritised and consideration is given to applying to the Courts for a Serious Crime Prevention Order.

The officers deployed on the prevention and enforcement activity are focussed by detailed analysis and tasking documents targeting offenders who have committed serious violent crime and providing visibility in communities that are identified as violent crime hot spots.

### **Investigative response: Description of activities and outputs**

The West Yorkshire Police Serious Violent Crime Problem Profile and Home Office statistics identified street robberies as an area requiring focus and additional resources to reduce the number of offences, disrupt and arrest offenders and safeguard victims.

Leeds, Bradford and Kirklees Districts have deployed a multi-purpose Response/ Investigation dedicated Robbery car on a daily basis from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June resulting in an additional 206 officers deployed delivering an additional 1656 hours dedicated to the response and initial investigation of street robberies.

Leeds, Kirklees and Bradford Districts also have pro-active detectives deployed into robbery hot spots to disrupt offenders and safeguard victims resulting in an additional 254 officers being deployed for 1020 hours of proactive enforcement and prevention activity to reduce robbery offences, serious violent crime and reassure the public.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, the Force has seen 70 offenders arrested for robbery offences

### **Equipment and Technology: Description of Investment to Build Capability**

West Yorkshire Police has invested in an enhanced software package for use by analysts and researchers increasing their effectiveness by up to 70%.

West Yorkshire Police has also invested in 7 additional liveried and non-liveried police vehicles and transit vans to enable the prevention and enforcement activity to be undertaken.

West Yorkshire Police has invested in additional Knife Arches (mobile metal detectors) that can be deployed anywhere in the Force into hot spots and transport hubs to reassure the public and remove weapons from the streets.

West Yorkshire Police is working with a University to invest in a serious violent crime predictive analysis system to ensure the most effective deployment of officers into hot spots at the right times.

The funding from the Home Office has to be used before the end of this financial year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The predicted Investment by West Yorkshire Police with the above detailed response, activity and outcomes is £4,020,000.

### **County Lines/Drugs**

West Yorkshire Police works closely with the Regional Organised Crime Unit to monitor and map organised crime groups and urban street gangs who are involved in County Lines and Drug supply both within West Yorkshire and into other counties.

West Yorkshire has mapped several lines to manage, monitor and disrupt where appropriate utilising both overt and covert investigations.

Similar to the Organised Crime Group model, groups are scored, mapped and prioritised for interventions and disruptions.

### **Approach to Child Offenders**

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) are the new partnerships that replace Local Safeguarding Children Boards. West Yorkshire will have 5 MASA, coterminous with Local Authority boundaries. MASA are required to create flexible new local children safeguarding arrangements led by three safeguarding partners (Local Authorities, Chief Officers of police, and Clinical Commissioning Groups). It places a duty on those partners to arrange to work together, and with 'relevant agencies', for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the

welfare of children in their area. All three safeguarding partners have equal and joint responsibility for local safeguarding arrangements. To be effective, these local arrangements should link to other strategic partnership work happening locally to support children and families. This will include other public boards including Health and Wellbeing Boards, Adult Safeguarding Boards, Channel Panels, Improvement Boards, Community Safety Partnerships, Local Criminal Justice Boards and Multi Agency Public Protection Panels.

In relation to serious violent crime and knife crime, the Force works closely with the Crown Prosecution Service and Youth Offending Panels seeking to use out of court disposals where circumstances of the offending allow and there are no aggravating factors. Where young people commit offences of serious violence and knife crime, the Force will follow Crown Prosecution guidelines and seek charging advice in accordance with these guidelines.

A pilot project is currently running in Kirklees, supported by the Crown Prosecution Service where young people found in possession of knives on school premises. Rather than being excluded, are taken through an education and awareness package through a local Pupil Referral Unit, negating the need to exclude the child and reintegrating them back into mainstream school much quicker if the programme is completed.

## **Early Intervention and Prevention**

The Force has implemented a Neighbourhood Policing model in all 5 policing Districts with early intervention and prevention a key focus particularly around serious violent crime and knife crime.

The Force has adopted the Liaison and Diversion Practices in all 5 Policing Districts that provide early intervention and prevention with those identified as being vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation and victimisation.

All 5 Policing Districts utilise Safer Schools Officers, Neighbourhood Officers and Police Community Support Officers to deliver knife crime awareness lessons to children in education establishments.

Students from Airedale Academy were spoken to by an ex offender who represented St Giles Trust and explained to students how he was stabbed 17 times by his own knife. The students from the performing arts department at Airedale developed a film, which includes scenarios such as a knife fight, fatal knife injury and the aftermath of violent crimes, and seeks to educate children and teenagers about the danger of carrying a knife.

Leeds District have been working closely with the Youth Offending Team identifying young people at risk of Childhood Criminal Exploitation and providing early intervention and diversion opportunities.

Leeds District have an officer who is working with the local authority Education lead to write lesson plans for pupils that comply with Ofsted requirements but also deliver key messages around serious violent crime, childhood criminal exploitation, knife crime and other risk areas.

## **Trauma Informed Practice**

Trauma informed practice has gained increasing momentum over the past few years, however it remains broad in its implications and interpretations can differ across organisations. This informed practice involves an understanding of the origin and effects of past trauma on the individual and, considering this in the provision of care, intervention or disruption.

The development of the force Violence Reduction Unit to deliver a multi-agency response to tackle and prevent serious violent crime and knife crime will have some focus on delivering this style of prevention and support through multi agency delivery.

## **Supporting Communities and Partnership Working**

- All 5 policing Districts have conducted test purchase operations using Police Cadets to test smaller retailers and large supermarket franchises around the sale of knives to young people under 18.
- In Kirklees 18 premises were visited resulting in 3 knives being purchased. The District are working with Trading Standards to raise awareness around the sale of knives and to seek prosecutions where appropriate.
- All 5 Policing Districts have had an enhanced response to the Night Time Economy patrols in City Centres working with door staff and licencing departments to introduce conditions of entry to some venues, also utilising legislation to close down premises identified as violent crime hot spots.
- Leeds District hosted a Youth Parliament event at Pudsey Civic Hall where the theme was serious violent crime and knife crime.
- Bradford District are working with British Transport Police and Bus companies to deploy knife arches into the transport hubs. This provides reassurance to the public and makes best use of stop and search powers to reduce the number of weapons on the streets.
- Wakefield District have a dedicated Intelligence officer for knife crime who identifies young people at risk of becoming involved in violent crime and knife crime and directs police and multi-agency resources to conduct early intervention and disruption visits.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a Home Office Serious Violence event at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, attended by over 150 people from partner agencies and charities across the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner has received additional Home Office funding to establish a pan West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit that will set strategic aims and objectives to be delivered in the 5 policing Districts through already established networks and partnerships.



## **EIYF Updates**

The Force in conjunction with the Police and Crime Commissioner and 5 Local Authorities continues to deliver the below projects which were initiated following Early Intervention Youth Fund monies being allocated in Early 2018.

- WP3 – NWS and Business Community Outreach Serious Violent Crime Prevention outreach
- WP4 – Get Away N Get Safe – Match Funded Project – Primary School Gang Project
- WP5 – Breaking the Cycle
- WP6 – Trusted Interactions
- WP7 – Tiered Progression Project

## **Programme Precision Update**

West Yorkshire Police has a force wide Programme Precision Steering Group, which is attended by key influential partners from the five Local Authorities. This includes NHS, Public Health England, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, HM Prison Service, HM Probation Service along with further partners and organisations who contribute to the Force strategic plans to tackle and disrupt organised crime groups through a coordinated Multi-Agency approach.

Strategic plans are monitored and delivered through the Programme Precision Force Silver group where Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and Urban Street Gangs that are high priority are discussed, disruptions are recorded which includes arrests and convictions of OCG nominals.

Each District has a Programme Precision Bronze group that monitors and captures local disruptions and activities to feed into the Silver Group.

West Yorkshire use the legislative definition of an OCG to define what one is –

### **Organised Crime Group**

*An organised crime group (OCG) is defined as a group which has at its purpose, or one of its purposes, the carrying on of criminal activities and consists of three or more people who agree to act together to further that purpose.*

*It is not necessary for the individual participating in the group's criminal activities to know any of the group members.*

All these OCG's are mapped and scored and have a Lead Responsible Officer.

West Yorkshire Police uses the below definition to define Urban Street Gangs (USG) -

*A relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who;*

*(1) See themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, and*

*(2) Engage in a range of criminal activity and violence*

*They may also have any or all of the following factors:*

*(3) Identify with or lay claim over territory*

*(4) Have some form of identifying structural feature*

*(5) Are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.*

All USGs are mapped and scored and have a Lead Responsible Officer.

OCG's and USGs are both involved in serious disruptive crime and serious violent crime. It is through the Programme Precision Silver and Bronze groups that high risk groups are identified allowing for a targeted approach to the disruption, arrest and prosecution of OCG members, an example of which would be a recent conviction of an OCG leader from the Bradford area who was sentenced to 25 years for an offence of murder.

## **STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS**

### **Challenges, Impact and Next Steps**

As the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Force in the country we serve an extremely complex and diverse population with high levels of deprivation in many areas.

The diverse nature of the population means there are many cultural differences and mistrust of law enforcement agencies. International political events such as conflicts, migration, terrorism, extremism and even exiting the European Union, can and do influence community tensions and community cohesion.

The county has a large student population particularly in Leeds, which can be vulnerable to acquisitive crime; conversely, we also have many rural areas, which can feel isolated and detached.

- West Yorkshire Police recorded 2617 offences involving the use of a knife in the last 12 months
- 37 % of Knife crime offences in this period involved a victim aged under 25
- 44 % of Robbery offences in this period involved a victim under 25
- 73 % of suspects for Serious Violent Crime were male aged between 20 and 39
- 53 % of victims for Serious Violent Crime were male aged between 20 and 39
- 12 % of Serious Violent Crime was committed by a child aged 17 and under
- 20 % of child victims of Serious violent crime were recorded as missing from home at the time of the offence

These headlines identify some key challenges for West Yorkshire Police moving forward, which have informed our prevention and enforcement plans for the coming year.

Our commitment is to improving our investigative capacity, improving intelligence submissions and making best use of our equipment and technology in our fight against violent crime. Recognising that we will not arrest our way out of this, we are working alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner in the development of a multi-agency Violence Reduction Unit to

deliver innovative and creative solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence and knife crime.

Our enforcement activity and spending plan is reviewed quarterly to ensure performance measures and value for money and where different strategies and interventions are required, we will change our operating model to meet the demands however in the short term for the last 3 months we have seen:

- 512 Arrests for violent crime , drugs , domestic abuse
- 3.6 % reduction in Knife crime offences in last 3 months
- 4.4% reduction in knife crime offences involving persons under 25
- 51 % increase in the number of stop and searches compared to same 3 months last year