



Mark Burns-Williamson OBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
Ploughland House
62 George Street
Wakefield WF1 1DL



Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JED

Your Reference:

21 April 2015

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Dear Home Secretary

I read with interest the recent thematic HMIC inspection report into the welfare of vulnerable people in police custody. While West Yorkshire was not one of those police force's inspected, it is still pertinent to consider the findings carefully and the position in West Yorkshire, and undoubtedly there are some recommendations that will need to be implemented within this area. This is very much a partnership issue and will require combined efforts to address the report's findings. As a provider of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme I will ensure that the relevant issues are considered and captured.

In West Yorkshire we are working closely with our partners to support vulnerable people, whether they are victims or have contact with the criminal justice system for another reason. For instance we have piloted two initiatives around helping those with mental health issues – the liaison and diversion scheme in the custody suite and the street triage pilot – and this work is continuing, with a public health official being seconded to my office to help undertake a review of mental health initiatives. I have also funded an additional pilot to place mental health staff within police control rooms together with the National Health Service and I eagerly await the commencement of this project. I instigated a review of the Drugs Intervention Programme within West Yorkshire, the findings of which are currently being implemented at a local level. There is also work locally ongoing around the provision of appropriate adults for those in custody identified as vulnerable.

I hope the work with the Home Office around the collation and publication of data on police detention is undertaken swiftly and in the interim will discuss with the Temporary Chief Constable what information can currently be provided while this work takes place.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Copied to: Dee Collins QPM, Temporary Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police

Tel No: 01924 294000

Email: markburns-williamson@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

Fax No: 01924 294008

www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk