

**SUBJECT: Safeguarding**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police to Safeguard Vulnerable People.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Safeguarding.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. Safeguarding vulnerable people is central to the work of the police and community safety partners. A person is vulnerable if as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care or protect themselves, or others, from harm or exploitation or other adverse impact on their quality of life. Vulnerability can take many forms and can be linked to mental health, substance misuse, age, etc. this means that each individual must be supported in a way which recognises their personal circumstances.</p> <p>4. This requires different agencies working together to safeguard people in different ways and requires a great deal of coordination and communication. Safeguarding people was considered the biggest priority by respondents to the “Your Priorities, Your Plan” consultation with 70% of people saying it was of importance to them. I will continue to work together to protect those most at risk ensure that safeguarding the vulnerable is at the forefront of all of our partners’ work and aim to deliver this in a coordinated, consistent and cohesive way across West Yorkshire.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>5. The PCC is committed to safeguarding all children and other vulnerable people and this is reflected in his Police and Crime Plan and the work he does across West Yorkshire and nationally to raise awareness, invest in prevention, support victims and build stronger more effective partnerships. Examples of this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The now established Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board continues to bring partners together to identify how, by working together a West Yorkshire wide approach can be taken. Working to a domestic and sexual abuse strategy and action plan the board is overseeing a number of strands of work and is currently developing a partnership performance dashboard to better understand the demand and to develop effective solutions.</li><li>• The PCC’s dedicated Safeguarding Advisor to continues to lead, deliver and advise the PCC’s strategy for a coordinated, cohesive and consistent response to Safeguarding, in West Yorkshire and has now established a children’s risk and vulnerability strategic group bringing together safeguarding children partnerships and police safeguarding leads to ensure that</li></ul>

across West Yorkshire a consistent, collaborative and coordinated response is provided to all children and young persons who are at risk of neglect, abuse or exploitation.

- The established Independent Domestic Abuse scrutiny panel continues to bring professionals from statutory and non-statutory domestic abuse specialists together to scrutinise in detail cases and identify good practice as well as learning points for West Yorkshire Police.
- The PCC addressed one of these recommendations when the OPCC joined forces with Modern Slavery charity Hope for Justice and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to provide two training events for 'first responders' – in this case frontline social workers from across the Yorkshire and Humber region. First Responders are in a key position to refer potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking for government funded support through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is the national framework for identifying victims of modern-day slavery and ensuring they receive the necessary support to help them rebuild their lives.
- As modern slavery lead for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and in partnership with the Modern Slavery transformation Programme the WYOPCC organised a national summit focusing on protecting children from exploitation. 250 specialists from across the country came together for this national partnership conference on the issue in September. Held in Birmingham, the summit focused on further improving the partnership response to protecting children from exploitation and abuse, such as county lines and child sexual exploitation. The event was a significant opportunity to hear from leading practitioners and draw on their expertise. No single organisation can tackle these abuses and exploitation alone. It requires a partnership response by all agencies working together effectively, keeping the victims and survivors of this crime at the heart of what we do which is exactly what the summit was about.
- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) (formerly the WY anti trafficking and modern slavery network) celebrated its fifth year in 2019 with a meeting held in Bradford. A network of partners which aims to improve the coordination of the threat of modern slavery and human trafficking is now in its fifth year. The WYASP was set up after a force-wide investigation into an organised crime group who trafficked Slovakian nationals to Leeds for forced labour and benefit fraud. The network was set up by the PCC working with the international anti-slavery charity, Hope for Justice and West Yorkshire Police's Human Trafficking Team. It meets four times a year the latest meeting being in January 2020. At the latest meeting partners shared examples of best practice, expertise and important information to help improve the regional coordination of the threat of modern slavery and human trafficking. All partners are encouraged to join the partnership and attend the meetings. You can also now follow the progress of the network on Twitter @wy\_antislavery."
- In July the PCC held a regional conference with the Home Office to share knowledge across the county and look for long term solutions. Held in Leeds, it brought together partners from the NHS, fellow PCCs, police, probation, public health, education, local authorities, community safety partnerships, voluntary and community groups to help understand what the public health approach looks like in tackling serious violence. The other side of the coin to this kind of partnership working is robust law enforcement, which is also incredibly important and something which the public expect. Operation Jemlock has been running since April and involves officers carrying out proactive, high visibility patrols in key crime areas. Teams have also carried out reactive work according to demand and intelligence information. Since the initiative launched, over 500 arrests have been made with over 40 weapons seized.
- Anti-slavery Day was acknowledged on 18th October 2019 and to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking, the WYOPCC re-released four videos of a survivor of modern slavery who spent 15 years trapped in forced labour. The survivor received care and support

from West Yorkshire based agency, Palm Cove Society. The survivor of modern slavery spoke to OPCC to help raise public awareness of the issues. The videos highlight the treatment the survivor suffered at the hands of criminals and the local partnership support he has subsequently received.

- Also to coincide with Anti-Slavery Day, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC) Dame Sara Thornton published her Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021. The PCC wrote to the IASC to acknowledge its publication and to offer support through the NATMSN to deliver the plans key priorities. As a result, the PCC will be meeting with the IASC on a quarterly basis going forward to ensure consistent and coordinated support to the IASC from PCC's at a national level to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.
- In November, the PCC attended and spoke at a modern slavery and human trafficking training event in Leeds. The event was delivered in partnership with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and anti-trafficking charity Hope for Justice. The training was aimed at social workers across the Yorkshire & Humber region who could be responsible for completing and submitting referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. This was an opportunity for frontline professionals working within organisations with First Responder status to gain an in depth understanding of the NRM process and how to best support victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. It was designed to engage, train and equip over thirty attendees with the knowledge and awareness of the issue but more importantly increase their confidence and ability to respond appropriately.
- The PCC attended and spoke at a regional county lines information and networking event in Wakefield The event organised by the Yorkshire and Humber regional organised crime unit. The aim of the conference was to raise awareness of county lines with police and partners with inputs from the national County Lines coordination centre, regional organised crime unit, Fearless and St Giles trust.
- The PCC attended and spoke at a 'Tackling Online Sexual Offending in West Yorkshire' conference. This event was organised by West Yorkshire Police in partnership with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and brought together partners with a vital role in this area to better co-ordinate their efforts and consider additional ways to tackle and prevent online offending. The day was case study led with real life examples of offending trajectories and behaviours, offenders being managed in the community, and tangible, practical preventative measures being developed and deployed to prevent offending behaviour.
- The OPCC continues to support the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications Group, working with the West Yorkshire Police, Local Authority communications leads and the third sector the group seeks to develop collaborative safeguarding campaigns for west Yorkshire. The group's bid to the PCCs Safer Communities Fund was successful and the group have £6000 to assist with funding campaigns over the next 12 months. Some of this funding has already been used to support Facebook advertising of the party model campaign relaunch at the beginning of September. The group will also be promoting a domestic abuse and children campaign across the county, this is a relaunch of Wakefield's campaign. The group will now be working on a 12 month plan for 2020.
- The PCC supported WYP in raising awareness on county lines and providing information for parents, carers and guardians to help keep children safe from county lines exploitation. The campaign provided a checklist of signs to look out for around this type of crime and was released as police in Bradford police released a video highlighting work to target drugs offences in the city.
- In support of the 16 days of action a campaign aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse was launched. The campaign had been created by the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications group. The 'It's in your hands' campaign is targeted at both men and women

who are concerned about their behaviour, whether this is physical violence or controlling tendencies. The message is that there is still time to change and support available to do it. (The 16 Days of Action is a global initiative, starting on White Ribbon Day (Monday, 25 November) and ending on International Human Rights Day (Tuesday, 10 December)).

- Again during the 16 days of action the PCC hosted a development day run by the West Yorkshire Independent Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel (IDASP). Attendees from various organisations across all of West Yorkshire attended and had were updated on the work of the IDASP, , partnership (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, IDVA) cars, the Bright Sky mobile phone app, Domestic Violence Protection Orders ( DVPO), the Crown Prosecution Service- How Decisions are made Domestic Abuse Case Study- Coercion and Control and Clare's law. The training was followed by the attendees scrutinising a number of cases which will feed back to WYP to recognise good work and identify areas for development.
- The OPCC hosted a meeting of the Yorkshire and the Humber child sexual exploitation (CSE) Threat Reduction Group which brings together the police, statutory and third sector partners from across the region to discuss trends, information and the sharing of best practice.
- The West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Strategic Group attended by Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership managers, the West Yorkshire police and NHS representatives held its quarterly meeting. Included in the agenda were a discussion on the West Yorkshire risk and vulnerability action plan, strategy and annual review, the NSPCC report on online abuse, an update on the child sexual assault assessment service (CSAAS) including the LINXS sexual assault services review and updates from across West Yorkshire organisations and districts. The group then met in February 2020 and the meeting was dominated by a presentation from the Violence Reduction Unit Director and a productive discussion on how the VRU and child safeguarding can continue to strengthen relationships, further develop responses and resources for children and young people, share ideas and support each other across West Yorkshire and within local authority areas.
- As lead PCC Mark chaired the latest quarterly meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) in October. The network was launched by the PCC in January 2016 and is a vital platform which brings together Police and Crime Commissioners from across England and Wales, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), The National Police Chief Council (NPCC) lead Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer and the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit to discuss and improve how they work together to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in all its forms.
- The PCC was represented at an event in Bradford organised by Shantona Women's and family Centre (Leeds). This was to showcase the Shantona Islamophobia: Untold Stories film showcase. The event was well attended and the PCC's Safeguarding Adviser joined a question and answer panel at the conclusion of the event. Which has been featured by ITV Calendar News.
- The PCC spoke at a West Yorkshire event held at the National Coal Museum entitled ACES, SPACES AND LEARNING' A day of trauma informed education for all. This full day conference brought together an eclectic mix of thought leaders to explore the effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma on a child and consider the impact that this can have on their learning, development and overall wellbeing. The day gave multi agency professionals a deep dive into understanding children and young people who have been affected by any kind of trauma and how they can relate to them, assist and support them in order to reduce harm.
- The PCC attended and addressed the attendees at the Westminster launch of the Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) publication of their research document 'Parents' experiences of Children's Social Care when their child is being sexually exploited'. PACE works alongside parents and carers of children who are – or are at risk of being exploited by

perpetrators external to the family. They offer guidance and training to professionals on how child sexual exploitation affects the whole family. The launch was hosted by Barry Sheerman M.P. along with the author of the report and the parents of 3 exploited children who spoke powerfully about their experiences.

- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery partnership funded by the PCC held its quarter 1 meeting in Bradford. The meeting was chaired by Sir Peter Fahey and the agenda covered; West Yorkshire District Forums Updates; a WYP operations overview; county Lines & cuckooing; an intelligence overview (dashboard data); training & partnerships and an update on the PCC's National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network update.
- In continuing the PCC's work as national modern slavery lead and strategic partner of the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme (MSPTP) a 'pop up' event was held within Westminster where M.P.s and Ministers were invited to 'meet the team' and hear about the work of the programme and the PCC's National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN). Staff from the OPCC work alongside the Devon and Cornwall OPCC, the Devon and Cornwall Police (who lead on the programme) and the national Crime Agency to ensure this was a productive and useful engagement event. Baroness Butler-Sloss also visited and as a result has agreed to attend a NATMSN meeting to address PCCs on modern slavery.
- The PCC opened and spoke at a two day conference: 'Policing Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking CPD Conference - Driving Prosecutions: Safeguarding through Justice.' This conference, delivered by the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme, was an essential development for leaders with strategic and operational responsibility for Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking locally, regionally and nationally.
- The West Yorkshire partnership safeguarding communications group met and was chaired by the PCC's Safeguarding Adviser and attended by WYP, local authorities and the OPCC communications team. Topics discussed and being developed include the National Child Exploitation Day (formerly CSE day) 18th March CSE and the night time economy; West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week (w/c 22/6); a serious sexual offences campaign; squaring (money laundering through other peoples' personal bank accounts) and domestic abuse and older people.
- The PCCs NATMSN Coordinator and Safeguarding Adviser working with a consultant engaged by the MSPTP have begun to roll out a series of workshops in 9 of the organised crime unit regions across England and Wales as a follow up to the 2019 launch of the modern slavery toolkit for PCCs. This toolkit supports PCCs in their governance and accountability role of Chief Constables and guides them in creating, developing and supporting local anti-slavery partnerships. A workshop was recently held in Leeds with good attendance from OPCCs across Yorkshire and the Humber.
- The PCC launched (Feb 2020) the West Yorkshire Victims and Witnesses strategy 2019-2021 the strategy supports People Harmed by Crime and focuses on seven key areas: Raise awareness of the PCC's approach to supporting ALL victims and witnesses, putting people and communities at the heart of policy, practice and service development; Get the initial response to victims and witnesses right first every time; Work hard to give people the support they need to cope and recover, tailored to their individual needs, whether or not they pursue action through the criminal justice system(CJS); Increase the confidence people have in the CJS and empower them to take up different options available to them through it; Address the additional vulnerabilities and complex needs that compound barriers to coping and recovering and often result in repeat occurrences; Identify and take action to fill gaps in service and achieve greater consistency in West Yorkshire; in all of the above priorities work to ensure that the needs of children and young people are given appropriate attention.

ATTACHMENT

- [Chief Constables report – Safeguarding \(PDF 387KB\)](#)