

A message from Mark – I hope that you, your families, friends and colleagues are all managing to stay safe and well.



This weekend marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day and I hope that you will all be able to appropriately celebrate and enjoy it over the long weekend as much as possible whilst we all continue to abide by the public health guidance from Government and NHS. The events in the lead up to VE Day serve as a timely reminder of the huge sacrifices and suffering that were endured to secure our freedoms. Some of you might also have seen the tribute to West Yorkshire's very own army veteran Captain (Colonel) Tom on his 100th birthday which was very uplifting and fitting given his amazing NHS fundraising of more than £30m, we salute you Sir 🙌

I'm sure that many of you will also be watching the Government's statement on Sunday with interest regarding their plans on an exit strategy for the current lockdown restrictions.

I will be watching intently, especially on the policing element of the strategy to ensure it will work for our communities and our officers and staff, and key workers who have all been doing such a sterling job in these extremely challenging circumstances, as well as the vast majority of the public in West Yorkshire who have complied with the guidance.

It's been another busy week in my office and you may have seen that I launched a competition for young people to design a new logo for my Youth Advisory Group (YAG). The winning designer will receive a £100 online shopping voucher and of course any young people wanting to join the YAG are more than welcome. If you know of anyone that might like to get involved in the competition or the group please do direct them to my [website](#) where they can find out more.

My Safer Communities Fund (SCF) extra-ordinary grant round focusing on support for communities with the impact of COVID-19 also closed for applications last week with around 150 submissions. We are currently

working our way through these with the aim of distributing the £150,000 of Proceeds of Crime monies in grants to organisations across West Yorkshire by the end of May.

Business continues apace and this week, I chaired (remotely) a meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network which was specifically looking at how we can continue to support victims of modern slavery throughout the pandemic. I also chaired a meeting of the Local Criminal Justice Board, similarly focused on how we can best mitigate the challenges facing criminal justice system which are significant. I have been on calls with the Home Office and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to raise current concerns and I closed the week out with a national meeting on the work of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), with our West Yorkshire VRU now in full flow.

Just this week West Yorkshire Police released figures showing that they have made over 2500 arrests in the fight against violent crime in the last 12 months or so. [Operation Jemlock](#), as it is known, began in March 2019 to tackle knife related violence. This operational activity compliments the work that the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is doing, enabling us to work collaboratively with key partners including public health, education, local government, police, third/voluntary sector and prisons to better understand and tackle the key drivers of serious violence.

The weekly 'clap for carer's' initiative continues and look forward to joining in as usual as I am sure many of you do too.

And finally I want to extend my thoughts and best wishes to all those affected by the virus, including Detective Constable Paul Brown who passed away last month. I read about his son Antony's admirable fundraising efforts. Also a serving policeman, it was heart-warming to see him doing something to support our vital NHS workers as they battle this virus.

Until next week, best wishes and stay safe.

Mark Burns-Williamson OBE
West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

Updates from the office

There has been reports in the media of an increase of calls to Childline and my office arranged a discussion with the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, to explore how we can best support and identify children who may be vulnerable and isolated during the coronavirus pandemic. A COVID-19 focused meeting of my West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Strategy Group is due to take place next week.

NATMSN

National Anti-Trafficking
and Modern Slavery  Network

As mentioned above, I chaired a (remote) meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) on Monday. The meeting included updates from the PCC, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Lead for Modern Slavery Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer QPM, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton, the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit, and the Chair of the National Network Coordinators' Forum.

Youth Endowment Fund - COVID-19 grant round

The Youth Endowment Fund has opened a new £6.5m COVID-19 grant round to support vulnerable children in England and Wales at risk of youth violence. 50% of the total funding available will be reserved for charities and social enterprises. You can find out more about the fund here <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/grants-2/covid-19-round/>

NHS and Government Guidance



HM Government

NHS



CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME TO HELP US SAVE LIVES

**ACT LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT.
ANYONE CAN SPREAD IT.**

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Government and NHS Advice

For the latest health updates and guidance from the Government visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS guidance can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

New Government Guidance

Recently released Government guidance includes the below.

- New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-free-online-learning-platform-to-boost-workplace-skills>

- Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-is-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19>
- COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): information for farmers, landowners and rural businesses <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-farmers-landowners-and-rural-businesses>
- Awarding qualifications in summer 2020 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>
- Small Business Bounce Back Loans <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>
- Emergency funding to support most vulnerable in society during pandemic <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-funding-to-support-most-vulnerable-in-society-during-pandemic>

A full list of all the Government guidance can be found here https://www.gov.uk/search/all?topical_events%5B%5D=coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response&order=updated-newest

NHS Volunteer Responders Programme

If you or someone you know needs a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just wants someone to talk to, NHS Volunteer Responders are there to help.

Call 0808 196 3646 or visit

<https://volunteering.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/nhs-volunteer-responders-portal>



Do you need some help while self-isolating?

If you, or someone you know, needs a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just wants someone to talk to, our **NHS Volunteer Responders** are here to help.

Join the thousands of others throughout England who are already receiving support – even if it's just for a friendly chat.

Call 0808 196 3646 or visit nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk

Help is available if you have a medical condition which makes you vulnerable to COVID-19, especially if you are over 70. You also qualify if you are pregnant or have a disability.

Royal Voluntary Service is a registered charity 1015988 (England and Wales) & SC038924 (Scotland).

Our dedicated coronavirus webpage

We've set up a dedicated coronavirus page on our website which contains further support information, volunteering opportunities, links to help and support and much more. You can view it here <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

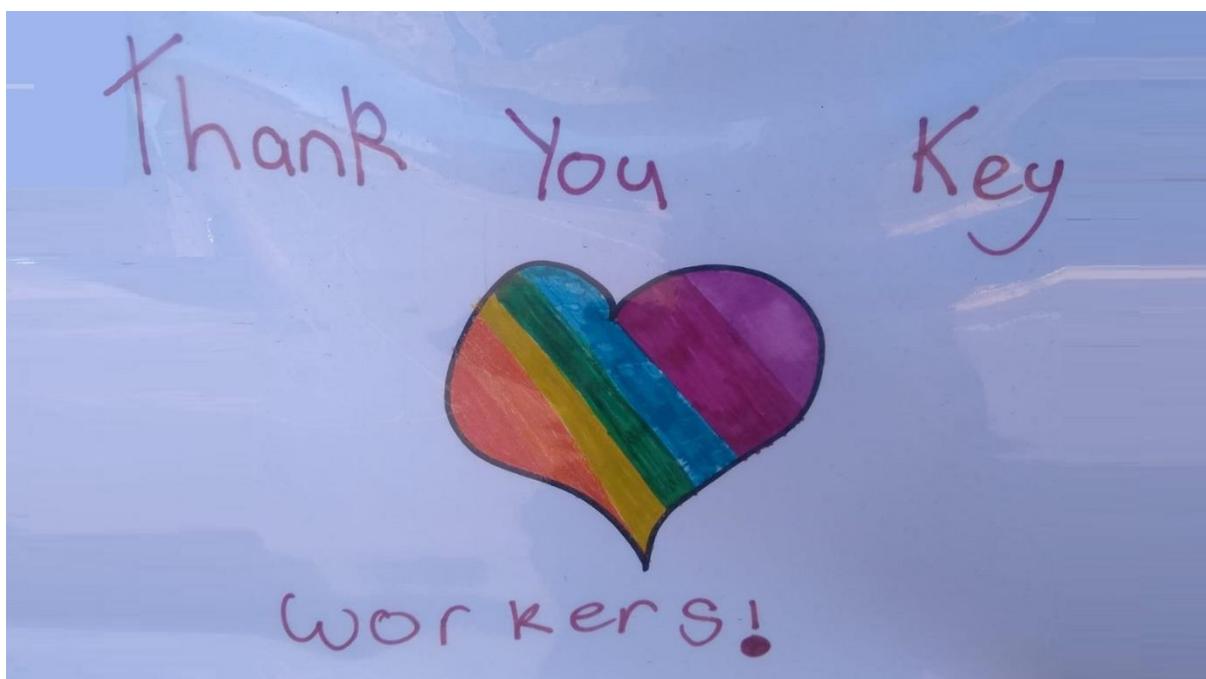


Our latest statements

See links below to our recent statements below.

- **PCC statement ahead of VE Day and the Bank Holiday Weekend** (released 5th May) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-statement-ahead-ve-day-and-bank-holiday-weekend>
- **Force-wide operation to reduce knife crime makes more than 2500 arrests** (released 5th May) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/force-wide-operation-reduce-knife-crime-makes-more-2500-arrests>
- **Budding artists and designers are being asked to help design a logo for the PCC's youth engagement work** (released 5th May) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/budding-artists-and-designers-are-being-asked-help-design-logo-pccs-youth-engagement-work>
- **New Scheme at Boots Pharmacies to Offer Domestic Abuse Victims a Safe Space** (released 1st May) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/new-scheme-at-boots-pharmacies-to-offer-domestic-abuse-victims-a-safe-space>

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Contacting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Along with the office I am currently working remotely. This means that face to face meetings at the office and elsewhere will not be taking place and we are not able to deal with correspondence posted through our letter box, either in person or by Royal Mail.

However, you can still get in touch by email contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk and telephone 01924 294000 in the usual manner.