

PCC/OPCC Update Bulletin

Response to Coronavirus/COVID-19

A message from Mark – I hope that you're all managing to stay safe and well.

I know our communities were eagerly awaiting last week's announcement and the chance to take the first steps on the road to recovery. Unfortunately though there is no quick fix to this situation so we must all work together and do our bit to ensure the virus is kept at bay.



Despite some limited easing of the lockdown restrictions it is really important that we all remain vigilant against this virus and protect ourselves and our loved ones as far as possible. Yes there are new government guidelines, however, the social distancing guidance essentially remains the same and meeting up with only one member of another household whilst keeping 2m apart is clear. I sincerely hope all our communities stay responsible and stay safe, as the consequences of doing otherwise do not bear thinking about for the health and wellbeing of the country as a whole.

The policing approach here in West Yorkshire will currently remain as it has over the lockdown period. I have been very pleased and proud of how West Yorkshire Police officers, staff and volunteers have conducted themselves and adapted to this incredibly challenging situation often putting themselves in harm's way along with our magnificent NHS and keyworkers.

I will of course continue to be fully briefed by the Chief Constable and my office on a daily basis whilst doing everything I can to help support our partners, communities and the most vulnerable.

You may have seen the news stories on posters popping up advertising possible mass gatherings. I have no hesitation in condemning outright such reckless activity and behaviour. We are all missing family and friends alike, but that is no excuse for letting down entire communities in this way through the actions of a very ill-judged minority in whatever setting. I'd like to

reassure you that West Yorkshire Police and I are well aware and will be monitoring the situation closely.

This week I met (virtually) with the Policing Minister and Police Federation to discuss the ongoing work to tackle COVID-19 impact and related issues. I have also been working with office to go through the applications to my Safer Communities Fund. A huge thank you to all the 144 organisations who submitted applications to the £150,000 extra-ordinary COVID-19 response grant round. We have read through some great applications, demonstrating the importance of this grant round and the volume of support needed to help safeguard our communities in these challenging times. We are just completing some final checks before we get back in touch with all applicants next week.

I also held my Delivery Quarterly Meeting with the Chief Constable where we look through recent performance information in relation to the outcomes and priorities as set in my Police and Crime Plan as well as scanning of wider information. There was no overall rise in crime for West Yorkshire in the last quarter of 2019 and a slight decrease in the first quarter of 2020 (pre-COVID) which has been an encouraging trend and one I want to thank West Yorkshire Police and partners for helping to achieve.

Finally, today I chaired a meeting of the West Yorkshire Modern Slavery District Leads which discussed modern slavery and human trafficking issues (MSHT) in West Yorkshire. District MSHT leads and West Yorkshire Police took part as well as the national Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton. The meeting included national updates, and we discussed local impacts and responses during COVID-19 and how this important area of work can be developed and strengthened in collaboration.

Just this week potential victims of modern slavery have been rescued from a house in the Kirklees area after a series of international raids across Europe. Simultaneous raids took place in Kirklees (led by the Force's Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Team), Austria and Romania. The team has been supported by the National Crime Agency, the United Kingdom Central Authority (UKCA), the Kirklees Community Safety Partnership and the charity, Hope for Justice. Two women were rescued. They are being supported and safeguarded by Hope for Justice. And a man (aged 38) and a woman (aged 42) were arrested on suspicion of offences under the Modern Slavery Act. It's reassuring to see further proactive cooperation and law enforcement work

being undertaken in West Yorkshire to tackle these awful crimes and human rights abuses.

This Sunday is International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. I will be showing my support and also raising awareness of the help available for anyone experiencing hate crime. It's a real shame, among everything else, that this year's Pride events in West Yorkshire have had to be cancelled and I will be making extra efforts online as far as possible.

Until next week, best wishes and stay safe.

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

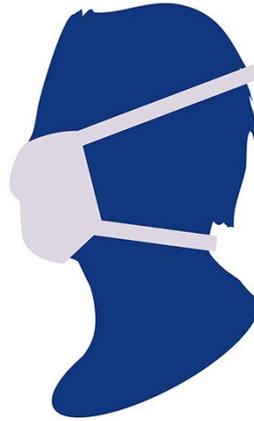
Updates from the office

West Yorkshire Police have created a simple online form to allow people to report domestic abuse directly to them and as an alternative to speaking on the phone. The information people provide on the form will be dealt with in the same way as any other report of domestic abuse

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/report-it/report-domestic-abuse>

The PCC's West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Group (WYR&V) bringing together local children's safeguarding partnerships, health representatives and West Yorkshire Police safeguarding leads met on 12 May. The agenda included for discussion the following topics: District partnership updates and responses during COVID-19; safeguarding and reaching those at risk and vulnerable; safeguarding communications; child safeguarding data and problem profiles; an update from the Violence Reduction Unit strengthening safeguarding links, an update on the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre SARC, Safeguarding Week plans; and collaboration opportunities through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

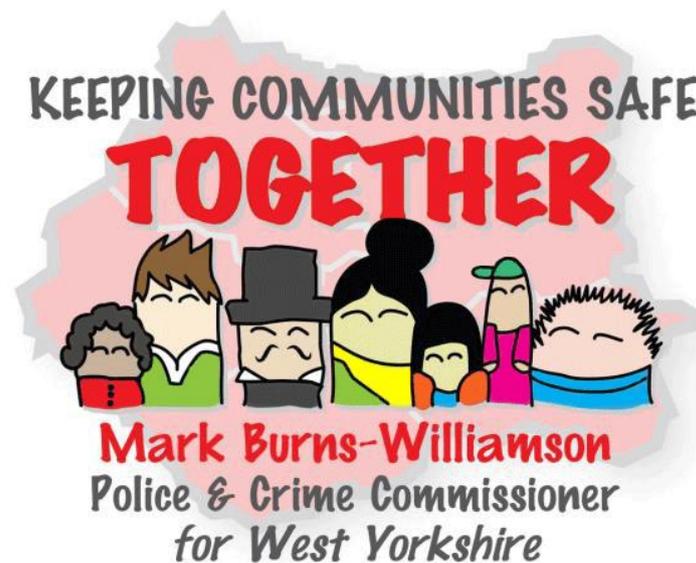
How to wear and make a cloth face covering



The Government have released guidance on how to wear and make face coverings, for more information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

Logo Competition - Youth Advisory Group



I have 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. Entries are starting to come in so please encourage any and all children and young people you know/work with to get involved.

NHS and Government Guidance



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.

- Travel advice: coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- New guidance on spending time outdoors
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-on-spending-time-outdoors>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): Apply for the Food Charities Grant Fund
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-apply-for-the-food-charities-grant-fund>
- Domestic abuse safe accommodation: COVID-19 emergency support fund
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-safe-accommodation-covid-19-emergency-support-fund>

A full list of all 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

Our dedicated coronavirus webpage

Our dedicated coronavirus page on our website contains further support information, volunteering opportunities, links to help and support and much more. Recent updates include funding opportunities from the government for foodbanks and domestic abuse charities, advice on wearing and making your own facemask as well as bereavement support. You can view it here

<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Our latest statements

See links to recent statements below.

- **Potential victims of modern slavery rescued in Huddersfield** (released 14th May) <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/potential-victims-modern-slavery-rescued-huddersfield>
- **Leeds Rhinos legends and Inspire North launch campaign to say there's #NoExcuseForAbuse** (released 12th May) <https://www.inspirenorth.co.uk/news/leeds-rhinos-legends-and-inspire-north-launch-campaign-to-say-theres-noexcuseforabuse/>

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Improving Population Health: COVID-19 Prevention Response and Reset

West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership have developed a document, COVID-19 Prevention Response and Reset.

The purpose of the document is to:

- Inform the work and developing priorities of the Improving Population Health Programme and Networks to respond to the long term impact of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 response.
- Source of information to support reset plans of all partners across WY&H

[Click here to view the document.](#)

The Partnership are also offering grant funding to provide innovative and sustainable support for people who are worst affected by the impact of coronavirus. This includes people who live alone and cannot access social activities, and those whose mental health and financial circumstances have changed significantly due to the pandemic. More information can be found here: <https://www.wyhpartnership.co.uk/our-priorities/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources/working-together-reduce-health-inequalities>

Contacting the Office of the Police & 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.

