

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

24 June 2020

SUBJECT: COVID UPDATE

WYP Update submitted to PCC attached.

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report outlines the OPCC and WYP position in relation to the policing of COVID.</p>															
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>1. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise WYP activity during the period of policing COVID and publically highlights some of the activities of the PCC and his office during this time for wider community safety information and understanding across the county.</p>															
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>2. The impact of COVID on West Yorkshire communities has been and continues to be significant. It has ramifications on both the delivery of priorities and outcomes in the Police and Crime Plan. Early concerns were raised around Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse, Mental Health, Fraud and Drugs and Alcohol. Safeguarding vulnerable people has been a key area of focus and the PCC will continue to listen to communities and work with partners to deliver key services which both support and keep communities safe during these unprecedented times.</p>															
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>3. <b>Governance Structures</b> Interim arrangements to replace standard governance structures during the Coronavirus pandemic were agreed between the PCC and the Chief Constable</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Who</th> <th>What</th> <th>When</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PCC / CC</td> <td>Daily contact to discuss exceptions</td> <td>Daily call in the diary</td> <td>Includes weekends (DPCC/DCC to cover when necessary)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OPCC Exec / CC or DCC</td> <td>Bilateral discussion to focus on Covid19</td> <td>Weekly on Thursdays aligned to follow the PCC's weekly meeting with the Policing Minister</td> <td>Record of the meeting and any resulting actions taken.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Who	What	When	Notes	PCC / CC	Daily contact to discuss exceptions	Daily call in the diary	Includes weekends (DPCC/DCC to cover when necessary)	OPCC Exec / CC or DCC	Bilateral discussion to focus on Covid19	Weekly on Thursdays aligned to follow the PCC's weekly meeting with the Policing Minister	Record of the meeting and any resulting actions taken.
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The Community Outcomes Meetings (COM) are an important meeting which allows the OPCC to demonstrate the transparency of public accountability on issues that matter most to our communities. Therefore the PCC is holding this COM meeting with emphasis on the role of the PCC and West Yorkshire Police during the pandemic with the opportunity for public questions.

To facilitate the weekly Bilateral discussion an update is provided by WYP which details the highlights from the previous week based on the daily updates and includes the following items

- National Picture
- Significant legislation changes
- Coronavirus Activity
- Coronavirus Enforcement
- Critical Functions
- Further measures taken by WYP
- Public order/Public safety
- Resourcing
- Absences

The PCC is linked in with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Strategic Coordination Group which sits daily across West Yorkshire to ensure a coordinated response from local public services to the Covid-19 situation. This ensures the PCC can escalate any WY-specific matters to the Policing Minister and Secretary of State for Justice, APCC and Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) as appropriate.

#### **4. Governance of Commissioned Services**

All PCC commissioned services were contacted in order to understand any service disruption that may occur and to ensure services received any support that may be required. We also received plans and/or assurances that are updated weekly by our contracted providers and those delivering high risk provision.

Each commissioned service was sent a copy of the PCC's pledge which was Mark's reassurance for organisations he funds amid COVID-19 outbreak (see Appendix 1).

Following a request from Central Government funders during late March, weekly information related to the following areas is collected and provided to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ): support services, sexual violence support services and domestic abuse support services. One to one calls with providers regarding the changes and the way forward have been welcomed and should ensure a joined up approach to these new data requirements.

To further support providers and organisations who we provide grants to, extensions to reporting deadlines were also agreed

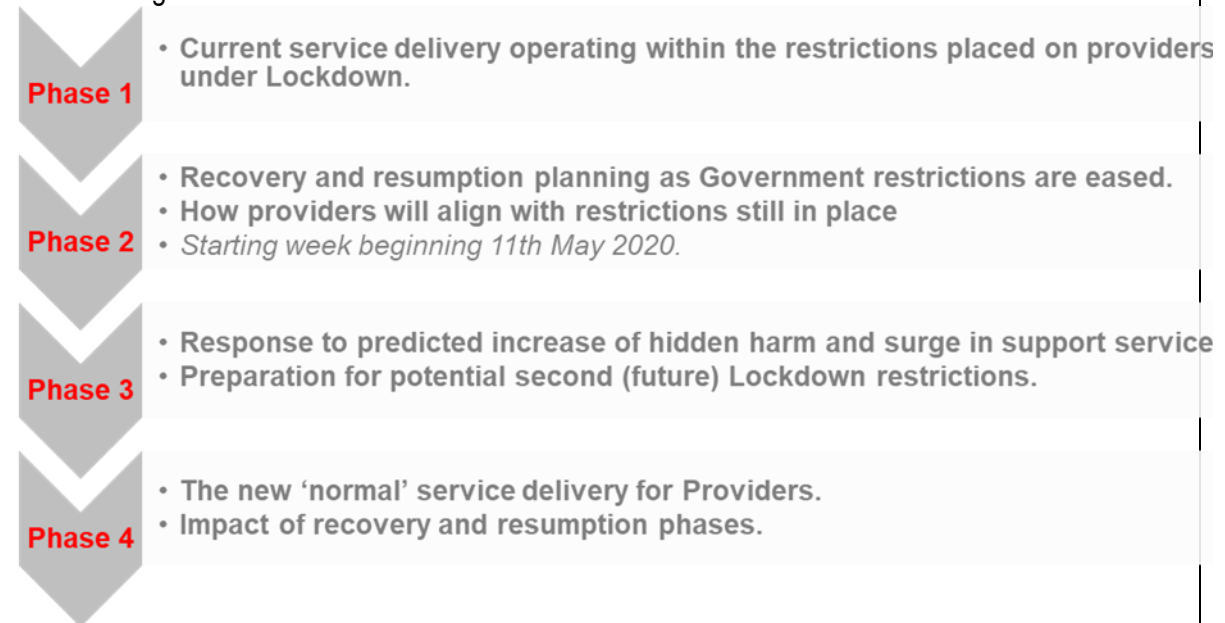
During the whole period, virtual meetings with Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DSA) board members and providers was arranged to provide an opportunity for the PCC, commissioned service, the DSA Board members and WYP to discuss the increased threat of domestic and sexual abuse and to look at how we could work collectively during the challenging times. Areas of discussion included changes to service provision, demand, emerging need and planning.

Continuing throughout the period were the following:

- Weekly check in calls with Restorative Justice and Victims Support contract providers
- Daily reports of Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) provision for West Yorkshire and Weekly check in meeting with Yorkshire and The Humber (YaTH) SARC contract manager and commissioners
- Weekly check in calls with the new SARC relocation project group

- Monthly COVID-19: Alcohol & Drugs Peer Skype Calls with Public Health England

Using a planned approach we are currently supporting and working with our commissioned providers through a four phase recovery plan, specifically concentrating on Phase 2 of the process at present, whilst looking ahead to Phase 3 and Phase 4.



The OPCC is currently scoping all possible Covid response funding streams across the partnership landscape that support vulnerable people, tackle crime and ASB, ensure that criminal justice works for our communities, and impact positively on the priorities set out within the Police and Crime Plan. Through our dissemination and co-ordination of funding communications and bid support, and by bringing together providers with funding from across the five districts, we are maximising the potential Covid response resources coming into the county from across central government, National Lottery, Youth Endowment Fund and other third sector funding streams.

In order to capture the understanding of the pandemic and how it has affected commissioned services, the OPCC is putting together a shared learning document which documents the current crisis and the measures agreed between the OPCC and our commissioning partners, this has been met with widespread approval across the commissioning landscape.

## 5. Further actions with regard to Safeguarding

Whilst Covid 19 has interrupted some scheduled meetings between the OPCC and safeguarding partners, the PCC's Safeguarding Adviser maintained contact with the Local Safeguarding Partnerships and Boards, offering the support of the OPCC and sharing information and updates. The OPCC have created a dedicated web page on the OPCC website for 'safeguarding young people' providing links to resources and local safeguarding information and support for both communities, and professionals.

A COVID 19 focused West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications Group meeting with partnership and local authority comms and media leads to work together, share plans and activities, strengthening our opportunities to get key messages and reassurance to communities. Following reports in the media about increased calls to Childline, representatives from the OPCC have spoken to the Children's Commissioner Anne Longfield, exploring how we can best support and identify children who may be vulnerable and isolated during the coronavirus pandemic. The points raised formed part of the discussion at the May meeting of the West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability group.

In recent weeks the PCC has chaired both the National Modern Slavery Human Trafficking (MSHT) Network and a West Yorkshire MSHT meeting to discuss more local issues.

On 2 May 2020, the Government announced a package of £76m extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse (DA), sexual violence (SV), vulnerable children and their families, as well as victims of modern slavery, during the COVID-19 emergency pandemic. Of this £76m funding package, £25m will be administered by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The West Yorkshire indicative amount is set out in the table below and will be distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). The funding is ring-fenced for COVID-19 related emergency funding, and then ring-fenced again for spend on each of the three areas of need.

<b>Domestic abuse services that are already commissioned by PCCs</b>	<b>£393,000</b>
<b>Sexual violence services that are already commissioned by PCCs and those that are not currently funded by PCCs</b>	<b>£196,500</b>
<b>Domestic abuse services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs</b>	<b>£196,500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£786,000</b>

## 6. Governance with regard to Criminal Justice

The PCC has continued to link closely with West Yorkshire Police to provide support around CJ issues, facilitating conversation across the partnership and seeking out solutions to local and regional issues. This has included work to troubleshoot issues across all of the elements, including court opening and operating arrangements, changes to charging protocols (CPS) safety within custody suites, and the implementation of Covid 19 legislation amongst other issues.

The Local Criminal Justice Board network have been utilised to identify issues that cannot be resolved locally and these are escalated during the PCC's regular ongoing conversations with Ministers. An interim Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) was held on Thursday 9th of April, with engagement from all key players at strategic level. This group continued to meet on a fortnightly basis to ensure that issues are progressed as far as possible.

Understandably, Courts within the county were rationalised into a Hub court, sitting at Leeds, where only urgent matters were being progressed. Whilst this had a significant impact on victims and witnesses the PCC was reassured that the WYP Witness Care Unit were able to continue working to full capacity, despite Covid 19 measures.

Despite a number of challenges, the PCC, with the Courts and CPS, have been keen to support the work of WYP on Video Enabled Justice, with testing being undertaken this week and next to facilitate Skype for the hearing of remand cases.

Assurance has also been provided that defence solicitors are able to advise their clients remotely through a Skype system which WYP have put in place, working closely with the Law Society, negating the need for any attendance at custody suites.

With support from the PCC, WYP have developed a triage methodology for entry into custody suites for visitors such as interpreters and appropriate adults, which has now been rolled out across Yorkshire and the Humber (YATH) region as best practice, and have agreed that Independent Custody Visitors will continue their vital role, utilising this triage method, albeit with an appropriately reduced footfall.

We contribute to the national strategic group meetings to discuss current and potential recovery issues relating to our criminal justice system. It is the PCC's vision that whilst this work will be led locally through the well-established WY LCJB structure, the YATH Reducing Reoffending Board, which was established last year along with our Regional Probation Director, and fellow YATH PCCs

can address issues at a regional level, and set us back on the road to the new norm, learning from our experience along the way

## 7. Public Engagement

Given the exceptional circumstances, an Engagement and Communications plan was produced for the PCC/OPCC. This plan set out how we would continue to communicate and engage with our communities and to reassure and stay in touch with people during the global pandemic. It recognised that the PCC would usually be out and about, meeting with people, engaging with community projects, undertaking NPT visits, holding surgeries, attending casework meetings and taking part in national and local conferences with partners in addition to his other diverse activities and responsibilities. Clearly with social distancing and the Government guidance in place we needed to find new ways of working whilst continuing to provide the service our communities need and deserve. Communities continue to have views and opinions on all aspects of crime and community safety and based on their contact so far we also know they are concerned about the how the current COVID -19 outbreak is impacting on policing our communities. We recognised we couldn't talk to people face to face so we needed to find new ways to stay in touch and ensure individuals across West Yorkshire could contact the PCC when they needed to, we were also aware of the increased need to support those who were more vulnerable during the lockdown. We also recognised that our communities and partners needed reassurance and to be kept up to date with the evolving situation. Public reassurance and signposting was key as was joint messaging with partners through, for example, the Local Resilience Forum.

### **Engagement with the PCC - New and changing methods**

- Face to Face contact via Skype for surgeries and meetings including casework
- Themed or non-themed web chats
- Online Community Conversation Surveys
- Social media polls and themed question and answer sessions
- Pre-recorded videos and audio clips
- Joint partnership communications in press release form around emerging issues (WYFEAT)
- Constantly monitoring/assessment and updating all forms of social media
- Safeguarding Vulnerable people by increased communication, online campaigns, increased support/interventions
- Phone or Skype media interviews

Listening to you - During the challenging times we wanted to do all that we could to support our communities and partners, offer reassurance and answer any appropriate questions they may have. How do we do it?

- Reassurance, informing the public and communities, and signposting to services that can help our most vulnerable, using methods outlined above
- Keeping track of all key updates (especially on policing powers) and informing and updating our communities and partners what it means for them
- Ensuring all our channels on social media and public facing website are kept up to date
- Ensuring the PCC is visible, accessible and clear about what he can and does do to support communities through this crisis using new methods that people are turning to during social isolation
- Updates to Communities and our partners, around commissioned projects and Safer Communities Fund (SCF) projects which support communities and victims.

Some work to highlight to date

Launch on 14 April of an **Extra Ordinary SCF Grant Round 'Keeping our Communities Safe'** – with £150,000 made available to support projects which will Safeguard vulnerable people and target Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation, Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol and Fraud.

When the fund closed on 20 May the OPCC had received 144 applications requesting a total of £747,448.36. Following a speedy but robust evaluation process, the PCC awarded grants to 32 projects across West Yorkshire totalling £174,304.93. A number of the successful projects cover multiple priorities with Mental health, Domestic and Sexual Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse/Child Exploitation featuring more significantly. Those who will be supported by the projects include women and girls, young people, children and all vulnerable people. Details of the successful projects are published on the PCC's website: <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/safer-communities-fund/successful-applications/extra-ordinary-grant-round-covid-19>

**Current SCF projects** - we reviewed the status of current projects and allowed currently funded projects to postpone delivery or work more flexibly to support delivery. A new SCF newsletter was produced and the PCC maintained contact with projects via Skype/telephone to ensure we continued to access service users. The details of projects still running were updated weekly and shared on the PCC's website.

**Engagement with the Third Sector** –the PCC has supported the third sector since his appointment in 2012 and agreed to continue (March 2020) to provide just under 30k to CNET, North Bank Forum, Third sector Leaders, VAL and Nova for the next two years. Further work is also being done to better align the third sector with work of the VRU. The Third Sector Advisory Group continued to meet via skype and regular inputs were received and shared to support our communities on the PCCs website (COVID-19 information page).

**Increased engagement with Young People** – the PCC has a very active and engaged youth advisory group, again the group continued to meet via Skype and undertook their usual role. However, we were actively recruiting and looking to engage new members. We also launched some competitions through the group to support engagement on key safeguarding messages.

**VRU Engagement** – we are continuing to support the VRU and reviewing the current Communications and Engagement strategy to review activity over the coming months. Details of past and upcoming work have been submitted as part of the current Home Office Bid and include the online recruitment of a Community Advisory Group to support community feedback and inform decision making.

**Listening to you** – Using an online facilities, a qualitative survey has been launched in the first week of June which will pick up on the policing of Covid to date and take a reading on how individuals and communities are coping

## **9.Communications, Press Releases, Website and Social Media**

The PCC moved swiftly to create a dedicated Coronavirus Support Page on his website which brings together key information and guidance from the Government, NHS and wider West Yorkshire and national partners. Key issues highlighted within the page include health, support for victims, funding opportunities, volunteering opportunities, advice on the Coronavirus legislation, local support information and much more.

The PCC has also utilised social media to support and disseminate key information from the Government, NHS and partners. Regular social media messages concerning emerging issues such as domestic abuse, online safety, scams and mental health are being issued regularly.

Press releases providing reassurance on the police response as well as highlighting the support to communities have regularly been released and publicised.

A weekly bulletin was also launched to replace the normal newsletter for over the pandemic which also contained key emerging information. This bulletin is sent to MPs, Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch Groups, partners, members of the public that have signed up to receive it and many more. All communication methods are under constant review in terms of any further emerging issues or advice from the Government and NHS.

#### **8. Organisational Impact and Staff Welfare**

Since the implementation of lockdown, staff welfare and organisation impact has been high on the agenda for the phone calls between the PCC and the Chief Constable and was a standing item on the weekly bilateral meeting.

In both the OPCC and WYP, those with underlying health conditions were asked to self-identify so that the correct measures could be put in place.

Currently, Ploughland House is closed and all staff based at this office are working from home. This has caused some changes to the way certain meetings have been conducted and also means that some meetings have been cancelled due to the prioritising of other items.

In order to facilitate joint working, the PCC hosted a weekly meeting between all staff at the OPCC and each member is invited to exception report on their area of business. This meeting is held by Skype as each staff member has access via their IT equipment to work from home.

The PCC produces a weekly bulletin to keep each member of the office updated and this ensures that colleagues are kept informed as promptly as possible.

Alongside these meetings, frequent contact is made with each person either via telephone/video conferencing or email. The welfare of all staff is of utmost priority.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

WYP Update submitted to PCC attached below.

## **COVID 19 Community Outcome Meeting – WYP Update**

### **Police Response to COVID-19**

As a response to the pandemic, West Yorkshire Police raised a new Operation, Op Jinmen

Gold Strategy Operation Jinmen

- Minimise the risk to the public by assisting Public Health to delay the spread of the virus and support measures set out by Government.
- Maximise where practicable the safety of our staff by providing advice and appropriate PPE where necessary.
- Ensure business continuity plans are in place to enable the police to continue to deliver a service to the public.
- To reassure the public by supporting Public Health guidance and Public Health messages.
- To ensure that community tension and intelligence/information is being effectively managed through strategic co-ordinating groups and existing structures.
- To support local resilience partner agencies and local communities to mitigate the impacts of the virus.
- Maintain staff and public confidence in the approach of West Yorkshire Police in protecting our staff and community and adopting a calm and moderated posture.

To support this strategy, there is a full webpage on the internal WYP intranet to keep all officers/staff updated as well as the public facing pages on the WYP webpage which is available here: <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/coronavirus>

As well as the normal performance regime, there is a new daily activity reporting mechanism, which records call volume and crimes / incidents linked to COVID-19. The daily figures focus on the following:

- 999 Calls
- 101 Calls
- All Incidents attended
- Emergency Incidents attended
- Priority Incidents attended
- Custody Throughput
- Total Recorded Crime
- Business and Community Burglaries
- Criminal Damage
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse Incidents
- MISPERs
- Hate Incidents
- Online CSEA crimes

Alongside the daily activity tracker, all offences that are based on the new legislation are monitored.

### **Coronavirus Legislation: A Brief Overview**

There were two sections to the original Coronavirus legislation.



**The first piece of legislation is the Coronavirus Act 2020;** this relates to offences where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a person as being potentially infectious. This provided WYP with the powers to direct a person to screening/assessment and makes it a criminal offence if they fail to comply.

Fixed Penalty Notices cannot be issued for these offences.

**The second piece of legislation is the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) 2020.**

This legislation placed restrictions of the movement of people during the pandemic, includes the closure of some businesses and placed restrictions on those allowed to stay open across eight different offence codes. There is no requirement for WYP to suspect a person is infectious.

For communities, the main offences to be aware of were:

- Contravene requirement on restriction of movement
- Contravene requirement to not participate in a gathering in public of more than two people.

Fixed Penalty Notices can be used for Health Protection offences.

Further details on the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) 2020 can be found on the CPS website here: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/coronavirus-health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-england-regulations-2020>

As a police force the priority is to prevent large gatherings. If individuals or groups do not follow the government's requirement to socially distance, the WYP response will follow a four-step escalation process that adheres to NPCC guidance regarding the four E's.

- Engage – We police by consent. The initial police response should be to encourage voluntary compliance.
- Explain – Stress to them that this is a national public health emergency. Explain that they are putting their own and other people's lives at risk, and they are contributing to placing the NHS under even more pressure.
- Encourage – Ask them if they would please comply with your request. Inform them of the potential consequences should they fail to do so.
- Enforce – You may use your powers under the new legislation

When the legislation came into force, all frontline staff received an input at their briefings and a full briefing pack was included on the Coronavirus website which includes various aide memoirs with regard to how to interpret the legislation along with how each should be recorded on the crime recording system.

On 15th May the NPCC released updated provisional data from all police forces in the UK which included the numbers of fines given to persons breaching the new legislation up to 11 May 2020.

The press release states that fines for breaches of government public health regulations issued by police officers in England and Wales equate to less than 0.02 per cent of the eligible population in England and Wales – with 13,445 fines issued in England between March 27 and the April 11.

West Yorkshire has issued 758 fines between 27 March to 11 May in this time period and this compares well with other areas such as North Yorkshire (843) although the NPCC does note that this data is provided in quick time and needs to be viewed with caution.

The latest press release and associated data can be accessed via the NPCC website here:

<https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/npcc-issues-update-on-fines-given-during-covid-lockdown>

## Impact on Crime and Community Safety

As highlighted in the 'Current Activity' section on above, in order to inform on the policing priorities, WYP has instigated a daily reporting mechanism, which records call volume and crimes / incidents linked to COVID-19. Daily investigation by WYP supports early identification of changing trends, supporting a prompt response.

The daily data, as at 23 June identifies:

- Daily 999 calls are moving back to usual volumes for this time of year at around 1100-1200 per day
- Stabilised volume of 101 calls (around 2100 per day) but consistently higher number of incidents attended (around 200 more incidents a day now attended, bringing the daily incident attended figure to around 1200)
- Arrest levels have remained consistent but recorded crime has reduced considerably albeit recent daily recorded crime figures have moved back towards usual levels for this time of year (approaching 700 a day)
- Domestic abuse incidents have moved up from around 183 per day to over 188 per day
- As lockdown restrictions ease, there has been a steady increase in ASB incidents to around 165 a day in the last 7 days
- There continues to be a lower volume of missing person reports

The NPCC bulletin on 21st May looked at the changes in crime across the country and the below figures looks at the percentage changes from this bulletin and how this compares in West Yorkshire. The data was for the 4 weeks prior to the 10th May compared with the same time last year.

Provisional data from police forces in England and Wales shows that the reduction in crime during Coronavirus outbreak was continuing and that the vast majority of the public were following government regulations enacted in response to the crisis.

For the period in question:

- Total Crime has reduced in West Yorkshire by 23.1% in comparison to the national reduction of 25%
- Assaults and Personal Robbery has shown a reduction of 30% which is the same as the national reduction. Rape has fallen by 23.8% in comparison to a larger national fall of 28%.
- Falls have also been seen in residential burglary (45.2% compared to 36% nationally) and vehicle crime – Theft From and Of Vehicle (down 43.9% in comparison to a 41% drop nationally) and shoplifting (down 58.6% in comparison to 53% nationally)
- Calls to 999 are down by 20.7% in comparison to a 23% drop nationally and there has been a 6.7% drop in 101 calls, although nationally the percentage was higher at 25%.
- There are some new National indicators included in this bulletin which include trends in Safeguarding Incidents and they are as follows:
- Domestic Abuse Incidents – nationally the number of incidents has increased by 4% - in West Yorkshire this figure is 6.2%

- Missing person related incidents – nationally this has reduced by 37% - in West Yorkshire by-37.2%

To understand the context of this data – please see the following note from the NPCC:

The data reported here is based on a new ad hoc NPCC collection instituted to inform Operation Talla. The purpose was to provide a mechanism for monitoring and tracking demands on the police during the Covid-19 outbreak to inform operational decisions. A small number of key indicators have been collated from the 43 territorial forces in England and Wales by the NPCC team. We are aware that not all forces have been able to supply consistent returns across all indicators. The data should be viewed as provisional, having been gathered at speed, and as only indicative of recent trends. In this release, we have restricted our reporting to those indicators that we have confidence are sufficiently robust to provide a reliable picture.

The above data was taken before the changes to the lockdown at the end of May. Early indicators from West Yorkshire are that the number of calls to the 999 system are beginning to rise, and total crime is also rising – but still below that seen at this time last year.

These are very early indicators and are being tracked on a weekly basis as part of the PCC's bilateral meeting with the Chief Constable.

### **Organisational Impact and Staff Welfare**

For WYP the updates from the Gold group ensure that all staff are aware of any changes due to the current situation. Each change made is put onto a dedicated Coronavirus section on the internal intranet and backed up with an email to all staff to ensure that each employee is aware.

The Chief Officer Team in West Yorkshire frequently produced short videos to speak to police members, these videos are posted on the website and are played at briefings to ensure that all staff have updates and encouragement from the senior leaders on a regular basis