

## PCC/OPCC Update Bulletin

**A message from Mark** – Hi everyone, I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

As I'm sure you're all aware, tomorrow (Saturday 4 July) sees a significant relaxation of the lockdown restrictions.

Two households of any size are able to meet in any setting, that's inside or outside, as long as they are adhering to social distancing of the new 1 metre+ guidance.



Pubs, restaurants and hairdressers will also be able to reopen as well as most leisure facilities and tourist attractions, as long as they also follow COVID safety guidance.

Whilst these measures are certainly to be generally welcomed, we all still have a responsibility to be cautious about how we individually go about our daily business and movements. The virus is still a real threat and we need to put the interests of our loved ones, friends, colleagues, wider communities, NHS and the many key workers first in making sure we continue to keep it at bay through observing sensible social distancing practices and the national safety guidance. Localised lockdowns, such as the one in Leicester, are also something that we all want to avoid in West Yorkshire and it serves as a warning that there can be no complacency on all our parts given the journey and sacrifices we've all made.

The police will continue their approach with a focus on engagement, which has been on the whole, well received across our county. We have been working with our partners to plan and prepare for the easing of restrictions and extra resources will be available should they be needed to help avoid any unnecessary problems or situations.

It's continued to be extremely busy in my office over the last few weeks, some of the key pieces of work are explained in more detail below, such as the launch of the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), nearly half a million pounds extra distributed locally for victims of domestic and sexual

abuse, our first ever virtual Community Outcomes Meeting with public questions, and a new competition for young people launched.

Significant other areas of work included my chairing a Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) meeting where we continue to work towards partnership Covid-19 recovery plans, as well as a call with the Policing Minister where we discussed the budget pressures, recruitment, and refreshing local Police and Crime Plans.

I also want to take this opportunity to mark a special occasion by saying #HappyBirthdayNHS this Sunday and to thank all of them, volunteers, police officers/staff, NHS workers, and key workers generally for contributing all their efforts and time, but also for using their experience, knowledge and commitment during a national pandemic to ensure we have all been kept as safe as possible.

Best wishes and stay safe.

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

## **New Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for West Yorkshire**



A new state-of-the-art fully integrated service for victims of sexual violence and abuse has opened its doors in West Yorkshire.

The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) now houses both Children and Adult Services under the same roof in the heart of West Yorkshire.

The new facility, which has been commissioned by my office and NHS England and NHS Improvement opened its doors in late June, and incorporates court live-link facilities, interviewing suites for video recorded interviews (VVS/VRI), waiting rooms, a hub for specialist support services, and referral to Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA).

The aim of the facility is about ensuring victims and survivors have access to specialist medical and forensic services and advice. SARCs provide access to a range of medical, practical and emotional support by specially trained doctors, nurses and support workers. The staff will help the victims and survivors make informed decisions about what they want to do next, whether this is reporting the incident to the police or receiving care and support.

Partners including my office, West Yorkshire Police, NHS England and NHS Improvement, the Courts Service HMCTS and victims support services, have all been involved in its development.

To find out more about the SARC visit <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/new-state-art-sexual-assault-referral-centre-sarc-west-yorkshire-has-opened>

## **Police Chiefs answer public questions in latest Community Outcomes Meeting**

Issues around speeding, hate crime, and domestic abuse in relation to Covid-19 were just some of the themes from questions answered by myself and the Chief Constable in the latest Community Outcomes Meeting.

I invited the public to ask questions for me to answer along with John Robins, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, at my latest meeting, which was held virtually over Skype.

My regular Community Outcomes Meetings focus on important policing and wider community safety issues, and this one had a specific focus on the Chief

Constable updating on the impact of, and response to, Covid-19 here in West Yorkshire.

I also sought to provide reassurance to the BAME community following the recent demonstrations in America, across the UK and events around the world, specifically on points around police enforcement of Covid-19 legislation and stop and search activity.

To find out more and watch the videos visit <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/police-chiefs-answer-public-questions-latest-community-outcomes-meeting>

## **Nearly half a million pounds to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse**

Nearly half a million pounds of additional funding is to be quickly distributed by my office to support local charities and organisations supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

The £25m extraordinary Covid19 funding via the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will be distributed through two separate funds, one through Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and one through the national Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Fund.

On top of this, PCCs across the country have been given an extra £3million to specifically fund Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) until 2022.

Here in West Yorkshire, £495,640 has been granted and it has now been distributed by the PCC across 16 different local organisations and charities to support ongoing projects and new initiatives helping to address domestic abuse and sexual violence.

To find out more visit <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/nearly-half-million-pounds-support-victims-domestic-and-sexual-abuse>

**Biggest thank you for the NHS**



A Pause for applause will take place at 5pm this Sunday in recognition of the birthday of the NHS. Everybody will once again be encouraged to join with others (following social distancing advice) in their streets or neighbourhoods to applaud not just the NHS and other key workers but all those who have volunteered or helped keep services and community networks going.

Broadcasters will suspend normal transmissions at 5pm as people across the country pause what they're doing to think of others.

On Saturday evening, July 4, everybody is being asked to put a light in their windows in remembrance of those who have lost their lives during the pandemic. Public buildings will be lit up in NHS blue, including the Royal Albert Hall, Blackpool Tower, the Shard and the Wembley Arch.

I was delighted to support Clap for Carers and I am now delighted to support this key event marking the exceptional contribution made by every single volunteer and key worker for what they have done during these unique and unprecedented COVID-19 times. I hope that you will all be joining me in showing our appreciation over this weekend.

**Competition - young writers to pen their views on policing and community safety**



I have launched a new competition asking young people across West Yorkshire to get creative and write a short story based on their views and experiences of policing and community safety.

The competition is open to three age categories of under 10 years, 11 to 16 years, and 17-21 years.

My favourite stories will be featured on my website and social media accounts with one competition winner receiving a £100 online gift card.

One of my key roles is to regularly engage with the public and communities, and young people are a crucial part of that. I need to understand everyone's views in order to inform future work, our strategic direction and that policing is delivering across all of our communities.

To find out more about the competition visit <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-competition-asks-budding-young-writers-open-their-views-policing-and-community-safety> or contact my office.

**NHS and Government Coronavirus 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>

### **Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities**

Community centres, village halls, and other multi-use community facilities support a wide range of local activity. However, their communal nature also makes them places that are vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). This information is for those managing multi-use community facilities. It signposts to relevant guidance on a range of different activities that can take place in these spaces, in line with the government's roadmap to ease the existing measures to tackle COVID-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

**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](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.

- **Police Chiefs answer public questions in latest Community Outcomes Meeting** (released 1<sup>st</sup> July) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/police-chiefs-answer-public-questions-latest-community-outcomes-meeting>
- **Nearly half a million pounds to support victims of domestic and sexual abuse** (released 30<sup>th</sup> June) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/nearly-half-million-pounds-support-victims-domestic-and-sexual-abuse>
- **PCC competition asks budding young writers to pen their views on policing and community safety** (released 26<sup>th</sup> June) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-competition-asks-budding-young-writers-pen-their-views-policing-and-community-safety>
- **Slavery - the trade in human misery could be taking place on your doorstep** (released 26<sup>th</sup> June) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/slavery-trade-human-misery-could-be-taking-place-your-doorstep>
- **New State-Of-The-Art Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) In West Yorkshire Has Opened** (released 26<sup>th</sup> June) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/new-state-art-sexual-assault-referral-centre-sarc-west-yorkshire-has-opened>
- **Latest Edition of the Little Book of Big Scams Published in West Yorkshire** (released 25<sup>th</sup> June) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/latest-edition-little-book-big-scams-published-west-yorkshire>
- **Partner Agencies Across West Yorkshire Coming Together to Raise Awareness About Safeguarding Week** (released 22<sup>nd</sup> June) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/partner-agencies-across-west-yorkshire-coming-together-raise-awareness-about-safeguarding-week>

## 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](mailto:contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) and telephone 01924 294000 in the usual manner.