

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

It was very poignant in joining the one-minute's silence on International Worker's Memorial Day to remember all the NHS, carers and key workers who have tragically lost their lives while fighting the battle against COVID19. We owe them all of those working in health, social care and frontline services a huge debt of gratitude and my thoughts remain with their family, friends and colleagues, many of whom will continue to be on the frontline fighting to keep us all safe.



At the end of last week, I provided a detailed briefing to all West Yorkshire MPs to update them on the general policing response, wider community safety matters and the impact of COVID-19 across the county. The virtual meeting was also attended by Chief Constable John Robins, who gave a detailed update on the operational policing response and I also covered the commissioning of victims services, wider support for victims, the local criminal justice picture and what is being done to make sure people are safe here in West Yorkshire. MPs raised questions from PPE to testing, concerns about social distancing to speeding and anti-social driving, to safeguarding issues such as domestic abuse.

I am committed to making the best use of technology available to carry out my role as PCC and to continue to be in daily contact with West Yorkshire Police and key partners, whilst observing social distancing guidelines. It is important for me to provide a forum for the discussion of vitally important issues such as domestic abuse that can affect so many people across the county and devastate lives. Coming together like this means we can ensure we are working to support police and partners to keep people safe during these unprecedented times.

I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable and West Yorkshire Police to understand what more we can do to protect our most vulnerable and ensure matters of policing and community safety raised by the public

around COVID19 continue to be effectively addressed. It is crucially important we continue to recognise the hard work and results being achieved by West Yorkshire Police with our partners and I want to once again recognise and publicly thank them for that.

You may have seen this week the latest update on the national police officer recruitment campaign, which were released by the Home Office. West Yorkshire Police has recruited an additional 252 officers who are either **in** training or already deployed into frontline policing, and it is very encouraging to see the numbers are in line with the planned precept and budget I set earlier this year. Despite the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, West Yorkshire Police are managing and safely adapting to the challenges faced and strengthening and rebuilding the frontline and our *NPT teams* is crucial and even more important during these uncertain times.

Today (Friday) was the last day to apply for a grant within my extraordinary £150,000 Safer Communities Fund grant round to help support communities with the impact of COVID19. Projects working to safeguard vulnerable people and support their communities have been able to apply for a grant of up to £6,000 to be delivered over six months, It is specifically for those projects and interventions which target domestic and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, mental health, fraud and drugs and alcohol services.

Coronavirus has forced us all to work very differently and this presents a new opportunity to ensure we are making resources accessible to those that need them the most. I want those who are feeling vulnerable and isolated to know that we are here to help you, we will do our best to support you and this is another way for us to achieve that. Please visit the [website](#) for more information.

The West Yorkshire Prepared (LRF) has this week launched a new website with Coronavirus information. They will be updating this on a regular basis with press releases, guidance and links to partner agencies. The office are supporting the LRF and attending regular meetings so we keep up-to-date with all relevant information, please see more [here](#)

I am really pleased to continue to support our 'Clap for our Carers' initiative showing support to the NHS and all key workers including police officers and staff. It also provides an opportunity to say thank you to our third sector colleagues, voluntary, community, faith based and social enterprise

organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis providing vital key services to our communities.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to all NHS staff, carers, our police officers, staff and volunteers, shop workers and all other key frontline workers carrying out crucial services in West Yorkshire and beyond at this critical time.

Best wishes to you all. Keep safe.

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

### Updates from the office

#### **Victims and Witnesses Update**

We have been working at a national level to obtain information for the West Yorkshire response to Covid19 and also to put across any issues from the West Yorkshire perspective. We are taking part in conference calls with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Victims Portfolio Group, and a weekly conference call with the Victims Commissioner for England and Wales Dame Vera Baird QC. It was highlighted in the meeting that other areas are interested in the strong partnership response, which is evident in West Yorkshire. One of the examples of good practice is the fortnightly catch up meetings involving all the commissioners and providers of domestic and sexual abuse support services organised by Julia Clough our Head of Commissioning. The main issue we have been raising recently at national level, with the support of partners, is the relationship between the national helplines (in particular the National Domestic Abuse Helpline) and local services. There is increased communication between national and local levels at the moment, without the necessity for a lot a costly and time consuming travel. Hopefully this will be embedded in routine business for the future.

The deadline for responses for the consultation on the revised Victim's code has been extended to 28 May 2020. Full details are available [here](#). We are currently consulting with partners about our response; if you would like to contribute to or comment on the views the PCC intends to make to the Government, please get in touch with David Smith, our Victims and Witness Services Advisor: [david.smith@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:david.smith@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk). The revised code is the first stage of implementation of the Government's commitment

to introduce a Victims Law so it is an important time to seek to influence national thinking.

### **Criminal Justice Update**

The West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending Board took place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, with updates around progress on work streams, which are continuing safely, despite the current restrictions. Agencies are realising that the new way of working is adding benefits, with many reporting that service users are responding well to telephone appointments and support, which are easier for them to engage with, than a set slot at a set place, which many struggle to attend. This phone contact means the interaction is more regular and is proving to be a more sustainable way to stay engaged and provide support. Service users are benefiting, and listening to what works for them is getting good results and helping to empower them and makes us realise how valuable and vital their opinions are.

Our colleagues at Newhall prison are telling us how sewing workshops have been adapted to enable women to make surgical scrubs to support the NHS effort. The women are also designing a message to go into the boxes passing a message of thanks from those inside the prison to the NHS workers. As well as providing vital resources, this has also given a huge boost to the women who are keen to do their best to support communities wherever possible.

### **Launch of Domestic Abuse Online Form**

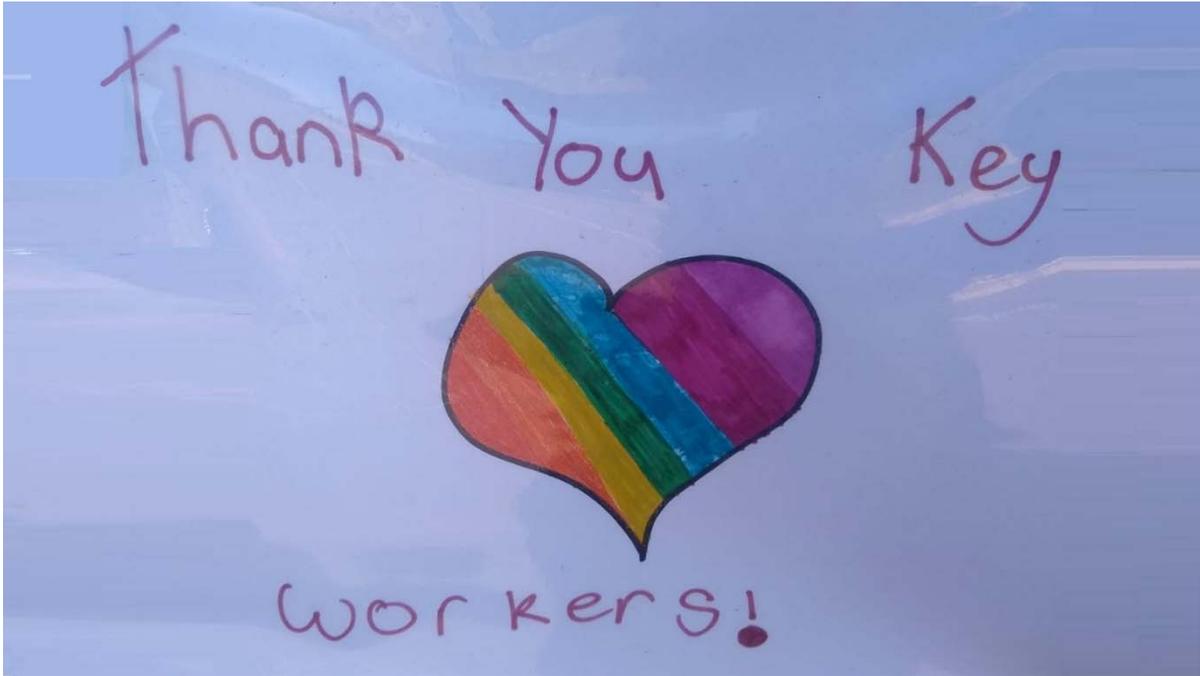
West Yorkshire Police have created a [simple online form](#) to allow people to report domestic abuse to directly to them and as an alternative to speaking on the phone. The information people provide on the form will be dealt with in the same way as any other report of domestic abuse.

### **Children's Commissioner publishes briefing**

The Children's Commissioner briefing on Children, domestic abuse and coronavirus April 2020 – [please see here](#)

### **NCSC Video Conferencing Services**

A guide has been published showing how to use NCSC video conferencing services securely. Also details how to set them up and use video conferencing services, safely and securely published by 21st April 2020 by NCSC, for more information and a visual guide, please visit [here](#)



**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.

- Further expansion of access to coronavirus testing helps protect the most vulnerable

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-expansion-of-access-to-coronavirus-testing-helps-protect-the-most-vulnerable>

- Government confirms allocations of £1.6 billion funding boost for councils  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-allocations-of-1-6-billion-funding-boost-for-councils>
- New guarantee on death in service benefits for frontline health and care staff during pandemic  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guarantee-on-death-in-service-benefits-for-frontline-health-and-care-staff-during-pandemic>
- Guidance for local government  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- Mobile coronavirus testing units to target frontline workers  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-coronavirus-testing-units-to-target-frontline-workers>
- Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Coronavirus (Covid19) Getting tested  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>
- Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-is-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19>

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](https://www.gov.uk/search/all?topical_events%5B%5D=coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response&order=updated-newest)

### **DA Safety & Support for Survivors - COVID 19**

Women's Aid has developed safety and support advice for survivors and community members during the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with 23 domestic abuse and VAWG organizations, which you can find [here](#)

### **Fraud and cybercrime**

The Government has created a new webpage bringing together all the core COVID 19 advice on fraud and cybercrime, which can be found [here](#)

**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.

- **NHS and Care Workers Remembered Today on Worker's Memorial Day**  
<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/nhs-and-care-workers-remembered-today-workers-memorial-day>
- **Police Operation to Target Drug Dealers on West Yorkshire's Rail Network**  
<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/police-operation-target-drug-dealers-west-yorkshires-rail-network>
- **PCC Held Briefing with West Yorkshire MPs**  
<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-held-briefing-with-west-yorkshire-mps-updating-them-policing-and-impact-covid19>
- **PCC Statement on Home Office announcement of latest police officer uplift figures**

<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-statement-home-office-announcement-latest-police-officer-uplift-figures>

- **New Scheme at Boots Pharmacies Offer Domestic Abuse Victims a Safe Space**

<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/new-scheme-boots-pharmacies-offer-domestic-abuse-victims-safe-space>



### Contacting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Along with the office I am now working remotely and following the advice. 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.

