

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

16 March 2021

SUBJECT: USE OF FORCE
Report of the Chief Constable

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report outlines the West Yorkshire Police update in relation to the Use of Force.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Use of Force matters.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

3. The Use of Force by West Yorkshire Police officers and staff is of vital importance to our efforts of keeping West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe. It directly links to the outcomes of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and often safeguarding vulnerable people and is also crucial for maintaining public confidence in the police.

KEY INFORMATION

4. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) appreciates that Use Of Force can be a concern by the public but that West Yorkshire Police Officers are required at times to use force in order to achieve our Policing purposes which include protecting the vulnerable, attacking criminality and reducing crime.
5. The PCC first backed a campaign called 'Protect the Protectors' in February 2017, which incorporated protecting all emergency services colleagues from assaults.
6. The PCC is aware of the WYP requirement with regards to the use of Bite and Spit Guards for frontline officers. Body Worn Video was funded by the PCC in September 2016. He invested £2 million pounds from a 'Transformation Fund' to support the project and promised to put victims of crime, in particular the most vulnerable first, and the use of body worn cameras provides increased support to victims and witnesses and reduces the number required to attend Court. Their use also means increased benefits for police accountability and transparency which will help resolve complaints and increase confidence in the police all round.

ATTACHMENT

- [Chief Constables report – Use of Force \(PDF 237KB\)](#)