

**SUBJECT: Safeguarding**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police to Safeguard Vulnerable People.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Safeguarding.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. Safeguarding vulnerable people is central to the work of the police and community safety partners. A person is vulnerable if as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care or protect themselves, or others, from harm or exploitation or other adverse impact on their quality of life. Vulnerability can take many forms and can be linked to mental health, substance misuse, age, etc. this means that each individual must be supported in a way which recognises their personal circumstances.</p> <p>4. This requires different agencies working together to safeguard people in different ways and requires a great deal of coordination and communication. Safeguarding people was considered the biggest priority by respondents to the “Your Priorities, Your Plan” consultation with 70% of people saying it was of importance to them. I will continue to work together to protect those most at risk ensure that safeguarding the vulnerable is at the forefront of all of our partners’ work and aim to deliver this in a coordinated, consistent and cohesive way across West Yorkshire.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>5. The PCC is committed to safeguarding all children and other vulnerable people and this is reflected in his Police and Crime Plan and the work he does across West Yorkshire and nationally to raise awareness, invest in prevention, support victims and build stronger more effective partnerships. Examples of this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The West Yorkshire Children’s Risk and Vulnerability Group (WYR&amp;V) has continued to meet through 2020. This group has shared good practice and challenges and discussed a variety of topics including local updates; responses during Covid 19; safeguarding and reaching those at risk and vulnerable; safeguarding communications; child safeguarding data and problem profiles, Violence Reduction Unit update, Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the child sexual assault assessment service (CSAAS) update, Safeguarding week, the NSPCC report on online abuse, an update on the sexual assault services review and the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.</li><li>• The PCC’s dedicated Safeguarding Advisor to continue to lead, deliver and advise the PCC’s strategy for a coordinated, cohesive and consistent response to Safeguarding in West</li></ul>

Yorkshire. The now established children's risk and vulnerability strategic group brings together safeguarding children partnerships and police safeguarding leads to ensure that across West Yorkshire a consistent, collaborative and coordinated response is provided to all children and young persons who are at risk of neglect, abuse or exploitation.

- The West Yorkshire Independent Domestic Abuse scrutiny panel, chaired by the PCC's Safeguarding Adviser brings professionals from statutory and non-statutory agencies and domestic abuse specialists together to scrutinise in detail cases and identify good practice as well as learning points for West Yorkshire Police. I am pleased to say that the panel has recently met after being interrupted by Covid 19 and discussed cases of domestic abuse against older members of our community.
- To provide additional support and information during the coronavirus pandemic, 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 communications and media leads to work together was held in April. This meeting was used to share plans and activities and strengthening opportunities to get key messages and reassurance to communities.
- After working with partners and to respond to issues caused by lockdown and the information gained locally and nationally a new campaign, 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' has been launched across West Yorkshire with links to the local safeguarding hubs.
- West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week ran 22 to 26th June with all districts and many organisations arranging a variety of events virtually and on social media using the hashtag #SafeguardingWeek2020. A press release from the PCC was issued in support of this.
- The end of Safeguarding Week also saw the opening of the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) facility. Commissioned by the PCC and NHS England and NHS Improvement, the new SARC houses both the adult and child services under one roof and also 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).
- In response to reports in the media of an increase of calls to Childline representatives of the OPCC arranged a discussion with the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, to explore how we can best support and identify children who may be vulnerable and isolated during the coronavirus pandemic. This formed part of the discussions at the WYR&V group meeting.
- Anti-slavery Day was acknowledged on 18th October with a unique and trail blazing approach to tackling modern day slavery led by the WY PCC. The seven Police and Crime Commissioners and their respective Chief Constables across the North East have each worked together to develop a Modern Slavery Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) Statement. The TISC statement was published on Anti-Slavery Day. West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside, Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria counties will now operate according to this single vision. It is a collaborative and voluntary commitment, not just to examine policing businesses and supply chains for modern slavery, but also to tackle modern slavery as a whole.
- The PCC continues to chair (remote) meetings of the National Anti- Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) on Monday this afternoon. The meetings included updates from the PCC, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Lead for Modern Slavery Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer QPM, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton, the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit, and the Chair of the National Network Coordinators' Forum.

There has been continued good attendance from across England and Wales despite the virtual nature of the meeting.

- The PCC is the new chair of the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) (formerly the WY anti trafficking and modern slavery network) and has brought management and coordination of the partnership into the OPCC. At the meeting partners shared examples of best practice, expertise and important information to help improve the regional coordination of the threat of modern slavery and human trafficking. All partners are encouraged to join the partnership and attend the meetings.
- A meeting was held in May to discuss modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) in West Yorkshire. District MSHT leads and WYP will attend the meeting, which the PCC chaired. The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton is also attending the meeting (virtually) having had to cancel a visit to the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYUASP) because of Covid 19.
- The OPCC continues to support the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications Group, working with the West Yorkshire Police, Local Authority communications leads and the third sector the group seeks to develop collaborative safeguarding campaigns for west Yorkshire. The group's bid to the PCCs Safer Communities Fund was successful and the group have £6000 to assist with funding campaigns over the next 12 months. Some of this funding has already been used to support Facebook advertising of the party model campaign relaunch at the beginning of September. The group will also be promoting a domestic abuse and children campaign across the county, this is a relaunch of Wakefield's campaign. The group will now be working on a 12 month plan for 2020.
- In support of the 16 days of action WYP have launched a campaign supported by the PCC aimed at highlighting the risks of domestic abuse in older people. Many people think that domestic abuse only applies when there is physical violence between couples, but it can involve coercive and controlling behaviour such as financial control. It can also take place between family members such as sons, daughters or grandchildren. The 16 Days of Action is a global initiative, starting on Monday, 25 November and ending on International Human Rights Day, Tuesday, 10 December.
- As lead PCC Mark chaired the latest quarterly meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) in October. The network was launched by the PCC in January 2016 and is a vital platform which brings together Police and Crime Commissioners from across England and Wales, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), The National Police Chief Council (NPCC) lead Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer and the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit to discuss and improve how they work together to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in all its forms.
- The PCCs Safer Communities fund has also supported Safeguarding Vulnerable People through projects to tackle Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, Domestic Abuse, so called Honour Based Abuse, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery and Missing People.

#### ATTACHMENT

- [Chief Constables report – Safeguarding](#) (PDF 230KB)