

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

15 December 2020

**SUBJECT: Serious Violent Crime**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. This report provides an update on how West Yorkshire Police are responding to Serious Violent Crime.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the PCC uses this report to scrutinise West Yorkshire Police's response to serious violent crime.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. Serious Violent Crime is now featured within the refreshed Police and Crime Plan under Major Threats and serious violence. The PCC has said he will continue to oversee and support the response provided by regional teams, local partners and neighbourhood policing teams in identifying and preventing serious violence within our communities.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>4. The Government's Serious Violence Strategy is centred on 4 main themes: tackling county lines and misuse of drugs, early intervention and prevention, supporting communities and local partnerships and law enforcement and the criminal justice response. Taking the strategy and current public concerns into account, the PCC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewed the West Yorkshire Police response to Knife Crime with the Chief Constable</li><li>• Being assigned to the Home Office Government Task Force on Serious Violent Crime</li><li>• Is part of the Association of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Serious Violence Task and Finish group</li><li>• Supported weapons amnesties and WYP lead campaigns across the serious and violent crime arena.</li><li>• Supported Programme Precision a Partnership response to Serious Violent Crime.</li><li>• Provided funding through the Partnership Executive Group fund for investment in the Huddersfield University and Leeds/Kirklees YOT project exploring the linkages between inappropriate use of social media and violence amongst young people and for initiatives such as the GANGS project – a series of sessions in schools in West Yorkshire which challenges the myth of the glamour of street gangs.</li><li>• Grant round 14 of the Safer Communities Fund was launched in 2018 to tackle serious and violent crime from all angles including prevention, early intervention, diversion, protection and education, 49 groups received funding totalling £211,509.34, projects will complete in October 2019. Further Safer Communities Fund Grant Rounds continue to support the reduction of Violent Crime.</li></ul>

- Received £1,121,395 from the national Early Intervention Youth Fund. Specific projects endorsed and co-ordinated by the Police and Crime Commissioner will be supported over a two year period to help divert children and young people away from violent crime.
- Responded to the Home secretary's Announcement on new powers to tackle Knife Crime 31 Jan 2019
- Worked with the Home Office to host a West Yorkshire Partnership Event involving partners who are working together to tackle Serious and Violent Crime
- Funded a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Coordinator to support voluntary sector Partners in all areas, including vulnerable young people, substance misuse and community support work.
- Supported the launch of Knife Crime Awareness and other national and local campaigns
- Attended the Serious Violence Youth Summit
- Held a serious violence event in conjunction with the Home Office which brought key partners together to help understand what the public health approach looks like in tackling serious violence. The event also publicised the #knifefree campaign which will be re-run over the summer.
- Received £3.37m from the Home Office to deliver a Violence Reduction Unit in 19/20 which will cover the whole of West Yorkshire and aims to strengthen the response to serious violence across the county. The Unit which formerly launched on 5 March 2019, is one of 18 VRU's which have been set up in a bid to tackle violent crime across the country

## PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Early Intervention Youth Fund - The PCC working together with West Yorkshire Police, Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and the Prison Service will lead delivery of a holistic programme of early intervention projects with the aim of preventing serious violence within our county. Partners have identified a number of key connected strands of effective targeted programmes, initiatives and community co-productions for those individuals and communities at high risk of serious violence.

Violence Reduction Unit - . Violence Reduction Units take a multi-agency approach, bringing together police, local government, public health, voluntary and third sector, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime and crucially to understand its underlying causes, the unit works closely with OPCC colleagues particularly around interventions, engagement and commissioning.

The PCC supports the work of the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium, which seeks to improve the transition between Wetherby Young Offenders Institute and Youth Justice Services, and promotes initiatives around identity shift of those who have become involved in criminality at a young age. In addition, OPCC colleagues are working with WYP and the VRU to support staff within Wetherby to improve searching of residents, with a view to fewer weapons being concealed and used.

Through the Local Criminal Justice Board which the he chairs, the PCC has encouraged WYP to revise its approach to tackling prison crime which regularly involves serious violence, and as a result, improvements are being made to the structure moving forward.

## ATTACHMENT

- [Serious Violent Crime](#) (PDF 141KB)

