



Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

Making Sure Communities are Safer and Feel Safer

Mark Burns - Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner
for West Yorkshire

Annual Report

22 November 2012 - 31 March 2013



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Foreword



Welcome to my annual report as Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire. This annual report covers the four months since I took up the post on 22 November 2012 until the end of the financial year 31 March 13 and sets out the activities undertaken and achievements made in that time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Burns-Williamson', written in a cursive style.

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

This is an unusual 'annual' report as the election was held in November but future reports will cover a 12 month period and chart the activities and achievements of me and my office against the commitments and priorities in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-18. You can find a copy of my plan at www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk.

As such this report largely focuses on the development of the Police and Crime Plan that sets the strategic direction for policing and community safety across West Yorkshire. It included an extensive consultation - 'Listening to You First' - and important engagement with other organisations delivering for people in our communities working to make sure people are safer and feel safer. This report also covers the responsibility I have to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of an effective and efficient police service.

I was elected on 15 November 2012 as the Labour Party Candidate to fight against the damaging cuts to policing and protect frontline services. I continue to raise directly with the government that the cuts go too far too fast and call for a fairer deal for West Yorkshire, hit by the allocation of government funding disproportionately hard.

The challenges we face here are significant. West Yorkshire is the fourth largest police service in England and Wales with a population of 2.2 million living and working across a diverse county with complex policing and community safety needs. With a £142.9 million reduction (26.3%) to local police funding needed by 2016/17 and cuts across the public sector we need to work much better together to make sure all our communities are safer and feel safer in these increasingly challenging times.

Other key activities and achievements over this time have included:

- *Protecting the levels of Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs)*
- *Pass-ported across the Community Safety Fund to partners for the year ahead*
- *Recruiting Mark Gilmore as the new Chief Constable for West Yorkshire*
- *Setting a budget for 2013/14 including the police precept (police council tax) recruiting 44 new police officers*
- *Adopting a shared community outcome framework agreed by partner organisations*
- *Establishing a Partnership Executive Group to provide strategic direction*
- *Appointing a Deputy, Isabel Owen, and setting up an office at no extra cost*

Listening to you first

It is vitally important that people are consulted on the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their families in their workplace, in education, in communities. In the first week of taking office I launched the most extensive consultation of its kind across West Yorkshire - 'Listening to You First' - to make sure decisions made reflected your priorities and concerns and are at the heart of the Police and Crime Plan.

My 'Listening to You First' consultation involved a questionnaire that was distributed widely and made available online and in hard copy over a six week period. Awareness of the consultation was raised across West Yorkshire by posters placed in public areas for example schools, doctors' surgeries and police stations and through the press. I took the survey with me when I was out and about in communities including to projects such as Positive Futures in Bradford where I launched the survey and listened to the young people there talk about what matters to them first.

Over the first four months 53 visits were made to communities and with community organisations. I saw at first hand the work that goes on through local groups supporting those, for example, with substance abuse issues, helping those who have suffered domestic abuse recover, and meeting with the many young people who want to keep out of trouble and make a difference to their communities. I took the opportunity to discuss with clients, staff, neighbourhood policing teams and volunteers their needs



Mark Burns-Williamson meeting people as part of Community Action Support Against Crime (CASAC) Leeds

and concerns and find out what would make a real difference.

The questionnaire covered issues such as how safe people feel, what could be done to make them feel safer, what their concerns were, whether they had been a victim of crime, and whether they received the support they needed. The responses clearly demonstrated people value their bobbies on the beat, with 42.3% of people content to pay 3% or more extra in their council tax to pay for frontline police officers. 86.9% of people wanted me to lobby the government to get more money back from the proceeds of crime to invest in our communities and 74.1% of respondents said they felt safe.

Out of the approximately 20,000 questionnaires distributed 2,176 questionnaires were returned. The responses were compiled by my office and what people have told me they wanted have informed my decisions with regards to setting the budget for the year ahead and

agreeing the policing precept. The responses also informed the priorities and commitments set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The full summary of the responses can be viewed on my website via the following link <http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/our-business/deciding-with-you-the-police-and-crime-plan/listening-to-you-first-survey-results-summary.aspx>

Since my election I have tried to continue the important dialogue that I had with people and communities organisations across West Yorkshire as part of my campaign. It is important to me that people are listened to and feel involved. My Police and Crime Plan sets out my intention to be out in communities as much as possible, to listen to your concerns, and to make my staff available to you. I will continue to consult and engage and next year will conduct another 'Listening to You First' consultation for the annual review of priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.

Partnership working

Working in closer partnership with other agencies is also vital. The cuts across the public sector and the government's privatisation agenda that has started with the probation service demonstrates that we need to work better and smarter together to continue to provide improving public services for people across West Yorkshire.

But partnership working is not just about making better use of, or, sharing diminished resources. It is about putting the holistic needs of individuals and communities at the heart of the services we provide to successfully resolve problems such as anti-social behaviour and tackle not only crime but also the causes of crime together.

That's why one of the first decisions I made after taking up the position of Police and Crime Commissioner was to adopt a community outcomes framework that had been developed by partners. The key outcomes agreed by partners are:

- *Communities in West Yorkshire are safer and feel safer*
- *Crime and re-offending is reduced*
- *Anti-social behaviour is reduced*
- *Victims and witnesses are supported*
- *Local, regional and national threats, risks and harms are tackled*
- *Criminal justice system is effective and efficient*

I have structured my Police and Crime Plan, that sets the strategic direction for policing and community safety for 2013-18, around this important framework and partnership working is vital to succeed in delivering these shared outcomes. The police service cannot tackle these issues

alone, and nor are they necessarily the right agency to do so, to ensure that all our communities are safer and feel safer.

The plan was developed with the support of the five Community Safety Partnerships and the Police and Crime Plan Working Group with representatives drawn from community safety, criminal justice, business and third sectors. I organised five well attended round table events in each of the districts of West Yorkshire in order to ensure partners across the county had the opportunity to feed in to the Police and Crime Plan. Over the past four months I have attended 69 engagements with partner organisations. I also facilitated a round table event on hate crime, a key priority within my plan, which was attended by over 60 individuals and organisations.

I have a responsibility to reflect the priorities of Community Safety Partnership, within the Police and Crime Plan which I have done. My partnership engagement goes

beyond this duty in recognition of the importance of delivering together the community outcomes with partners from a range of sectors. I have established the Partnership Executive Group which comprises leaders from local government, the criminal justice system, community safety, health and the third sector to help co-ordinate effort and make sure we are focusing on the right things together. The terms of reference for this group are:

1. *Through a shared ambition establish how through working together we can identify solutions that work in West Yorkshire to reducing crime and disorder, improving community safety and criminal service effectiveness and efficiency.*
2. *With a focus on what matters to our communities identify where the impact of change through opportunities to problem solve, influence, innovate and galvanise partnership responses to crime, disorder, community safety and criminal justice are realised.*
3. *To go beyond partnership reciprocal duties as defined by current legislation to share the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan during times of reduced resources to ensure West Yorkshire communities are safe and feel safe.*

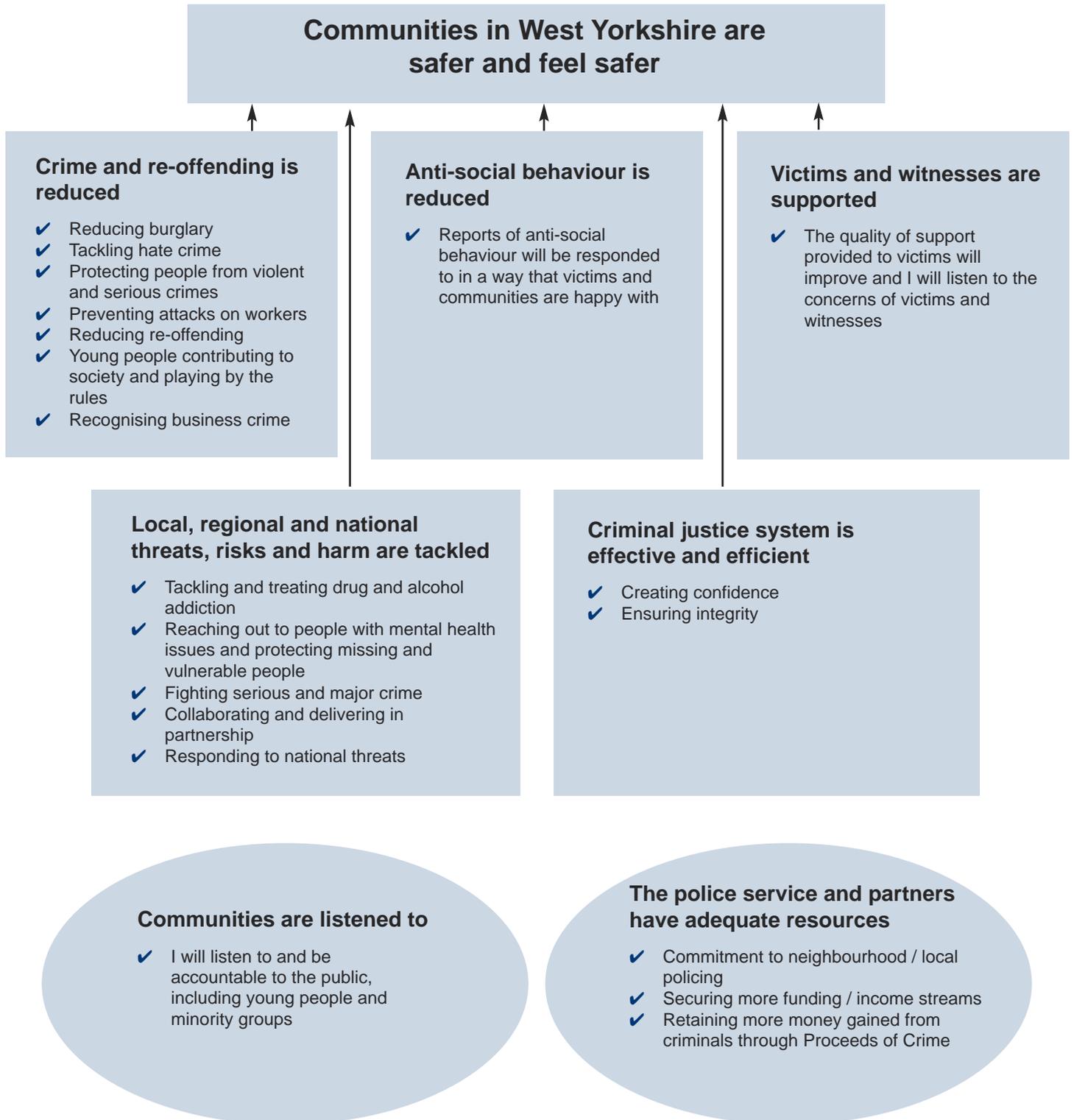


Mark Burns-Williamson at a Hate crime event

Setting the Local Police and Crime Objectives

The police and crime plan is based around a framework of community outcomes that I agreed with local partner organisations when I was first elected. A range of evidence was then considered, including what communities have told me is a priority or issue for them, crime figures, performance information, and what the police service and partner agencies know is important. The key themes from this evidence formed the basis of my priorities.

These are the outcomes and priorities set out in my police and crime plan, which covers the period of 2013-18.



Holding the Chief Constable to account

Over the last four months I have met regularly with the Temporary Chief Constable (John Parkinson) to discuss important policing and crime matters, raise issues of concern and agree activities and actions. Decisions taken during this period have included a change to regional collaboration, new arrangements for the National Police Air Service (NPAS), Victim Support to be hosted by West Yorkshire ITC, a public facing report into Jimmy Savile, a review of helpdesks and the sale of police property.

I have also raised at these meetings the policing and community safety concerns of those individuals and organisations I have met out in the community or who have contacted me directly. Where West Yorkshire Police Service may have got it wrong I have ensured with the Chief Constable that, where possible, things are put right. The agendas, key discussions, papers and decisions from these meetings are on my website so people are kept informed and have access to important information.

As the statutory consultees for the Police and Crime Plan, the Temporary Chief Constable and the new Chief Constable have

both been properly consulted on the content. I will be holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery of the Police and Crime Plan at fortnightly community outcomes meetings, monthly accountability meetings and quarterly performance meetings.

During this period West Yorkshire has had a Temporary Chief Constable but recruitment has taken place to fill this gap and the

new, permanent, Chief Constable Mark Gilmore took post on 1 April 2013. In recruiting for a new Chief Constable the 'package' is appropriate to the time we live in. I advertised the post at the set national salary for West Yorkshire. I expect him to apply a similar approach to the terms and conditions of his chief officer team in following our example.



Police and Crime Commissioner Mark Burns-Williamson with newly appointed Chief Constable Mark Gilmore

Performance figures for 2012 - 13

My election on 15 November 2012 heralded a change in the way policing in West Yorkshire is governed. One accountable Police and Crime Commissioner has replaced 17 members of the former Police Authority. Therefore when I took office on 22 November 2012 a set of performance measures and targets were in place, as set out in the Policing Plan 2012-15.

The performance of West Yorkshire Police Service against these indicators is set out below.

Performance Indicator	2011/12	Target	2012/13 outturn	Target met?
1. Improve the proportion of residents who believe the Police do an excellent or good job	54.6%	55.2%	53.9%	No
2. Increase the overall satisfaction rate of service users	85.6%	86.2%	87.3%	Yes
3. Improve the overall satisfaction rate for BME service users	80.9%	82.3%	82.9%	Yes
4. Improve the overall satisfaction rate for white users	86.1%	86.7%	86.5%	No
5. Reduce the level of acquisitive crime	42,051	41,604	35,196	Yes
6. Reduce the level of burglary dwelling	17,806	17,359	13,249	Yes
7. Continue to tackle ASB to impact on the proportion of residents who believe that ASB has increased in their local areas	14.3%	14.3%	12.2%	Yes
8. Continue to tackle the level of serious violent crime	787	787	656	Yes
9. Improve the repeat victimisation rate for domestic violence	34.0%	33.9%	35.5%	No
10. Maintain the sanction detection rate for serious sexual offences	29.5%	29.5%	19.3%	No

While I did not set these targets as Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire I have certainly had regard to them. Where performance has not been to par I have raised my concerns with the Temporary Chief Constable. Public confidence in the police, domestic violence victimisation and serious sexual offences, the areas where performance for 2012-13 was poor, are all included in the Police and Crime Plan ensuring an ongoing focus on these priority areas. Performance of the police service, other partners and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will be measured against the Police and Crime Plan quarterly going forward.

Budget for 2012 - 13

West Yorkshire has been hit particularly hard by the severe cuts to policing because of the disproportionate way the government allocates funds to PCCs. A high proportion of our spending is met from government grant, with only 20% raised locally from the police council tax. The government reduced our grant by £23m (6.7%) in 2012/13, and the former Police Authority set a budget of £411.7m, keeping the police council tax at £130.50,

unchanged since 2010/11 and the third lowest in England and Wales.

Strenuous efforts are being made to reduce spending without damaging the service which is provided to communities, and as a result additional savings were made during the year, resulting in savings of £24.5m. Much of this came from people leaving the force more quickly, but examples of other savings include £1.7m on

computers and communications, £0.9m on the vehicle fleet, £0.7m on operational equipment and £1.9m on our borrowing costs.

Going forward ►►

While most PCCs were restricted to a 2% increase in their police council tax for 2013/14, I had the flexibility to go above that by the government because the figure in West Yorkshire is so low. I took the difficult decision to put the police council tax up by 3.8% (£5 a year) to pay for 44 new police recruits. Even so, police numbers will continue to fall, and I expect there to be 106 fewer police officers and 132 fewer support staff by the end of the year, a reduction in strength from 8,606 to 8,368.

There has been a big reduction in the size of the force and it is

anticipated that the government cuts to policing and to partners across the public sector will only get worse. A real divide will be created between those police forces who are reliant on government grants and those who receive a smaller grant but get more money from local police council tax. We estimate that by 2016/17 the budget will be £142.9m lower, although we don't yet have firm figures from the government.

I have made a firm commitment to maximise the resources available for front line policing in our communities, and will continue to

reduce the costs of my own office at least in line with the cuts made by government. For 2013/14, my office budget is £122k less than under the former Police Authority, and at £1.7m is only 0.4% of the total policing budget for West Yorkshire.

With efficiencies already found we need to find smarter, innovative ways of working and more fundamental changes to the way the police service does its business in a truly integrated, joined up way, keeping our communities safer and feeling safer.



Contact details



For any feedback or queries relating to this Annual Report please contact me or my office via the following methods:

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