



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

**Making communities safer
and feel safer**

ONE YEAR ON

Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for
West Yorkshire

FOREWORD



Dear colleague

It is twelve months since I was elected as West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner. In this time I have been out in our communities talking to people about what matters to them, visiting community projects that tackle the causes and consequences of crime, and working alongside the police and other partners to successfully resolve problems and make sure our communities are safer and feel safer.

I have set out in this report some of the activities undertaken and the achievements made as I continue to work towards meeting the priorities and the commitments set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2013-18 and holding the new Chief Constable to account for its delivery. As at 30 September 2013 crime is down by 3.7% and I am working with the police to continue to improve our performance. There is a great deal more to do, but one year on, by working together, a real difference has been made to the lives of people in our communities.

In my first week I launched a consultation to find out about people's priorities and last week I was in each district re-launching Listening to You First to make sure people from across West Yorkshire continue to have their say on the decisions that affect them. I hope you will find time to contribute and help to set the agenda for safeguarding our communities in the county over the next twelve months.

I hope you find this report useful in better understanding the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the police and partners. If you would like more information on any of the work outlined here or have ideas you want to share for keeping people safe and feeling safe in these challenging times then please do not hesitate to contact me at contact@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you going forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mark

RESOURCING POLICE AND PARTNERS

Protecting neighbourhood policing – I pledged to protect neighbourhood policing across West Yorkshire and together with partners I have maintained the numbers of Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) for this year. I have committed £17.8m of the policing budget towards safeguarding the level of PCSOs for three years and I am currently in discussions with Council Leaders and others to do the same.

Funding partners – Community Safety Funds providing monies to Community Safety Partnerships, drug intervention programs and Positive Futures now comes under Police and Crime Commissioners' budgets.

This year I pass-ported the monies direct to partners to provide certainty and continuity of service. I have now extended this funding for a further six months at the same level despite the government cuts. I will also be developing a clear offer and approach to commissioning services from October 2014 to coincide with Victims Services funding also coming into the budget.



Banner painting project run by 'Positive Futures'

"The continuation of the West Yorkshire Positive Futures (WYPF) project has meant that we are able to provide essential services to young people that have been engaging with the project for some time. We work in partnership with the Youth Offending Team and Police to ensure that we have a package of activities we can offer to young people that maybe involved in offending and/or anti-social behaviour. WYPF also provides an excellent "front door" for young people that are ambivalent about engaging with our substance misuse service, currently 72% of young people exiting from treatment are picked up through WYPF to ensure a transition and aftercare package.

Mark has been approachable and personable.

The Police and Crime Plan has become embedded within our delivery both through WYPF and other projects and sits nicely alongside the priorities of our other services."

Katy Hetherington, Young Persons Development Manager, Lifeline Project

Setting the budget – Given the scale of the government cuts in West Yorkshire with £143m to be cut from our budget to 2016/17 the way we do business has to change. However I am committed to protecting frontline policing and after extensive consultation through *Listening to You First* I increased the precept (police council tax) this year by around 1p per day for most households¹ to pay for 44 new police recruits, despite net losses of police officers and staff overall.

¹ 64% of households fall within Band A and Band B for council tax

Fighting cuts, for a fairer deal – I continue to raise with the Home Secretary and the Policing Minister that the cuts to policing and across the public sector go too far, too fast. I have also called for a fairer deal for West Yorkshire as the way police funding is allocated by the government across the country, hits areas like ours, those with the greatest needs, the hardest. This is creating an unacceptable north-south divide in policing and other services.

Preventing privatisation – I have lobbied the government against outsourcing electronic tagging of offenders to companies such as G4S when this can be done more efficiently and effectively by West Yorkshire Police. I have campaigned against the privatisation of probation and I am supporting the development of a local public and voluntary sector not for profit bid for this service provision that would retain much of the local expertise in managing offenders.

Campaigning for more proceeds of crime – I am campaigning for ALL of the money recovered from criminals here in West Yorkshire to be returned and invested back into tackling crime and the causes and consequences of crime in our communities rather than 50% kept by the Treasury. I am also campaigning for changes in the legislation to do more to recover these ill-gotten gains and hit criminals even harder.

“West Yorkshire's PCC, Mark Burns-Williamson, has launched a petition to persuade central government to change policy to ensure that when criminals' assets are seized, the funds are spent on community and anti-crime initiatives in the same areas where the crimes were committed – an eminently sensible and fair proposal.”

Ally Fogg, The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/04/police-crime-commissioners-five-best-worst-ideas>



Mark has led by example in using a vehicle confiscated from criminals as a 'pool car' for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for getting around the county. The car was confiscated during a drugs crime operation and it helps to keep costs down, sending out a clear message around targeting criminal assets.

Please sign my petition to the government to get ALL the money back:
<http://action.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/page/s/giveusbackallthemoney>

MAKING SURE OUR COMMUNITIES ARE LISTENED TO

Listening to You First – In the first week of taking office I launched an extensive consultation *Listening to You First* to make sure people had their say and that the Police and Crime Plan and the annual budget reflected the priorities of those who live and work across West Yorkshire. I sent out over 20,000 surveys, engaged with people in their communities and consulted through a poster and media campaign.

Working with communities – Over the last year I have visited 184 local community groups and many individuals, met with 191 partner organisations and been out with 17 Neighbourhood Policing Teams to better understand our policing and community safety needs. This understanding informs the decisions I make in working towards making our communities safer and feel safer.



Mark engaging with communities at Leeds Gay Pride 2013

Giving young people a say – I have asked young people aged 13-18 to come together to form a 'Youth Advisory Group'. Over 40 successful applications have been received and they not only represent the diversity of the county but are also clearly passionate about representing the views of young people across West Yorkshire.

Responding to peoples' concerns – Since April 2013 over 800 people have come to me with their issues, in writing, in person, or in one of the monthly surgeries I hold across the county. The nature of the communication varies enormously but where things have gone wrong I try to put them right and work to address the needs and concerns of all the people across West Yorkshire who contact me.

“From the beginning I was unsure whether anything would come of speaking to the commissioner. I had given up on the money that I had paid and did not think that the policy that led to this expense would be changed. It was only out of desperation that I contacted you. Mark has surpassed my expectations beyond measure. You have shown me that the creation of the role of police commissioner is a massive step forward in making sure that the police meet the needs of the community. What's more, through his actions, Mark has shown that he really does care about his electorate. He has my full respect for challenging police policy and I look forward to hearing the results of this review.”

West Yorkshire resident who contacted Mark after twice having a vehicle stolen and having to pay costs for recovery, which led to a reimbursement of costs and a review of police policy around the recovery of stolen vehicles.

Communities feeling safer – Every month I send out a public perception survey to better understand peoples’ perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour, how they feel about their local area, and their opinions of the police. I am currently working with Huddersfield University to develop a methodology of assessing whether and how people feel safer in their communities - a crucially important outcome of the Police & Crime Plan.

A Community use for police buildings – I have introduced a policy that considers community views around the disposal of police buildings, providing the opportunity for communities to express an interest via local authorities under the provisions of the Localism Act, advantaging local communities in the potential use of buildings.

MEETING THE PRIORITIES IN THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

The Police and Crime Plan 2013-18, published on 31 March 13, sets the strategic direction for policing and community safety across West Yorkshire. Please visit www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk for a copy of the Plan. It was built around an outcome framework agreed by partners and was supported in the drafting by representatives from community safety, criminal justice, business and the third sector. I sent out a survey and engaged with thousands of people and organisations to make sure the Police and Crime Plan reflected their priorities. I have also worked with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to develop local ‘plans’.

To have your say in the refresh of the Police & Crime Plan please visit <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/93368CYLGG>

Reducing crime and re-offending

Preventing crime – I am working with West Yorkshire Police to review Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, visiting each of the policing districts and talking to those involved in such schemes about how they are working and how they can be improved, as the eyes and ears of the community are crucial in helping keep our streets safe. A report based on this work is due shortly.

Reducing burglary - I want to reduce domestic burglary in West Yorkshire. The target I have set the police is for performance to be better than the most similar forces and partnerships in England and Wales, and across West Yorkshire there has been a 12% reduction in the volume of domestic burglary in the 12 months to September 2013. I am campaigning for legislation to make new homes safer at minimal extra cost and I am also working towards submitting Community Impact Statements to sentencing judges in burglary cases to ensure the voice of communities is heard when courts make sentencing decisions.

A couple attended a surgery with Mark to discuss issues with the investigation of burglaries at their house. Despite having taken a number of security measures they still felt vulnerable. For example they had reported a car that was regularly seen driving past their house and it made them feel unsafe in their own home.

Mark raised this concern with West Yorkshire Police and Officers have now established regular contact with the couple, helped them further with their CCTV system and spoken to the owner of the car. The couple now feel much safer.

An example of how issues raised via the monthly surgeries can be addressed

Tackling hate crime – I am reviewing with the Chief Constable the recording and classification of hate crime as well as hate crime reporting and how victims can be better supported through safer places. I held a roundtable on hate crime in the first months to look at the hate crime issues that effect people in West Yorkshire and these led to the commitment statements in the Police and Crime Plan.



Reducing anti-social behaviour

As part of the local police and crime priorities 'launch' in Kirklees I visited with the Chief Constable one of the villages on the 'Ale Trail', Marsden. The residents, businesses and councillors had come together to raise serious issues of anti-social behaviour as people, particularly at the weekend, were abusing the 'Ale Trail' and getting off the train at Marsden drunk and disorderly. This behaviour was having an adverse effect on the wider community and in some areas blighting lives. This could not be allowed to continue and the Chief Constable agreed a new operational response, including mounted police, for peak times. Feedback from those at the meeting and residents has been really positive as this targeted policing has had the desired effect and the people of Marsden now feel much safer in their community.

"Feedback from local residents, businesses and other partners since suggests that this has made a big difference and the mounted police have helped to provide a visible presence. Positively the community reflected that the police presence was not intimidating and had created a calmer and more secure atmosphere in the village. People had been able to open their windows and sit in the garden (things they felt unable to enjoy when rowdy ale trailers were around). It was also noted that the stations were well regulated and the crowds were smaller and kept more orderly. Some landlords also reported an increase in trade as a result of a better atmosphere in the village".

Feedback from Safer Communities Team at Kirklees Council



Mark and the Chief Constable Mark Gilmore in Marsden for the local launch of the Police and Crime Plan

Supporting victims and witnesses

Putting victims first – I responded to the government consultation on the victims code and welcome its introduction as it clearly outlines the rights of victims of crime and the support they should expect from agencies in the criminal justice system.

Improving victims' services – From October 2014 I will be commissioning victims' services. I have held a number of events and discussions with organisations to make sure victims of all crimes receive the best care and support at a local level. I recently

initiated an expression of interest from the four PCCs across the region to commission services through a pilot area to deliver better services at lower cost and ensure victims receive the same level of care wherever they live in the region.

Supporting partners – I have provided Victim Support in West Yorkshire with accommodation and have raised with the Chief Constable the possibility of their co-locating with the police where it is appropriate. West Yorkshire Police also now hosts the IT system for Victim Support nationally in support of their important work.

“Since the election of the PCC one year ago, Victim Support in West Yorkshire have developed a positive relationship with the PCC and his staff, and have contributed in a number of ways to consultations and discussions around victim and witness issues. We look forward to working with the PCC and his staff over the coming year, particularly around the implementation of the new Victims Code”.

Lesley McLean, Divisional Manager, Victim Support West Yorkshire

Tackling local, regional and national threats, risk and harm

Protecting our children – I held a summit in July for key partners to identify stronger working practices around child sex exploitation. Partners have been asked to complete a template for a mapping exercise to determine the nature and scale of CSE across West Yorkshire to look at how best to work together to keep children safe.

Tackling drug and alcohol addiction – I have commissioned a review of the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) by those partners with the expertise, knowledge and skills to understand what is working and what needs to be changed to adapt to a new era. This review will make recommendations at a local level for future delivery.

Supporting vulnerable people – West Yorkshire Police are teaming up with Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to carry out a street triage that sees mental health nurses accompany officers to incidents so that vulnerable people with mental ill-health receive the care and support they need from the right agency.

Regional collaboration – PCCs in the Yorkshire and Humber region have agreed a new way of working together to deliver more efficient and effective regional policing that has already saved West Yorkshire £2m. In the new ‘lead force’ model West Yorkshire leads on scientific support services and serious and organised crime.

National Police Air Service (NPAS) Board – This national service is now embedded in West Yorkshire Police and as the lead PCC I Chair the NPAS Strategic Board. This is an innovative approach to the delivery of a national service that provides for a more efficient and effective policing capability from the air. Significant savings have already been made with renegotiated insurance arrangements saving over £1m. This provides better value for the people of West Yorkshire and across the country with an estimated saving of £15m across England and Wales.

Criminal justice system is effective and efficient

Reviewing stop and search – Together with the Chief Constable I am undertaking a review to ensure that West Yorkshire Police use the powers of stop and search appropriately and proportionately and in a way that is intelligence led. I will be consulting on the use of stop and search to better understand the concerns of communities and this will inform the recommendations making sure we get it right.

A review into police complaints and standards – I have also commissioned, with the support of the Chief Constable, an independent review of how West Yorkshire Police deals with complaints and conduct issues. I have asked Catherine Crawford, formerly the Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Police Authority, to conduct the review and having consulted extensively with stakeholders she will report her findings shortly. I believe this is not only important from a public point of view, but also the police themselves in promoting high standards and fairness

WORKING BETTER, TOGETHER

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 in a much more integrated way to make sure our communities are safer and feel safer in these increasingly challenging times.

Working in partnership – I have established the Partnership Executive Group (PEG) comprising leaders from local government, criminal justice, community safety, health, the emergency services and the third sector to encourage more joined up, integrated working, to co-ordinate efforts and make sure we are focusing on the right things together. A What Works Group has been established to look at information sharing and to develop an evidence base of ‘what works’ from a range of partners delivering on the outcomes of the Police & Crime Plan in West Yorkshire. I have held partnership roundtables in each district and two West Yorkshire wide partnership delivery events both attended by over 100 representatives.



Mark speaking at the partnership event about the importance of working together

Working smarter – We need to find smarter ways of working together in partnership not just to make better use of our sharing diminishing resources but to make sure we put the holistic needs of individuals and communities at the heart of the services we provide. I am currently in conversation with partners about sharing services and to find opportunities to co-locate and together with the fire service and the ambulance service looking at ways to bid for the governments’ innovation fund as well as establishing an in-house innovation team and income generation strategy.

Setting out the strategic vision for delivery – I have developed a Vision and Strategy for the implementation of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-18 that sets out what I would like to see partnership delivery to be over this administration. This can be found at <http://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/our-business/vision-and-strategy.aspx>

Tackling local problems – I have set up a West Yorkshire Forum (combining the five Community Safety Partnerships across West Yorkshire) and supported the development of a Third Sector Advisory Group to successfully solve problems and find better ways to work together to tackle the causes and consequences of crime.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

An OPCC fit for purpose – I have implemented organisational change across the OPCC making sure everybody I inherited from the Police Authority remained in post but with new roles and responsibilities to reflect a new era of governance. I have also reduced the overall costs of the OPCC from those of the Police Authority by £200,000. As set out in the legislation I have appointed a Chief Executive, Fraser Sampson, a Chief Finance Officer, Judith Heeley and a Deputy, Isabel Owen.

Signing the Charter – I have signed the trade union Police Staff Employment Charter protecting the rights of staff across the OPCC and West Yorkshire Police. I have asked the Chief Constable to also sign the Charter so that all staff whoever they are employed by after the implementation of Stage 2 process required by legislation have the same rights at work.

Protecting starter salaries – New recruits are to be paid less according to national guidelines with the recommendation starter salaries for police officers drop to £19,000. Here in West Yorkshire the salaries will remain at £22,000 in recognition of the hard work and dedication to the job our officers demonstrate day in, day out and the commensurate skills base required.

Creating apprenticeships – I have initiated a pilot apprentice scheme across the OPCC and West Yorkshire Police in order to give our young people more opportunity to join an apprentice scheme and in this initial phase receive finance and business training and work experience and have a greater chance of future employment. I am also, with the Chief Constable, looking to create opportunities for placements.

A living wage employer – West Yorkshire Police is a living wage employer and I am seeking accreditation to make sure that the force only agrees contracts where other organisations protect their workers and pay them a decent living wage.

Appointing a Chief Constable – I have appointed Mark Gilmore as the new Chief Constable for West Yorkshire. He was appointed to undertake organizational and cultural change to meet the significant challenges we face here, to make West Yorkshire Police more efficient and effective and to drive up performance. In recruiting for a new Chief Constable I was able to get rid of the ‘perks’ to reflect the new times we live in and I expect the same approach to be applied to Chief Officers.

CONTACT DETAILS



For any feedback or queries relating to this One Year On document please contact me or my office via the following methods:

Email: contact@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01924 294000

Address:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
Ploughland House
62 George Street
WAKEFIELD
WF1 1DL

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