Agenda Item No. 8

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

26 November 2024

SUBJECT: Stop and Search

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Stop and Search.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Stop and Search.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 21-24

- 3. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. Face to face and online consultation and engagement ran from 1 September 2021-30 November 2021; The Voice of West Yorkshire is one of two key documents which supports the Police and Crime Plan 2021 -24. The document includes the notes of key events and can be found here: <u>police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf (westyorks-ca.gov.uk).</u>
- 4. Equality, Diversity, and inclusion is a key cross cutting theme which runs throughout the Police and Crime Plan. West Yorkshire is a vibrant and diverse region. It is home to many different communities within the towns, cities, and villages of our districts. Together we all share the same ambition to live in thriving, safe neighbourhoods. At the centre of the police and crime plan is the celebration of this diversity and the vision of a strong, cohesive, and welcoming West Yorkshire which is fair, just, and inclusive.
- 5. Stop and Search is a protective tool used by the police in specific circumstances where an officer has reasonable grounds to suspect a person is carrying a weapon, stolen property, illegal drugs, or an article used to commit a crime. Stop and Search, used effectively and within the law, makes communities safer.

KEY INFORMATION

6. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

The Mayor/DMPC hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure Stop and Search activity is used appropriately, proportionately, in the pursuit of a legitimate aim and in a way that can be explained by the searching officer to the person stopped, this report is part of that process.

- 7. As part of the national portfolio on the APCC Race Disparity Working Group the DMPC has considered the recommendations of the IOPC national stop and search learning report as part of the ongoing work to tackle race disparity and improve communities' confidence in policing and the criminal justice system.
- 8. The DMPC also works closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and other organisations on the Race Action Plan.
- 9. The Mayor, DMPC and their office are supporting a series of District based events to support Community Updates on the Race Action Plan since the launch in 2023.
- 10. Policing and Crime colleagues attend the WYP TDG (Tactical Delivery Group) Inequalities meeting (where the work to support implementation of the Police Race Action Plan takes place), WYP Independent Advisory Group and Independent Scrutiny and Advisory Group (ISaAG) which looks at Inequalities. The DMPC has also met recently with the Independent Chair of ISaAG for an update on their work.
- 11. The Mayor and DMPC sought reassurance from WYP after Child Q a 15-yearold black schoolgirl was strip-searched while at school and asked that routine monitoring data be updated to better reflect child related stop and search, they continue to review closely the Stop and Seach of Children.
- 12. The Mayor/DMPC welcomed the Children's Commissioner report and recommendations into Exposure of Intimate Boody Parts (EIP) searches, formerly known as strip searches.
- 13. The Mayor/DMPC have established an Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel. The panel meets quarterly. On a themed basis, the panel will review the detention and treatment of detained persons. For example, the use of force and the searching of people in the custody environment, where such a search may include Exposure of Intimate Body Parts (EIP searching), appropriate adult and legal rights provision, the welfare of those with mental illhealth or neurodiverse conditions.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Mayor and DMPC work with specific groups and organisations to better understand the impact of Stop and Search on individuals and communities.

Work of key partners and leaders, such as the Children's Commissioner, is closely monitored so that learning and best practice can be taken into account when reviewing related activity.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The Mayor and DMPC are working closely with the Chief Constable at both a national and local level to better understand the explanation for disproportionality in relation to Stop and Search.

ATTACHMENT

Chief Constable's report – Stop and Search

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT