

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

26 November 2024

SUBJECT: Safeguarding - Adult

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE**

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Adult Safeguarding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Adult Safeguarding.

**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' report. 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: [police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-policing-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf).
4. Safeguarding and protecting those who are most vulnerable is a key theme running throughout the Police and Crime Plan and is especially relevant to **Priority 2: Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience**. Under this strategic priority the Police and Crime plan states that the focus is on keeping people safe from (and preventing) harmful behaviour, exploitation, and abuse. Feedback from residents in the 'Voice of West Yorkshire' report highlighted people's strong concerns about the safety of children, whilst issues such as domestic abuse, the safety of women and girls, criminal exploitation, and missing persons are all topics the Mayor's Policing and Crime Team address in our work with the police and partners.
5. A person is vulnerable if their situation or circumstances means they are unable to take care of, or protect themselves or others, from harm or exploitation or other adverse impacts on their quality of life. Vulnerability can be linked to many factors, such as mental health, substance misuse, disability, or age. This means that individuals must be supported in a way which recognises their specific personal circumstances.
6. The Mayor/DMPC now reviews Safeguarding through COM through two separate reports; one with a child focus and the other with an adult focus.

7. In respect of the safety of women and girls, the Keeping People Safe priority also highlights that the Mayor will work in partnership to reduce crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls, and understand the extent of child sexual offences and domestic abuse. We will do this by ensuring that more victims are accessing support services, and that we are working with partners across organisational boundaries to help support vulnerable people.

## **KEY INFORMATION**

8. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

- Publishing the Reducing Vulnerability strategy: earlier this year, the Policing and Crime team published this strategy covering child and adult safeguarding themes. The final document can be found at: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12266/reducing-vulnerability-strategy-1.pdf>
- Through West Yorkshire Police and the WYCA Policing & Crime Team, the Mayor supports a range of activity to help safeguard adults within our communities, for example:
  - Supporting victims of domestic abuse through our funded IDVA programme and through support for the CARA programme for the rehabilitation of low to medium risk domestic abuse offenders.
  - Bringing partners together through the LCJB Mental Health Forum, to develop and sustain responses for people with mental health needs who are in contact with the criminal justice system.
  - The range of activities supported through the Safety of Women and Girls agenda, including the Women's Safety Unit and WYP's Stalking Coordination Unit.
- This year, the DMPC has supported a number of initiatives with links to adult safeguarding, including:
  - Lending support to the Safe and Found Online project, which provides an online resource for the carers of those at risk of going missing, to post information which can help emergency services to quickly locate a person should they go missing.
  - Speaking at a Modern Slavery awareness-raising event arranged by Leeds-based faith group, Wellsprings Together.
  - Launching a cross-regional conference at Huddersfield University on the adult safeguarding issue of 'cuckooing'. Cuckooing is linked to the modern slavery theme, and commonly involves drugs gangs befriending, and then occupying the property of a vulnerable person. In addition, this year the Mayor has helped to fund a public awareness video on cuckooing via the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund.
  - Drugs and substance misusers can be some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. The DMPC has led on developing a pilot programme for WYP officers to carry the overdose-reversal medicine, Naloxone.

## **Re-commissioning of the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, the Yorkshire and the Humber (YaTH) Police & Crime Commissioners, and NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Improvement (the Commissioners), jointly commission a SARC service across the Yorkshire and Humber region. The contract costs are split 50/50 between YaTH Policing and Crime and NHSE Commissioners under the collaboration agreement.

The purpose of the SARC services is to co-ordinate and simplify the pathway for all victims of rape and sexual assault or abuse to access wider healthcare, social care and criminal justice processes, to improve individual health and well-being, as well as criminal justice outcomes.

The re-commissioning and procurement of the Adult SARC has now been completed. The successful bidder is Mountain Healthcare, the current provider, and the new contract started 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The contract awarded is for a maximum duration of 7 years (4 years plus a 3-year optional extension).

### **West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP)**

- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) meets quarterly and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Since its creation in 2014, WYASP has successfully brought together law enforcement, local government, public services, and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector for the delivery of a co-ordinated response to modern slavery, as well as the continued improvement of services for the safeguarding of victims.
- Modern slavery often includes the exploitation of adults through criminal, labour, or sexual exploitation, and is often linked to organised crime. However, most people entering the Home Office's National Referral Mechanism are British nationals, commonly exploited through the drugs trade. These matters are regularly reviewed by the partnership as we seek to build a collaborative approach across West Yorkshire between the police and key partners.
- The WY Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR) Strategy Board is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. This board has the ambition to 'Work together with people with lived experience and colleagues across all sectors and organisations to ensure WY is a trauma informed and responsive system by 2030 and develop a whole system approach to tackling multiple disadvantage'.

Underpinning the vision West Yorkshire ATR want to:

- Prevent adversity and trauma across the life course.
- Engage in efforts build on assets and strengthen protective factors for our population
- Reduce harm for our population who experience adversity and trauma
- Reduce inequalities that contribute to adversity and trauma and inequalities caused by adversity and trauma.
- Ensure an understanding of adversity and traumatic events and the impact they have on an individual, their life chances and opportunities.

## **9. Mayor's Safer Communities Fund**

Details of projects funded can be found here ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mayors-safer-communities-fund))

The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund Grant rounds 1 to 6 have awarded 357 projects a share of £3,040,983.20, many of these project's cover:

Abuse and Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Fraud & Cyber Crime, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, So Called "Honour" Based Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, and Rape and Sexual Offences.

Overall, we anticipate that the projects will impact/have impacted 128,967 people.

### **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

Safeguarding adults requires collaborative working between a number of key partners. Many of these organisations will collaborate with West Yorkshire Police through multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

As detailed above, a range of mechanisms are utilised by the Mayor/DMPC to support effective partnership working in relation to adult safeguarding, including the WYASP, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board, the LCJB Mental Health Forum, the WY ATR Strategy Board, and wider engagement and interventions supported by the Violence Reduction Partnership.

### **EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is most effective in partnership. It is known that minority groups and marginalised individuals can face specific safeguarding challenges and be at increased risk to abuse and exploitation.

It is important that all safeguarding policies, strategies, delivery, and discussion is inclusive and ensures all services and support is accessible for all. Recognising and embracing diversity and being inclusive are the core foundations and key principles of safeguarding. This includes the people delivering the services as well as those receiving them.

### **ATTACHMENT**

[Chief Constable's report – Adult Safeguarding](#)

### **POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT**