**Agenda Item No. 4**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**28 January 2025**

**SUBJECT: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

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| **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE**   1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). |
| **RECOMMENDATION**   1. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of VAWG. |
| **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 21-24**   1. In accordance with the Mayoral pledge the launch of the Police and Crime Plan ensured that the Safety of Women and Girls was placed at the heart of the police and Crime – keeping women and girls safe in the public and private sphere, free from harm and strengthening emotional resilience. 2. 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 a of two key documents which supports the Police and Crime Plan 2021 -24.  The document, which includes the notes of key events held with women’s groups and includes a summary of the Mayor’s ‘call for evidence for women and girls’, can be found here: ([police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf (westyorks-ca.gov.uk)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/8215/police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf).  Engaging with women and girls was a key objective of the consultation in line with the Mayoral pledge. 3. The plan sets out a series of actions under each of the priorities as follows:   Priority 1: Supporting Victims and witnesses and improving criminal justice outcomes.   * Work across the partnership to improve outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and violence, including criminal justice outcomes. We will embed a trauma-informed approach across systems to ensure services are sensitive, empathetic and understand the impact of lived experiences. Women and men must be able to report a sexual assault in as supportive an environment as possible. * Collect the evidence needed to support a change in legislation to fully recognise misogyny as a hate crime against women and girls and ensure that women reporting these offences are treated with respect. * Challenge the behaviours that put women and girls at risk, including targeted awareness raising campaigns (for example covering coercive control, financial abuse), work to influence and educate young people, and perpetrator programmes that reduce reoffending   Priority 2: Keeping people safe and building resilience   * The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the volume of crime that disproportionality affects women and girls. We will work to uncover this hidden harm, getting the support and justice to those who need it. * Work with all partners to embed a violence against women and girls’ delivery framework. * Reduce vulnerability and isolation by engaging women and girls in education, employment, and training opportunities. * Challenge the male community to stand up and be counted, as role models to their peers, calling out unacceptable behaviour   Priority 3: Safer Places and Thriving Communities   * This Plan will make West Yorkshire a hostile place to exploiters, through developing strong deterrents, designing-out crime, supporting community challenge, making reporting crime simpler, and increasing confidence in the police. * Support grass-roots community organisations that provide important services for women and girls. * Use developing technology and tools to understand where and why women and girls feel unsafe in public spaces. * Work to ensure women and girls are safe on public transport and taxis   Priority 4: Responding to Multiple and complex needs   * Bring a trauma-informed focus to those supporting women and girls who have experienced exploitation. * Bring a whole systems approach to the safety of women and girls’ agenda, for both victims and perpetrators. * Embed the violence against women and girls’ priority in the new Serious Violence Duty. * Evaluate the impact of commissioned perpetrator programmes to understand what works to reduce violent behaviour   The Police and Crime Plan includes a series of indicators that will be used to measure performance which, while not solely related to women and girls, reflect the fact that women and girls are disproportionately represented in the associated crime cohort.   These include:     * Increasing positive outcomes for victims of domestic and sexual abuse and violence * Reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse * Increase the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Domestic Violence Protection Notices * Increase the use of Stalking Prevention Orders * Increase the % of female officers     Performance against the indicators in the Police and Crime Plan is reported via the Mayor’s Governance meetings and the Police and Crime Panel. |
| **KEY INFORMATION**   1. Mayoral/DMPC and VRP recent activity includes:   The Mayor/DMPC continue to do all they can to raise the profile of support required around the safety of women and girls both locally and nationally ensuring:   * They attend partnership events to advocate for the Safety of Women and Girls * Attend community-based meetings and initiatives to better understand the lived experiences and challenges faced by Women and Girls. * Address WYP performance in respect of accountability, scrutiny and oversight both directly, and through the work of the wider team.   **Transport and the Night-Time Economy:**   * An anonymous bus safety feedback tool on the Mcard mobile application, allowing users to feedback on their feelings of safety at any point along their journey. Also featuring travel safety information. * Data collected from the App reporting tool along with other intelligence is embedded in the Violence Reduction Partnership Dashboard. This will allow for targeted interventions to take place on routes that have high levels of violence against women and girls as reported by passengers and staff. * Transport staff and police in plain clothes will ride the routes identified to address any issues at high-risk times.   Link to survey: [bus safety tool](https://www.bussafetysurvey.co.uk/) The feedback tool is aimed at ensuring that public transport networks are safer, inclusive and welcoming.   [**Safer Travel Team**](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/all-news-and-blogs/safe-zones-launched-in-west-yorkshire-bus-stations/#:~:text=The%20Safer%20Travel%20Team%20sees,and%20protect%20vulnerable%20travel%20users.)   * This is a team of police community safety officers who are dedicated to working full time in bus stations and buses around West Yorkshire. With £1m in funding from the West Yorkshire Mayor’s Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), 15 full time PCSOs will patrol bus stations and buses across the county. * The aim of the team is to reduce anti-social behaviour and violent crime, to protect the young and vulnerable and reduce VAWG. * The Safer Travel Team collaborate with bus operators, Schools, Charities, Vulnerable groups and partner agencies to have a joint approach to making the public safe and feeling safe in and around the bus network.   **Delivery of the Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy:**  The launch of the Mayoral Safety of Women and Girls strategy was launched with £992k of Women and Girls funding over the next three years from UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The criteria for the Women and Girls strand of the UK SPF have been shared with Local Authorities, with an encouragement to work closely with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in developing the proposals.  The Policy Manager, leading the workstream for the Safety of Women and Girls was identified as the UKSPF Delivery Liaison Manager. They have been nominated to be the single point of contact to support the recipient to achieve the strategic and policy outcomes in relation to the Grant. The Funding Strategy Team are responsible for overall contract management and Fund responsibility.  **The UKSPF Delivery Liaison Manager is required to:**   * Help embed the programme within the ecosystem and ensure that it does not duplicate or confuse existing provision. * Undertake quality assurance of provision through contribution to the design and delivery of evaluation / impact analysis * Help to ensure that the programme is effectively referring to other complementary provision and vice-versa. * Contribute to the identification of risks, challenges and opportunities for the programmes. * Contribute to programme boards and other strategic delivery reviews / discussions. * Identify and, where appropriate, supporting the sharing of good practice. * Attend and contribute to project review meetings, recognising that these are led by the Funding Strategy Team.   Examples of delivery to support the delivery of the Mayor’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy is not limited to, however includes the following:   * UKSF has been utilised in **Bradford** to appoint a Safety of Women and Girls Lead and employment of young change ambassadors to support delivery of a behaviour change campaign (following on from #justdont). * Modifications to parks in **Leeds** to changes to the layout of the benches/paths in the park as they have been positioned to see multiple exits of the park at once to support the safety of women and girls. Significant amount of work has gone on to support consultation with women centre and schools. * **Calderdale** have used funding to provide prevention and Behaviour Change Training with Halifax Panthers to work with schools around the district, educating young people (girls and boys) on healthy relationships, toxic masculinity, staying safe online, having respect for one another. * In **Wakefield**, young people have taken up the opportunity to be Ambassadors for the education and behaviour change project. They will be available to deliver support and advice across 5 secondary schools in the district. The ambassadors have been part of a rota for weekly relationship support drop-ins within schools. They have also continued providing assemblies raising awareness of healthy relationships and where they can gain support. * **Kirklees** have multiple projects ongoing, such as offering a safe space for local women in the community through arts and crafts, while promoting understanding domestic abuse and different forms of violence within different communities. Active Bystander training has been delivered to local further education colleges and Huddersfield University staff and then to the students.   **Active Bystander Training – ‘Stand Up to Harassment**’   * Using the Mayor’s voice with businesses, we want to influence employers to understand what they can do to support women’s safety and support industries to be more gender inclusive. For this reason, the Mayor hosted ‘Stand Up to Harassment’ training, delivered by the Suzy Lampard Trust and L'Oréal. This training was delivered for WYCA employees during the national Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week. This training will be rolled out further to staff at West Yorkshire Combined Authority through the Gender Equality Group. * The training helped to drive awareness of harassment, as well as upskilling and empowering bystanders in settings such as public transport, educational institutions, festivals, public spaces, and workplaces, to help defuse situations, discourage harassers, and support victims. It enables those who witness street harassment to feel confident to intervene and provide support to those being harassed.   **Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund**   * The Mayors Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects to support women and girls. You can find out more about the successful projects here (Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (westyorks-ca.gov.uk)   **#Justdont Campaign**   The value that behavioural change programmes and initiatives have is powerful. The Mayor wanted to make a difference working across West Yorkshire to ensure women and girls are no longer harassed and abused online, in person, at home or in their work environment. A video campaign was created to generate male behaviour change within the Safety of Women and Girls agenda through engaging with men and boys in West Yorkshire. This was to support delivery under the theme of behaviour change, and delivery of the [Mayor of West Yorkshire’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/9463/the-safety-of-women-and-girls-strategy.pdf)   * To align to the strategy, the Mayor ensured that the campaign had a West Yorkshire angle and represented different communities in the county through the reflection of different demographics and colloquial language.   **Campaign Video:** <https://youtu.be/EN6fHDQ6IZQ>  **Behind the Scenes Video:** [The Making of the #JustDont Campaign (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7zYUHmRCMo) **Campaign Launch:** [#JustDont Campaign Launch Event in Leeds (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjLdAM5T_RQ) **Phase 2 of #Justdont Campaign**   * Colleagues presented #justdont at the Pol-Ed conference Village Hotel Tingley June 24 to 150 PSHE leads across WY primary and secondary schools, focussed on collaborative approach to VAWG. The audience consisted of school representatives (Head teachers, teachers, PHSE/ citizenship leads, education/PHSE experts). * Currently 92.19% schools are registered in WY, 3295 active users and over 95,000 pupils accessed resources. Following the conference there were schools across West Yorkshire contacted us to discuss #justdont workshops and presentations in their schools. We will be following up after the new term to arrange visits and workshops to support schools in phase 2 of our campaign work. * HM Prison Wealstun is a Category C men's prison, located near the village of Thorp Arch in West Yorkshire, England. 350 prisoners at Wealstun have a West Yorkshire Police risk flag for domestic violence and HM Prison Wealstun have approx. 120 prisoners where domestic violence is their primary offence. Post campaign launch, HMP Wealstun requested to collaborate with the Mayor’s office, and understand how they could use this campaign to provoke peer-to-peer conversations, and influence behaviour change within the prison setting. * Each month HMP Wealstun plan an enrichment activity with learners. The typical format is a discussion about a topic based on the theme of the month, such as Black History, or current affairs topics such as increased use of AI. Last month they used the #justdont campaign to engage with their prisoners to raise awareness of the issues demonstrated in the campaign, and influence behaviour change within the prison setting. |
| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**  The Policing and Crime Team deliver work related to VAWG via several Partnership Boards, including:    * Women’s Focus Group * Local Criminal Justice Board (Victims and Witness Group) * Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board * West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership * Children’s Risk and Vulnerability Group |
| **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**  The Safety of Women and girls is everyone’s responsibility and is most effective in partnership. It is known that minorities groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk and vulnerable. |
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| **ATTACHMENT**  [Chief Constable’s report – VAWG](https://theauthorityv13-auth.azurewebsites.net/media/hfjg213l/vawg-com-jan-2024-002-002.docx) |