**Agenda Item No 4**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**29 April 2025**

**SUBJECT: Serious and Organised Crime (SOC).**

|  |
| --- |
| **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE**   1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) under Programme Precision. 2. This cover paper highlights the importance of the report topic in respect of the Police and Crime plan and also includes the delivery of the Mayor and her office. Together the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway in support of tackling Serious and Organised Crime. |
| **RECOMMENDATION**   1. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the WYP report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Serious and Organised Crime. |
| **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28**   1. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of ‘The Voice of West Yorkshire’. The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people. It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment. You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/the-police-and-crime-plan/) 2. Spotlight on Serious Violence – the Police and Crime Plan 24-28 has a spotlight on Serious Violence and in the Mayor’s manifesto she stated she would make tackling serious violence a priority and deliver a Co-produced Serious Violence Strategy. 3. The definition for Serious Violence in West Yorkshire is: *Violence and serious violence includes specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.* The specific crime types for West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, violence against the person, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls (VAWG), organised crime (including county lines), sexual exploitation and domestic abuse. 4. As Serious Violence is a spotlight in the Police and Crime Plan 24-28, the topic sits across all 3 priorities:  * Keeping People Safe * Safer Places and Thriving Communities * Supporting Victims and Witnesses   and all 5 cross-cutting themes:   * Safety of Women and Girls * Effective response to men and boys * Children and Young people * Reducing Vulnerability * Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  1. There are specific objectives and outcomes regarding Serious Violence (Homicide, Knife Crime, Hospital Admissions, Knife Enabled Robberies and Serious Violence Duty Measures) within the Police and Crime Plan’s performance measures. 2. There is also a specific theme of investigations around Violence Against Women and Girls which include positive outcomes and Offenders brought to justice (OBTJ), rape positive outcomes and OBTJ, domestic positive outcomes and OBTJ, sexual offences positive outcomes and OBTJ, other protective orders, and measures for the Local Criminal Justice Board 3. Priority 2 – Safer Places and Thriving Communities includes Serious and Organised Crime, SOC also links to Priority 3 – Supporting Victims and Witnesses (for preventing Child Criminal Exploitation). 4. Serious and Organised Crime covers many areas of threat including firearms, human trafficking, exploitation, fraud, cyber-crime, corruption, and organised acquisitive crime. Programme Precision is about delivering a co-ordinated response to SOC threats to help protect our local communities. 5. Serous and Organised Crime forms part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). The SPR document sets out the Home Secretary’s view of the national threats that individual police services must prepare for. Details of the SPR can be found in the Police and Crime Plan, and also includes other priority topics such as, Violence Against Women and Girls and Child Sexual Abuse. Both of these themes are subject to separate papers and reviewed at COM.   A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priories impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here:  [eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F4tijlbky%2Feqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)  [eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Fd5hcfsqw%2Feqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) |
| **KEY INFORMATION**  **Notable activity by the Policing & Crime Team on this topic includes:**   * The DMPC is the Chair of the **WY Serious & Organised Crime Partnership Board**. The group has formed to oversee West Yorkshire Police’s work on SOC, in particular the developing *Clear, Hold, Build* approach to tackling organised crime in specific neighbourhoods. CHB represents an important partnership approach between the police, local authority, and the impacted communities to reduce offending and build community resilience. West Yorkshire currently has four CHB projects in place. * **The WY Anti-Slavery Partnership:** promoting collaboration across our local partners both in the care for the victims of slavery and trafficking, and in the response to the SOC threat of organised gangs engaged in illegal migration and labour market exploitation. * Building resilience through **promotional campaigns**: supporting through our own press engagement, WYP awareness raising campaigns on topics such as County Lines and students’ vulnerability to ‘Money Mule’ scams. Much of this work is co-ordinated through the WY Safeguarding Communications Group. * Drugs: with drug crime the dominant factor behind most of West Yorkshire’s organised crime groups, we are leading on the West Yorkshire response to the government’s 10-year drugs plan – ‘From Harm to Hope’. The Combined Authority has established the **WY Combatting Drugs Partnership Strategic Board** to harness partner’s work to reduce the demand for drugs; help people to access the right addiction treatment services; and tackle drug crime in our communities. * In July 2021, Wakefield was selected by the Government to host a new national programme to tackle drug crime called Project ADDER. It brings together partners across health, employment, housing, and policing to combine enforcement operations against drug gangs with improved treatment and recovery services for drug users. * Economic Crime: During 23/24 the WYP Economic Crime Unit seized criminal assets worth over £9 million, with a further £8.5 million YTD 24/25. WYP have targeted the perpetrators of courier fraud, and carried out important crime prevention work to raise awareness of romance fraud, and fraudsters who target international students. * The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund supports the priorities and cross-cutting themes in the Police and Crime Plan. You can find out about how the fund supported the delivery of the 2021-2024 plan on our website. Monitoring delivery against the new plan (Grant round 7 onwards) has started. * The Mayor’s Safer Community Fund also supports projects which deliver the build element of Clear, Hold, Build (CHB) projects. CHB aims to clear criminal networks from communities, prevent their return, and build community resilience to reduce future crime. The fund has now supported 33 projects who have shared £478,249.82 in 4 pilot areas across West Yorkshire including BD3 Bradford, Park Ward (Calderdale), Ashbrow (Huddersfield) and Harehills (Leeds). * In total, to date (GR1-7) the fund has supported 275 projects who have shared £3,340,804.16 in tackling SOC. This includes projects which tackle domestic abuse, knife crime, robbery, VAWG, sexual exploitation and gang crime. |
| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**   * The Mayor, DMPC and the Policing and Crime team utilise various partnership mechanisms in order to drive change, convene partners and monitor progress. These are detailed above and include the WY Anti-Slavery Partnership and WY Combatting Drugs Partnership Strategic Board. Of particular note is the WY Serious Violence Reduction Strategic Executive Steering Group (below). Additionally, members of the Policing and Crime team attend CSP meetings in each district, which have sight of SOC matters. * **The West Yorkshire Serious Violence Reduction Strategic Executive Steering Group**: Chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, this meeting brings together senior strategic leaders who provide system leadership and accountability for key areas of responsibility, including the delivery of a public health whole systems approach and driving the strategic direction. * The DMPC agreed that applications for Clear, Hold, Build projects would become part of the Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund.   **Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)**  With partners, the WY VRP define serious violence as:  “Violence and serious violence include specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.”  The specific crime types included in West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, **organised crime**, sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse.  The definition focusses on geographic areas of criminality and specific groups where serious violence, or its threat or impact, is evident; this is children, young adults, women and girls, public places, the night-time economy, gangs, **and organised crime groups.**  The VRP have recently submitted a new budget and delivery plan for 25/26 to the Home Office based on the funding value of £4.34m (matched to 2024-25). Of this £2.38m has been allocated for commissioned community-based interventions which is over 50% of the overall budget.  A significant level of the VRP’s work is targeted at preventing serious violence in communities and denying organised crime the space to thrive.  During 2024-25 a programme of 22 core VRP funded interventions have been delivered across West Yorkshire. These interventions include:   * A&E Navigator services in 4 hospital trust areas * Custody Diversion * Education Inclusion mentoring programmes * Focussed Deterrence (Police and Youth Workers operating together to identify those involved in or at risk of becoming involved in crime) in each of the five Districts * Virtual Decisions – knife crime and gangs education package delivered through ‘virtual reality’ * Support for Parents through the Ivison Trust (whose children have been affected by exploitation)   These have been complemented by a further 27 locally agreed interventions led by Community Safety Partnerships as part of localities funding from the VRP.  The VRP are interconnected with the enforcement work against knife crime and serious violence under Op. Jemlock which aligns with WYP’s response to SOC through their Programme Precision project.  Staff within the VRP have and are currently working locally with police and partners in Clear Hold Build areas across West Yorkshire.  **Serious Violence Legal Duty (SVD):**  The VRP continue to coordinate the West Yorkshire partnership response, providing intelligence, capacity and capability to duty holders, and with oversight still provided through the West Yorkshire Serious Violence Reduction Executive Strategic Steering Group.  This duty exists to ensure councils, and local services work together to share information and identify activities to prevent and reduce serious violence.  In addition, the VRP host the ‘Partnership Dashboard’ which collates a variety of datasets from numerous partners to allow an informed and detailed understanding of where, when, how and who is involved in serious violence. This data is used annually to produce the West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment and Response Strategy for serious violence which when combined with the VRP’s Influential Factors report provides insights to why serious violence occurs in West Yorkshire too.  More detail about the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership can be found here:  [West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/west-yorkshire-violence-reduction-partnership/)  [Strategic Needs Assessment/Response Strategy/Influential Factors](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/west-yorkshire-violence-reduction-partnership/needs-assessment-response-strategy/)  [VRP Annual Report 2023-24](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12890/vrp-annual-report-2023-24-final.pdf) |
| **EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**  The Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Police commitment to EDI under the topic of Serious & Organised Crime can be illustrated by: grassroots-level interventions within communities impacted by serious violence through our engagement programme; support for neighbourhood-level projects across West Yorkshire. There is a requirement for community-based intervention providers to complete a EqIA for the funded provision. |
| **POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT**  Paige Cowling – [paige.cowling@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:paige.cowling@westyorks-ca.gov.uk) |
| **ATTACHMENT**  [Chief Constable’s report](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Ftheauthorityv13-auth.azurewebsites.net%2Fmedia%2Fjidaf0uj%2Fcom-soc-programme-precision-report-january-2025.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) |