**Agenda Item No. 8**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**28 January 2025**

**SUBJECT: Use of Force**

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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 Use of Force.
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| **RECOMMENDATION**1. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Use of Force.
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| **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 21-24**1. 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: [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).
2. 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.
3. The Use of Force by West Yorkshire Police officers and staff is of vital importance to our efforts of keeping West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe. It directly links to our priorities and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and safeguarding vulnerable people and is also crucial for maintaining public confidence in the police.
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| **KEY INFORMATION**Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:1. The Mayor/DMPC appreciates that Use of Force can be a concern by the public but that West Yorkshire Police Officers are required at times to use force in order to achieve our Policing purposes which include protecting the vulnerable, attacking criminality and reducing crime.
2. 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 which looks at Inequalities.
3. **Child Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel -** The Mayor convened a Child Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel in April 2023. This was a professional panel of predominately Youth Justice, Children's Social Workers and Corporate Parenting managers drawn from each Local Authority. It is chaired by a Policy Manager from the P&C team, and examines child custody matters, in particular where children should by law be transferred to the care of the local authority and also strip search. Observations from the panel are fed back to West Yorkshire Police. The HMICFRS custody inspection report, and the HMIP (His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons) report on youth custody both made positive reference to this activity.
4. **Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel -** This panel is now operational and has met twice to date and has reviewed the use of force in police custody. The HMICFRS West Yorkshire Police Custody Inspection stated that the recording of use of force was a cause for concern which is why this is being addressed first by the panel. The panel consists of an independent chair and eight independent members, drawn from communities across West Yorkshire through an open recruitment process. Also on the panel is a local criminal defence solicitor. The chair and panel are supported by the Police and Crime Team. A forward work plan for the panel has been developed and where the use of force will be a standing item, reviewed at least once for each panel.
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| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**The Mayor and DMPC work with specific groups and organisations to better understand the impact of Use of Force on individuals and communities. The Child Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel in particular is a significant partnership effort and supports West Yorkshire Police to improve their practices. |
| **EQUALITY, 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 Use of Force.. |
| **POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT**  |
| **ATTACHMENT**[Chief Constable’s report – Use of Force](https://theauthorityv13-auth.azurewebsites.net/media/yq2ha0bf/com-use-of-force-january-2025.docx) |