**Agenda Item No. 5**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**28 January 2025**

**SUBJECT: Safeguarding - Child**

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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 Child Safeguarding. |
| **RECOMMENDATION**   1. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Child Safeguarding. |
| **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’ 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-ca.gov.uk/media/8215/police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf). 2. 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. 3. A person is vulnerable if 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. 4. The Mayor/DMPC now reviews Safeguarding through COM through two separate reports; one with a Child Focus and the other with an Adult Focus. 5. 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**   1. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:  * Child First: Work by researchers within the Violence Reduction Partnership’s Knowledge Hub has led to the publishing of a guidance framework for professionals who make decisions that may impact the lives of children in West Yorkshire. The framework was informed by the views of 455 children from all 5 districts in West Yorkshire who participated in the research. * 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> * The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime scrutinises West Yorkshire Police’s work on child safeguarding through regular Governance meetings meetings with the Chief Constable, in addition to the review of safeguarding work provide through this Community Outcomes Meeting. * **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 1st April 2023. The contract awarded is for a maximum duration of 7 years (4 years plus a 3-year optional extension).  In addition, the Combined Authority supports the victims of sexual violence and abuse through the commissioning of victims’ services in West Yorkshire, and this includes child victims of sexual abuse or exploitation, and the families of those impacted by child sexual exploitation.   * The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) meets quarterly and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Modern slavery can include the exploitation of children through County Lines drug dealing, and this topic is regularly reviewed by the partnership, alongside other child safeguarding themes. * The WY Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR) Strategy Board is supported by the Violence Reduction Partnership. 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.   **Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund**   * The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects to support children and young people. You can find out more about the successful projects here (Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (westyorks-ca.gov.uk) |
| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**  Safeguarding children requires collaborative working between a number of key partners. The current guidance on working practices for multi-agency working in safeguarding places special responsibilities on the Chief Constable, Local Authority Chief Executive Officers, and the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board, to work together as lead safeguarding partners in West Yorkshire.  As detailed above, a range of mechanisms are utilised by the Mayor/DMPC to support effective partnership working in relation to Child Safeguarding. Notable areas of work for Policing & Crime include our co-ordination of the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership, numerous interventions with young people through the WY Violence Reduction Partnership, and membership of WYP’s Out of Court Resolution Scrutiny panel, which encompasses youth justice outcomes. |
| **EQUALITY, 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 are 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 – Child Safeguarding](https://theauthorityv13-auth.azurewebsites.net/media/ra2gnwgg/com-child-safeguarding_-january-2025.docx) |