



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

### 6. Mayoral/DMPC and VRU activity to date includes:

- Funded and supported the leading research for safety of women and girls in West Yorkshire's parks. The [research led by Dr Anna Barker and Professor George Holmes](#) at the University of Leeds. Applying a multi-dimensional approach, maximising the learning from this research, and working with partners, means we will achieve a greater understanding of how we can innovate, share great ideas, and aid the safety of women and girls in public, including how we can take this learning into the private and digital spaces to ensure we accelerate societal change.
- A 'Train the Trainer programme' rolled out to youth workers to implement and upskill for behaviour change across West Yorkshire. 150 youth workers to be trained on behavioural change, and once completed, these youth workers will have the skills required to upskill other frontline workers, including those on the transport network.
- Ongoing development of a male behaviour change campaign by the Policy Manager, Eran Sandhu, and project lead colleagues in Policing and Crime team. The video proposal is developed with the ambition to generate low-level male behaviour change within the Safety of Women and Girls agenda through engaging with men and boys in West Yorkshire.
- The Policy Manager, leading the workstream for the safety of women and girls has conducted knowledge share sessions with Infrastructure, engineering and mass transit colleagues and consultants.
- Set up a county wide [Stalking Advocacy Service](#) for victims of domestic stalking with Victim Support. This is the first West Yorkshire wide service for victims of stalking.
- Safe space hubs in town centres including Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Wakefield, and Huddersfield.
- The VRU Response Strategy and West Yorkshire Needs Assessment VRU literature review which: Provided an insight into the causes and impacts of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as understood in current literature and service provision; Identified the needs of women and girls in West Yorkshire to support the development and introduction of intelligence led, evidence based sustainable intervention and provision; Offered an overview of current knowledge whilst identifying gaps in knowledge and recommendations to prompt engagement and localised research. Findings from the review suggested the implementation a long-term public health approach, which tackles the deep rooted and ingrained social, health and economic problems facing women and girls as the best chance of addressing this issue.

- The VRU have also completed a VAWG literature review in partnership with Integrated Care Systems and Together Women and a response strategy to the literature review will be published shortly.
- Safer Streets Primary bid – Supporting women’s safety in parks. Each Local Authority received £46K to support women and girls’ safety focusing on two parks per district. The funding is split as follows:
  - £10K per park to improve the look and feel, lighting, replacing damaged equipment / features, introducing new features / equipment / seating etc. This included “reclaim the park” / “taking a stand” launch events for parks to promote women’s safety / male behaviour change.
  - £10K per park to develop those two parks as community assets for women and girls’ groups, working with local groups and secondary schools to understand what they want from the park, and facilitate activities for those groups. These have included sports activities, dog walking, picnics, self-defence, dance classes.
  - £6k per authority to fund a role (either internally or to a Third Sector group) to drive activity in relation to the community asset work and build sustainability.
  - University of Leeds led research project, together with women’s groups, residents, community safety professionals and the Combined Authority, looking to understand how and why women and girls feel unsafe in parks and develop guidelines for Parks design that has regional and national impact.
- Safer Streets Secondary bid – Challenging sexist and predatory behaviour in FE / HE institutions

This was an offer to 10 institutions in West Yorkshire developing consent workshops and active upstander training during Freshers week for the first-year students;

- Consent training workshop includes train the trainer approach for institution staff to build sustainability post funding. Delivered by Basis Yorkshire.
- Active upstander/bystander training for peers to be able to challenge unacceptable behaviour in a safe way on and around campus.
- Personal safety & conflict management techniques training.
- Campus based Behaviour Change Campaign – coproduced by staff and students.
- Safety of Women at Night Fund – Focusing on Transport and the Night-Time Economy - West Yorkshire wide projects as follows:
  - An anonymous bus safety feedback tool on the Yorcard 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 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.

- West Yorkshire Police-led enhanced active upstander training to licensed venue staff in the night-time economy for them to challenge unacceptable behaviour. This included a train the trainer approach for managers so they can train new staff in the hospitality industry. An upstander approach identifies those individuals have a role to play in the prevention of abuse being committed against/ or by others. This approach for violence prevention focuses on boys and men not as perpetrators or potential perpetrators, but as empowered upstanders who can confront abusive peers and support abused ones. Likewise, the model focuses on girls and women not as victims or potential targets of harassment, rape, and abuse, but as empowered upstanders who can support abused peers and confront abusive ones.
- West Yorkshire wide “Ask for Angela” campaigns relaunch and reinvigorated, which allows patrons of venues to use this covert phrase to ask for support and assistance and included training for licensed premises staff to support customers who approach them.
- Other District night-time economy-orientated projects which largely ran on Friday and Saturday nights
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Funding for Victims and Witnesses

The MoJ funding is for the provision of local commissioning of victims’ support services across West Yorkshire to support all victims of crime. Information of all allocations of this funding are available on the Policing and Crime website.

For this report the following funded provision is for women and girls only.

- Rape Crisis Centres - For all women and girls affected by rape and sexual violence.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) for the following groups of women and girls - BME: Black, Minority Ethnic women and girls
- Sex workers and women being or have been sexually exploited for females victims in prison
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) for the following groups of women and girls, Specialist Rape crisis, Specialist Rape crisis Children and Young people.
- Specialist Rape crisis BME: Black, Minority Ethnic people women and girls
- Jyoti Service - Specialist service for BME: Black, Minority Ethnic women and girls, which is run by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women offering a culturally sensitive approach to dealing with issues around rape and sexual violence.

- Mayoral Engagement - The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) and the office supported the Mayor's attendance at joint events and engagements throughout International Women's Week which began Monday 7 March 2021 and concluded with the Women's Day Symposium on 12 March 2022. A summary of events/engagements are detailed as follows:
- CARA Launch Event, Wednesday 9 March - The DMPC opened the launch of a virtual launch event for the CARA perpetrator programme (Cautions and Relationship Abuse). In 2020 the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned Restorative Solutions CIC, partnered with the Hampton Trust, to introduce and deliver CARA over a period of 2 years. This partnership brings substantial relevant expertise and local knowledge to this service. Eligibility is for standard risk first time offenders, issued with a Conditional Caution by West Yorkshire Police. The launch followed a decision to extend the contract for a further year until June 2023.
- Rosalie Ryrie Foundation – (DMPC & The Mayor) - The Rosalie Ryrie Foundation support people who are victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and people whose behaviours are abusive. They work with adults, children, and young people from all backgrounds to raise awareness and provide support. As part of the launch of the Police and Crime plan the Mayor and DMPC met with a group of women who have been victims of Domestic Abuse. Rosalie Ryrie have been previously funded by SCF and the VRU and are currently funded by the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund.

International Women's Day symposium, Sat 12 March 2022 – Policing and Crime Speakers at the symposium focussed on the Safety of women and girls and included perspectives to cover:

- Context - How safe do women and girls really feel?
- Reassurance - Showcase the West Yorkshire Police Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
- Solutions - hear about lived experience and what supports victims and those harmed by crime.
- Introduce how interventions at a young age can be part of the solution to make women and girls safe.

Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - During the Mayors first year the former PCC Safer Communities Fund continued to deliver projects to support women and girls in accordance with the former police and crime plan under grant rounds 19 (completed 31 Jan 2022) and 20 (completed on 31 March 2022). 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))

The Policing and Crime Team appointed Eran Sandhu as the Women and Girls Policy Officer on 20 June 2022.

The mayor hosted two co-design events in May and September 2022 to form the West Yorkshire Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.

In July the announcement that victims' support services across West Yorkshire are set to receive nearly £14m in a cash boost aimed at supporting the region's most vulnerable. The funding will secure services for the next three years, and will pay for over 70 different services and support roles for victims and witnesses across West Yorkshire including 52 Independent Sexual Violence/Domestic Violence Advisers (ISVA/IDVA). A new West Yorkshire wide service will also be established to specifically support victims of Domestic Abuse related Stalking.

Also in July, The Mayor and Community Safety Partners are successful in a bid to the Safer Streets Fund. £717,953.61 will be directed into a number of projects to support the safety of women and girls across the night-time economy in West Yorkshire. A portion of the money will also enable the development of a male targeted behaviour change campaign designed to address attitudes and approaches towards women.

In August, Over £500,000 was secured to support the victims and survivors of domestic abuse and to reduce reoffending across West Yorkshire

In November, Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy officially launched. The strategy reveals the shocking experiences and challenges facing women and girls, including a recent survey that found 97% believe 'being a woman' affects their personal safety, and outlines a plan to tackle this. The launch of the Mayoral Safety of Women and Girls strategy comes 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 has been shared with Local Authorities, with an encouragement to work closely with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in developing the proposals.

To date the Mayors Safer Communities Fund Grant Rounds 1-3 have awarded 88 projects a total £511,716 to support work with Women and Girls. Details of all projects can be found on our website. [www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mscf](http://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mscf). The projects have impacted over 42k women and girls across West Yorkshire.

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, through the Policy Manager and the work of the wider team.

## **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

The Policing and Crime Team have several Partnership Boards including:

- Women's Focus Group
- Criminal Justice Board Victim 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.

## **ATTACHMENT**

[Chief Constables report – VAWG](#) (PDF 285KB)