**Agenda Item No. 4**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**18 June 2024**

**SUBJECT: Custody Services**

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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 Custody Services. |
| **RECOMMENDATION**   1. That the Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Custody Services. |
| **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.  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). Neighbourhood crime, road safety, and serious violence were the most frequently selected areas of focus under this priority. 2. **Priority 1 - Supporting Victims and Witnesses and Improving Criminal Justice Outcomes –** consultation on the Police and Crime Plan told us that trust in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) needed to improve. This priority states that the Mayor will work to improve criminal justice outcomes for all and support vulnerable victims through the CJS. |
| **KEY INFORMATION**  **Notable activity by the Policing & Crime Team on this topic includes:**   * **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme -** trained volunteers from the local community (Independent Custody Visitors or ICVs), managed by the Policing and Crime Team make regular unannounced visits to police custody suites to check on the rights, entitlements, wellbeing and dignity of the detainees held there. Their findings are reported to the Policing and Crime Team who support the Mayor and her Deputy to hold the Chief Constable to account. * The scheme in West Yorkshire has been recognised nationally for its high standard and awarded a Gold certificate in November 2023. * **Child Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel -** The Mayor convened a Child Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel in April 2023. This is 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 Policing and Crime 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 His Majesty’s Inspector of Constaulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) custody inspection report, and His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) report on youth custody both made positive reference to this activity. * **Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel -** This panel is in the final stages of development. The panel will consist of an independent chair and ten independent members, drawn from communities across West Yorkshire. The chair will be supported by the Police and Crime Team. The Panel will also include, representatives from West Yorkshire Police, commissioned custody health care, staff associations and a member of the legal defence community. The Panel will meet quarterly. On a themed basis, the Panel will review the detention and treatment of detailed persons. For example, the use of force in the custody environment, appropriate adult and legal rights provision, the welfare of those with mental ill-health or neurodiverse conditions. The Panel is currently being recruited through an open process. Interviews will be in July and the induction of the chair and new panel members will be in September. |
| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**   * **Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) -** The key purpose of the West Yorkshire LCJB is to deliver a joined up criminal justice service that puts victims at its heart, reduces crime, delivers justice effectively and efficiently and rehabilitates offenders.it brings together key partners, such as the Youth Justice Board and Victim Support to collaborate on key issues, including those related to custody services. * The Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum is convened by the Mayor.   This is a partnership consisting of West Yorkshire Police, The West Yorkshire NHS Integrated Care Board, the seven NHS trusts for both acute and mental health services, Local Authorities, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, West Yorkshire Fire and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) companies and organisations working in this space. In terms of custody, the Forum is working to improve waiting times for services for those people detained by the police in mental health crisis, and the provision of mental health specific medical services when people become ill or in crisis whilst in police custody.   * West Yorkshire Police’s Victim Care Unit continues to work with victims and witnesses to ensure that their needs are identified and fully documented and enables other criminal justice agencies to recognise these needs and provide appropriate support for their respective agencies. |
| **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**   * The Police, Mayor and partners will recognise the lived experience of all who come into contact with the criminal justice system, protecting all who are vulnerable. They will listen, understand, and respond to people’s needs in order to reduce offending and re-victimisation. * **Equality of treatment -**This is a keystone of the Police Race Action Plan. The Mayor supports the Plan and receives regular updates. There are opportunities for further work through the Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel to review custody data regularly around proportionality make appropriate recommendations to West Yorkshire Police and partners. |
| **ATTACHMENT**  [Chief Constable’s report](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12474/item-4-com-custody-report.docx) |