

PCC Newsletter – November 2020

A message from Mark – Hello everyone, and I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well.

We all continue to face extremely challenging times with the fight against Covid-19 and the second national lockdown, and above all else, we have to collectively do the right thing, no matter how difficult that might be.



We need to abide by the latest restrictions, not just in support of our local communities, but for the protection of our own families, friends and colleagues. If the NHS becomes overwhelmed and stretched beyond capacity, people will not be able to access the vital health services they need and we will all ultimately suffer.

The Police have the challenge of dealing with crime and community safety, but will continue to engage, explain and encourage the public around Covid-19 issues before taking the step of enforcement action when and where it necessary.

I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police and fellow local leaders, ensuring a continued joint response alongside our partners. I am doing that at the West Yorkshire and national level and fully support the ask of Government for a really comprehensive support package to help protect the economy, our local NHS and most importantly the public so that we can come out the other side of this safely and more quickly.

Importantly we are working hard to ensure services for victims of crime and vulnerable people are continuing in a Covid secure manner, so please do not hesitate to contact [my office](#), [West Yorkshire Police](#) and support services such as [Victim Support](#) if you do need help.

This latest issue of the newsletter covers some great pieces of recent work including a new competition for young people, further progress in tackling modern slavery and reducing reoffending, as well as receiving recognition for

our new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)...and much more.

Looking forward over the coming days and weeks we have Remembrance Day, albeit we know is going to be very different this year but still an important opportunity to pay our respects to those that made the ultimate sacrifice in our own ways at home. We also have Road Safety Week coming up and Restorative Justice week, as well as November being Islamophobia Awareness Month.

In the meantime, best wishes and please stay safe in helping to prevent the further spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Thank you.

Best wishes and stay safe

Mark Burns-Williamson OBE
West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

Young people's multimedia competition launched



I have launched my latest competition for young people, this time opening it up to entries via any creative means they can think of!

Up for grabs is either a £50 or a £100 online gift card and the winners will also be featured on my social media channels and website.

I'd like young people to express their thoughts and feelings on any of the following topics:

- Promoting inclusion and diversity of people in West Yorkshire.

- Young people's thoughts, feelings or views on policing.
- The impact of COVID-19 and young people's experience of the restrictions put in place.

Entries are being accepted in whatever creative format young people choose, including but not limited to writing, drawing, illustration or design, video or music.

The entries will be split into the following categories, up to 10 years old, 11 – 16 years old and 17 – 21 years old.

To enter, create your entry based on any of the topics mentioned and visit <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/pccs-multimedia-competition-young-people> to complete a consent form then email your submission to consultation@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk by **Friday 20th November 2020**.

Seven strong purge on modern slavery

A unique and trail blazing approach to tackling modern day slavery has cranked up the heat on those who exploit people through business activities and supply chains.

Seven Police and Crime Commissioners and their respective Chief Constables have each worked together to develop a Modern Slavery Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) Statement.

West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside, Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria counties now operate according to this single vision.

It is a collaborative and voluntary commitment, not just to examine policing businesses and supply chains for modern slavery, but also to tackle modern slavery as a whole.

I led the initiative as part of my role as the national APCC lead for modern slavery and human trafficking, it has taken a number of months to develop and prepare.

To report a suspicions of modern slavery or seek advice, call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700 or visit the webpage for further information and advice <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org>

**IF YOU THINK SOMEONE MAY BE A VICTIM OF MODERN SLAVERY
CALL THE 24/7 MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE ON**

08000 121 700

**WORKING TOWARDS
A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY**



“A lot of people are crying out for help” – Ground breaking report into reducing offending finds

In a ground breaking new project, I commissioned User Voice, a charity led and run by people with lived experience to speak to people in prison and on probation to understand what more can be done to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

User Voice spoke to adults and those in youth offending teams to understand their views and experiences. Through these conversations they have arrived at a set of key recommendations to help reduce offending and make sure the criminal justice system works better for our communities.

The project looked to understand: - Why people commit crime and are part of anti-social behaviour - What support services are in place to address this - How effective they are and what could be done differently.

Addiction, mental health, housing and education were found to be crucial areas for further work and support.

The findings of the report have been shared with partners across the criminal justice sector to find joint solutions to the issues raised and improve services overall and importantly, involve people who have been in prison or on probation.

Find out more <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/lot-people-are-crying-out-help-ground-breaking-report-reducing-offending-finds>

Community Alerts



As the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Yorkshire, one of my key roles is to regularly engage with the public and communities.

I have joined the Community Alerts system which was launched by West Yorkshire Police to keep residents informed of crime in their area and positive work being carried out by police and partners.

I will now start to issue messages which will range from news, events, consultations, surveys, crime prevention and community safety updates as well as recruitment opportunities.

To find out more and to join the system, visit: <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-alerts>

Construction Accolade For West Yorkshire's Sexual Assault Referral Centre



The brand new state of the art Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for West Yorkshire has been awarded the National Police Estates Group (NPEG) best construction project over £1m.

The fully integrated service for victims of sexual violence and abuse opened its doors in June 2020, having being instigated and envisioned by my office to drive it forward with partners in providing the necessary step change in the services required.

Its purpose is to ensure victims and survivors have access to specialist medical and forensic services and advice. The staff help the victims and survivors to make informed decisions about what they want to do next, whether this is reporting the incident to the police or receiving specialist care and support.

Partners including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for West Yorkshire, West Yorkshire Police, NHS England and NHS Improvement, Mountain Health Care, the Courts Service HMCTS and victims support services, have all been involved in its development.

I send my congratulations to all those involved in helping to make this happen for the people we serve and the award is clearly deserved for what I believe will be one of the best facilities of its kind in the country.

Find out more <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/construction-accolade-west-yorkshires-sexual-assault-referral-centre>

National recognition for Violence Reduction Unit projects



**West Yorkshire
Violence Reduction Unit**
Tackling Violence Together

The impact being made by some of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funded projects has been recognised in the annual Howard League Community Awards for 2020. The Calderdale Early Intervention Team at West Yorkshire Police has received a commendation under the 'Policing and Children' category.

Two other VRU related projects also reached the shortlisting stage including St Giles Trust Custody Diversion Project and CATCH.

Having only officially launched the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit at the beginning of this year (2020), it is very encouraging to see that it is already making a tangible difference across our communities.

Find out more <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/national-recognition-violence-reduction-unit-projects>

NHS and Government Coronavirus Guidance



Government and NHS Advice

For the latest health updates and guidance from the Government visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS guidance can be found here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

A full list of all Government guidance can be found here:
https://www.gov.uk/search/all?topical_events%5B%5D=coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response&order=updated-newest

Our dedicated coronavirus webpage

Our dedicated coronavirus page on our website contains further support information, volunteering opportunities, links to help and support and much more. Recent updates include funding opportunities from the government for foodbanks and domestic abuse charities, advice on wearing and making your own facemask as well as bereavement support. You can view it here
<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Contacting the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Along with the office I am currently working remotely. This means that face to face meetings at the office and elsewhere will not be taking place and we are not able to deal with correspondence posted through our letter box, either in person or by Royal Mail.

However, you can still get in touch by email
contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk and telephone 01924 294000 in the usual manner.

Website: www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk
Twitter: www.twitter.com/WestYorksOPCC
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WestYorksOPCC