



Minutes

Community Safety Committee

Date: 28 October 2022

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present: Councillors G Almas (in the chair) R Ahmed, M S Fazal, P Harrand, C Keith, M Midgley, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, K Renshaw, and R Wood

In Attendance: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Apologies: Cllr D Kirton

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 July 2022

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 July 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Urgent items

None

4. Admission of the public

There were no items which required exclusion of public and press

5. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

6. Spotlight On Case Studies

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which provided examples and updates on the following areas of work which were being undertaken to meet the needs of the communities of West Yorkshire in the delivery of prevention, protection and response activity.

- a) Bradford – Risk Reduction Officer
- b) Calderdale – Lets Learn Moor Event
- c) Kirklees – International Paramedics Day
- d) Leeds – Prison Partnership
- e) Wakefield - Tackling Water Safety

It was emphasised that the Spotlight Ons are just examples of initiatives going on across all Districts all the time. Members noted the Spotlight On reports and received them positively. The Chair gave thanks to the District Managers for their hard work within the local communities and thanked them for attending today's meeting.

Members discussed whether uniform should be worn whilst working within the community and it was confirmed that staff are flexible and wear clothing to suit the circumstances, for example young children welcome the opportunity to try on the uniform and firefighting equipment, whereas young offenders may be happier to get involved with plain clothed staff.

Members were advised that following WYFRS ongoing Community Safety Partnership with West Yorkshire Police there is a new anonymous reporting system is to be introduced; Fire Stoppers to work in a similar way to Crime Stoppers.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

7. Performance Against PMI Targets 2021/22

Members received a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the performance against the performance outcome targets for 1 April 2022 – 16 September 2022.

Members were provided with additional updated figures up to and including 27 October 2022 which clearly showed improvements to the statistics in relation to the effect the seasonal heatwave has had. Members noted the connection of the increase in wildfires to the climate emergency.

Members were further informed that the malicious false alarms figure will be on target for the next reporting period as the main offender has been dealt with and that all districts were working closely with their relevant councils to reverse the effect of antisocial behaviours.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

8. Youth Intervention Team Annual Update 2021/22

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report to provide members with an update on the activities of the Youth Intervention Team in 2021/22. Members were pleased to note that the number of Youth Intervention Programmes delivered across West Yorkshire have increased by

approximately 50% on the previous year. The report detailed the excellent work undertaken by the team including:

- Sharing learning with all District Prevention Officers on the safe delivery of firesetting interventions, including a refresher in new practices for face to face delivery following the pandemic
- Managing and delivering a total of 103 firesetting referrals in Covid secure environments
- Delivering educational interventions to 60 young people from high-risk groups
- Continuing to work in partnership with the Princes Trust delivering 3 face to face Get Started Programmes to 33 young people
- Delivering to a total of 592 young people over the academic year.

The report detailed the progress against the priorities which were set for the team last year and detailed the priorities identified for the new academic year.

Members discussed possible alternatives following the disappointment that Kirklees College had been unable to renew the current partnership arrangement for the Princes Trust and were advised that senior officers were urgently contacting alternative providers. Members were assured that get started programmes were still able to progress and that the new Get Started with Boxing was an excellent programme to deal with discipline and fitness.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

9. Quality of Service Surveys 2021/22

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report to inform Members of the feedback from consultation on service delivery carried out during 2021 to 2022.

In respect of incidents attended it was noted that there had been a response rate of 14% for domestic surveys and 16% for non-domestic with 96% of respondents completing the domestic questionnaire expressing satisfaction with the service they received and 98% of respondents to the non-domestic questionnaire expressing satisfaction with the service they received.

In respect of Safe and Well Visits there had been a response rate of 24% with 99% of respondents satisfied, of whom, 91% were very satisfied.

Members welcomed the excellent feedback and were given examples of both positive and negative comments received. Members were assured that all feedback received was fed back to District Commanders.

Members queried and were informed how water hydrants are maintained and were further informed that appliances carry 1800 litres of water and that a minimum of 2 appliances are sent to incidents to ensure there is always sufficient access to water.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

10. Arson Convictions 2021/22

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery which gave details of the arson convictions for the year 2021 - 22, where the Fire Investigation Team from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) provided expert witness statements to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

For the period 4 September 2021 to 5 September 2022, WYFRS Fire Investigation Unit Officers (FIOs) investigated the origin, cause and development of fire in 185 incidents. For 64 of those cases WYFRS has provided West Yorkshire police with expert witness statements. Detailed information was provided for 25 of those cases, where they are being progressed through the judicial system.

Members queried the discrepancies in sentencing but were informed that this is a matter for the courts and whilst all feedback from court cases is analysed WYFRS did not always have the background for the sentencing decisions.

Members were advised that body worn cameras are now in use and would be worn over the bonfire period so any evidence could be recorded and made available to police.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

Chair