



4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Home Secretary,

**Re: The policing response to antisocial behaviour: PEEL spotlight report**

I welcome the PEEL Spotlight report on Anti-Social Behaviour. This is particularly pertinent given that the recent consultation conducted on Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 2024-2028, highlights that this is a top priority for the public.

The most recent PEEL Inspection of West Yorkshire Police highlighted that that the force remains outstanding in its recording of information about crime.

West Yorkshire uses an Antisocial Behaviour and Vulnerability Analytical Tool (ASVAT) to draw together force data on antisocial behaviour that brings together ASB crime, and non-crime matters such as disputes, to give a true reflection of anti-social behaviour hotspots that allow policing and partnership activity to be positively targeted. This was highlighted as promising practice in the ASB Spotlight Report.

In West Yorkshire, despite years of austerity and cuts, we have maintained the neighbourhood policing footprint across the region. Inspector led Neighbourhood Policing teams working in partnership with Local Authority Community Safety Partnerships.

West Yorkshire Police is taking part in the new College of Policing Neighbourhood Pathway Course (NPC) to grow and enhance policing and partnership working skills in this crucial area. We were a pilot force from the College of Policing, and this is now being rolled out on a national scale.

The latest PEEL Assessment found that West Yorkshire Police has a range of partnership initiatives to support the long-term reduction and prevention of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, specifically around early intervention and a range of out of court resolution activity supported by the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE). The Mayor supports the sector to deliver early intervention and engagement activity through the Mayor's Safer Community Fund, drawn from the proceeds of crime fund.

The Mayor recently launched the innovative Bus Safety Feedback tool, funded by the Mayor under the Bus Service Improvement Plan, which enables passengers to tell us what types of things are making them feel unsafe on the bus network. This information is being shared with the Safer Travel Team of Police officers and PCSOs that respond to Anti-Social behaviour on the network.

Across the region, the Immediate Justice approach has provided a range of tailored services for 500 adults and 600 children to benefit victims. This includes completing unpaid work, perpetrators repairing damage they have caused, and the option of restorative justice, where the victim can communicate with the person responsible for the crime. There has been a local evaluation of this of this approach and the team are currently reviewing to see what learning can take place.

The Mayor and I hold West Yorkshire Police to account through the Community Outcomes Meeting, held publicly, and in regular performance meetings held with the Chief Constable where we scrutinise the numbers of ASB incidents and reflect on the crimes associated with this.



The latest PEEL Inspection of West Yorkshire Police and this Spotlight review of the policing response to anti-social behaviour highlight that there are improvements policing can make that will deliver a better service to victims and in the long term reduce the prevalence of anti-social behaviour.

That said, I am so aware and thankful for the hard work and dedication of partners throughout West Yorkshire. I see this first hand in my visits to neighbourhood policing teams across the county.

As Deputy Mayor I will continue to support those officers and staff members to achieve better outcomes for the public, within the range of priorities set out in the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan, through my scrutiny arrangements of West Yorkshire Police, and support local authorities in their statutory responsibility to deal with issues relating to anti-social behaviour.

Regards,

Alison Lowe,

Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire for Policing and Crime



**Recommendation 1: By 31 March 2025, forces should review their processes for recording antisocial behaviour to make sure all antisocial behaviour and associated crime are recorded correctly.**

West Yorkshire uses an Antisocial Behaviour and Vulnerability Analytical Tool (ASVAT) to draw together force data on antisocial behaviour that brings together ASB crime, and non-crime matters such as disputes, to give a true reflection of anti-social behaviour hot spots that allow policing and partnership activity to be positively targeted. This was highlighted as promising practice in the ASB Spotlight Report. Our innovative ASVAT tool ensures the review of all incidents closed with an ASB finalisation code alongside other selected crime types, including harassment and criminal damage. It identifies repeat callers and locations for incidents that in isolation would be low risk. Crime data integrity compliance checks are also completed, and errors rectified as part of the review. In addition, during the recent PEEL inspection HMICFRS reviewed 50 ASB reports from West Yorkshire Police and found that 100% of the crimes in the logs were recorded correctly.

**Recommendation 2:**

**By 30 September 2025, forces should make sure personnel are appropriately trained to identify and record antisocial behaviour and associated crime when they are first reported.**

Training was delivered to all first contact police officers and police staff, in 2020-2021. Live time support is also provided within the call centre setting. The identification and recording of ASB is now embedded, exemplified by the positive results indicated by the audits conducted monthly and annually. These form part of the West Yorkshire Police accountability meetings held with senior officers and staff. Any training gaps identified are addressed by the Contact People Development Unit, who conduct regular training updates with existing staff and new recruits.

Training was delivered to all Neighbourhood Support Officers in 2022 to assist when conducting ASVAT reviews, enabling them to recognise what a crime is and how to record it. Home Office Counting Rules training is delivered to all student officers.

The Skills for Justice Level 3 Understanding Neighbourhoods Course has been replaced by the College of Policing Neighbourhood Pathway Course - 980 officers have completed Skills for Justice with an ASB module aligned to the College of Policing requirements. Furthermore, recent changes in shift patterns mean that there are 4 mandated training days for neighbourhood officers on an annual basis, giving chance for learning and development.

**Recommendation 3:**

**By 31 March 2025, forces should:**

- **review their risk assessment processes for antisocial behaviour cases to make sure that risks are properly assessed from initial contact to case closure; and**
- **make sure completed risk assessments are retained in line with management of police information guidelines.**

ASVAT ensures the review of all appropriate incidents closed with an ASB finalisation code alongside other selected crime types, including harassment and criminal damage. It identifies repeat callers and repeat locations for incidents that in isolation may be assessed



as low risk, to ensure that the victim receives the appropriate level of policing response to that risk.

Crime Data Integrity compliance checks are also completed, and errors rectified as part of the review.

A risk assessment form is recorded electronically. A personal Vulnerability Assessment is completed with the victim where specific factors indicate greater risk. The assessments inform the policing response.

Intervention plans, partnership referrals and in serious cases, mandatory case conferences are held according to the risk assessment. Going forward, West Yorkshire Police will retain the risk assessments, and these are used to inform risk assessments and decision making at the point at which the report is made.

#### **Recommendation 4:**

##### **By 31 December 2024, forces should:**

- **make sure all antisocial behaviour problem-solving plans fully specify the problem, contain sufficient detail, are effectively supervised; and**
- **evaluate all antisocial behaviour problem-solving plans for an outcome in line with National Police Chiefs' Council Neighbourhood Policing Outcome and Performance Guidelines.**

The most recent PEEL Inspection identified the following area for improvement: The force should improve the quality and consistency of problem-solving plans.

Problem-solving is a standing agenda item on the force Reassurance Board that is chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable. Regular audits are carried out by Performance Review (where performance information is collated in West Yorkshire Police) and the findings are shared with District Commanders.

West Yorkshire Police have seen improvements, particularly in regard to simplifying the process for supervisory reviews, however, many problem-solving plans lack detail and finalisation templates are not used. The force is now using enhanced templates that prompt greater detail and structure when plans are being developed and resourced. Phase 2 of the PSO Power BI app will allow this information to feed into the Neighbourhood Policing Performance and Outcomes Framework. This will provide for a greater opportunity to review and Problem-Solving plans and greater accountability at all levels of the service. Above all a better service for victims.

#### **Recommendation 8: By 30 September 2025, forces should give all neighbourhood policing teams antisocial behaviour training that makes best use of the College of Policing's antisocial behaviour guidance and resources.**

The Skills for Justice Level 3 Understanding Neighbourhoods Course has been replaced by the College of Policing Neighbourhood Pathway Course. 980 officers have completed Skills for Justice with an ASB module aligned to the College of Policing requirements.

I am pleased that West Yorkshire Police have been selected as one of 11 forces to pilot the new Neighbourhood Pathway Course that is now going to be rolled out nationally. The full module on Anti-Social Behaviour is aligned to the College of Policing guidance in both part 1 and 2 of the course.



Anti-social Behaviour will form part of the training delivered on the new mandatory Neighbourhood Policing training days that will commence mid-January 2025. This is an important step in placing Neighbourhood Policing as central to the delivery of a quality service to the communities of West Yorkshire and I hope that it can be extended to include Patrol staff that are engaged on immediate and more urgent matters, potentially where risk from Anti-social behaviour criminality to victim is greatest.

The charity ASB Help are to deliver training on Civil Order/Case Reviews to both NPT and Patrol Officers. This is funded by the Violence Reduction Partnership. The charity provides advice and support to victims of ASB and sit on the ASB Strategic Board.