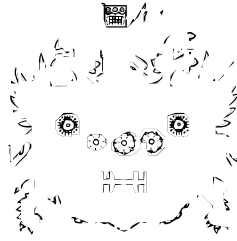


West Yorkshire Police Authority

Annual Report 2001 - 2002





West Yorkshire Police Authority Annual Report 2001 - 2002

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This seventh annual report of the West Yorkshire Police Authority covers the period April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002, a year dominated by high profile public disorder in Bradford and Leeds.

The Authority received reports from the Chief Constable about the issues arising from those disturbances, particularly the one in Bradford. Subsequently, the disturbances in Bradford were formally declared a riot and 68 claims were made under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. The financial implications of the Bradford Riot placed a severe strain on the Authority's budget. Policing costs continued to accrue in the aftermath of the riot with additional costs being likely to amount to £10.9m. This total is made up of £3.45m for policing the riot with a further £7.45m to deal with claims made under the Riot Damages Act.

The financial implications of the riot also stretched police resources and therefore progress was impeded against the targets set by the Authority in its Policing Plan for the year. The Authority, working with the Force, remained determined to reduce crime levels and increase public confidence in the police. Events throughout the year made both the Authority and Force reassess the core priorities. The task of identifying those responsible for the violence and damage resulting from the Bradford Riot and bringing them to justice continued throughout the year. The task, known as Operation Wheel, was the largest investigation mounted by the Force for over 20 years. The meticulous investigation, utilising ground-breaking processes to compile compelling evidence against suspects was prolonged and costly.

In the longer-term both the Authority and the Force will continue with their commitment to working with local communities affected by the disorder and with partner agencies. That commitment has been recognised and commented upon by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary in his last visit to the Force. He was encouraged by the Force commitment to working with the communities and found that this was reflected in positive feedback from the community representatives he met. He was particularly pleased to note the creation of the community involvement group within the Bradford area which ensured that the needs and views of the diverse community were constantly considered. This

initiative played a significant part in informing the police of potentially sensitive situations.

A key contribution to making people feel safer was the Target Initiative, the Force's biggest ever campaign to reduce crime and the fear of crime. In the first nine months of 2001/2002 this intelligence-led initiative achieved more than 1,700 arrests and provided extra officers on the streets using staff from Headquarters Departments, Support Units and squads on high-visibility days of action.

The Authority considered "Policing a New Century" the Government White Paper on Police Reform, published on December 5, 2001. The Police Reform Programme was taken forward under three headings – Tackling Criminality, Providing Reassurance, and Leadership and Efficiency. The Government introduced a Bill to implement those elements of the Police Reform Programme requiring primary legislation early in February and this was enacted as the Police Reform Act 2002 in July 2002, the overall aim being to create a high performing, modern service that effectively tackled all crime and the fear of crime. The Authority, along with other Police Authorities, made representations to Parliament during the course of the Bill's passage. The Bill's progress was kept under review by the Authority.

We continue to agree the police budget, oversee the Best Value Programme, set policing priorities, monitor police performance, consult people, operate the Independent Custody Visitors' Scheme, oversee the complaints procedure, and appoint the Force's Senior Officers.

Thanks go to the Authority's own staff for their services provided by the Acting Clerk, the Treasurer or Legal Adviser. We also continue to be grateful to the Chief Constable, his management team and police officers and support staff of the West Yorkshire Police for their efforts to police the County.



Melvyn Smith
Chairman
West Yorkshire Police Authority
6/8 Bond Terrace
Wakefield WF1 2HW

MEMBERSHIP OF WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

as at March 31, 2002

Chairman: Councillor Neil Taggart

Deputy Chairman: Melvyn Smith

Councillors

Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield - Labour)

Mark Harris (Leeds - Liberal Democrat)

Alison Lowe (Leeds - Labour)

Martin Peel (Calderdale - Conservative)

Clive Richardson (Bradford - Conservative)

John Ruding (Bradford - Labour)

Ian Rutter (Kirklees - Liberal Democrat)

Kenneth Smith (Kirklees - Labour)

Neil Taggart (Leeds - Labour)

Independents

Alan Baker

John Horn OBE

Kuppammal Partha Sarathy

Barbara Temple

Sarah Wilson

Magistrates

Colin Grimshaw MBE

Alan Mills

Melvyn Smith

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Consultation on the services provided by West Yorkshire Police has continued to be an important role for the Police Authority.

The majority of this consultation is undertaken through 22 Police Community Forums, which are public meetings, open to all. The major issues have included Anti-Social Behavior, Visible Policing and Violent Crime, as well as numerous local issues important to particular communities.

In addition, to ensure continuous improvement in the Authority's consultation arrangements, the Authority established two pilot consultation programmes in the Bradford and Calderdale Districts. Specifically, a large scale event was held in each District to consult with a wide range of businesses, organisations both statutory and voluntary together with members of the public. The agenda was to consult people on the Policing Plan for 2002/03 to ensure it reflected the views of the community in terms of Policing priorities. Both events were considered to be extremely successful and a cost-effective way of consulting.

In Kirklees and Wakefield to enhance and improve relationships with partner organisations, a number of joint initiatives were undertaken with their Community Safety Partnerships, consulting on their Strategies for 2002 – 2005 and the Policing Plan for 2002/2003.

During the year the Authority put into place revised consultation arrangements in the Kirklees District. Following discussions between Members who chaired forums in Kirklees and the Divisional Commanders, it was proposed that the four current forums in the Kirklees District be amalgamated into two Divisional forums. The Batley and Spensborough and Dewsbury Forums would form a Dewsbury Divisional Forum, whilst the Huddersfield and District and Huddersfield Rural Forums would form a Huddersfield Divisional Forum. It was felt the merging of the forums would lead to a better cross section of the community attending meetings and also assist in breaking down barriers between communities which appeared to exist within the two Divisions. The changes approved within Kirklees were a step in a change process and not necessarily the end of the change.

The Authority also undertook extensive consultation, on behalf of the Home Office, on the Police use of Stops, holding events across the County to gain the public's views on the issue. The results from this consultation were fed into the National Macpherson Steering Group, chaired by the Home Secretary.

Other new developments during the year included consulting with local Councillors in the Bradford area on the Policing Plan. In an effort to reach those people who would not normally attend formal consultation meetings, the Authority has also undertaken a number of surveys at Cop 'n' Shop events held in supermarkets and shopping centres around the County.

There has been full and lively debate at all of the Authority's events this year and all the issues raised were considered by the Policing Plan Working Party, in consultation with the Chief Constable, during the development of the Policing Plan 2002/2003.

Additionally, consultation has included the following initiatives:-

Special Joint Holbeck Division Forum for South Leeds/Morley and Rothwell

On September 18, 2001, a joint Forum meeting was held to discuss problems relating to traffic in the South Leeds and Morley and Rothwell forum areas. Traffic issues had often been raised at Forum meetings and South Leeds Forum Members had, in particular, asked for an opportunity to discuss their concerns. Many of the issues raised at the meeting were referred to the Highways Department of Leeds City Council and progress was reported back to the Forums at their following meetings.

Lesbian, Gay Bi-sexual and Transgender Policing Initiative (LGBTPI).

West Yorkshire Police established the LGBTPI in 1996. The Police Authority continues to support the Initiative by providing a comprehensive administrative service. LGBTPI has no formal membership and anyone is welcome to attend.

Community Consultation

At its Annual Meeting in February, the Initiative agreed new ways of consulting with LGBT Communities. In the forthcoming year, the Initiative will only meet formally twice a year, this being for a six monthly review in October and the annual meeting in April. There will, however, now be a minimum of two informal meetings within local communities in each of the five Districts of the County. The change in emphasis builds on the valuable work the Initiative has already undertaken and will mean a more pro-active, community-led approach. This work will continue throughout 2002/03.

Minorities Police Liaison Committee

The principal role of the Committee is to promote better understanding between the police service and the minority ethnic communities in Bradford. The Committee has an established mechanism for consultation and feedback.

Members of the Committee continue to represent the main minority ethnic community across the Bradford District. The Committee was also successful in obtaining a grant from the Home Office, via the Connecting Communities Race Equality Grant to implement a series of initiatives designed to improve trust and confidence between West Yorkshire Police and visible minority ethnic communities and to enable people from those communities to pursue careers in the Home Office service areas.

Macpherson Steering Group

This Group was established following the publication of the Macpherson Report and continues to monitor the Force's progress in implementing the recommendations of the Report through amendments to existing policies and the development of new ones. The Group also continues to initiate measures to improve equality of service, fairness and community relations to provide a better Police Service. Towards the latter part of the year they began work in relation to community cohesion.

Independent Community Advisory Group

The Independent Community Advisory Group, which

was established by the Authority in December 1999, continued its work in monitoring the implementation of the Lawrence Report recommendations.

The Group members provided a valuable contribution to the Stops consultation undertaken by the Authority. They also developed links between the Authority and young people in Bradford during a crucial time following the riots.

During the year the Authority was invited to make a presentation on the establishment of the ICAG to the third National Advisory Group Conference. The presentation was made by an Authority Member and the independent observer of the Group and five members of the Group also attended the conference.

Towards the end of the year a review of the Group's role commenced, so as to build on the successes already achieved and to consider such issues as the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

Citizen's Panel

The Citizen's Panel established jointly with West Yorkshire Police has been consulted twice about specific issues. The Police Authority and West Yorkshire Police use the Panel in different ways to test out ideas and measure strength of opinion, consulting via surveys and face to face meetings. Specifically, a meeting was held to discuss the Police use of Stops.

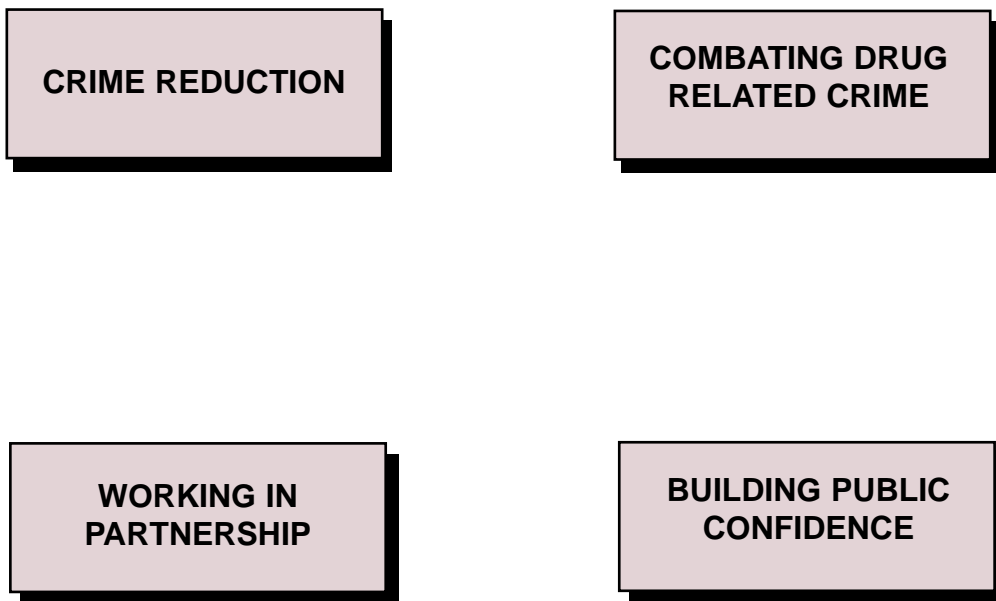
Pontefract New College

The Authority continued to be involved with students at the Pontefract New College and a seminar was held there in October 2001, the aims of which were to improve consultation and communication with young adults.

The Authority and Police are working with students at the College to establish a permanent group which will, hopefully, take forward a project that will benefit not only the students but also the college and local community.

The seventh Policing Plan published by the Authority was developed through consultation between Members of the Authority, a senior team from the Force and local people. It continued to represent a shared understanding and agreement between the Authority and the Chief Constable of the priorities, objectives and targets for policing the County.

The four priorities in the 2001/02 Plan were:-



The Plan's overall purpose remains unchanged in seeking to direct police resources and services towards improving community safety so that people can feel safe both inside and outside their homes.

Consultation arrangements, structures and working practices have been adapted to take full advantage of the new Crime and Disorder Act. The Plan also reflects the local plans developed by each of the five District Partnerships to meet their own particular crime and disorder problems.

The new arrangement allows the Authority to work more closely with partners in community safety, maximising opportunities for improved co-ordination and joint working. Thus, the people of West Yorkshire will receive further improvements in policing, despite the considerable financial restraints on the Authority's budget.

Objective	Target	Achievement
To reduce house burglaries	2.1 To reduce house burglary by a further 2,100	<p>Target not met</p> <p>While the current level remains below that recorded three years ago, performance is suffering as the Force is unable to direct as many resources to deal with what is now an increasing problem nationally, as well as locally.</p>
To reduce vehicle crime	3.1 To reduce thefts to and from vehicles by a further 4,900	<p>Target not met</p> <p>The target for vehicle crime is again set against a background of significant reductions over the recent past. Vehicle crime was contained until the summer of 2001. Since then, recorded offences for both thefts of and theft from vehicles have risen sharply, pushing the yearly total up by 12.8% (7,451 offences).</p>
To reduce repeat victimisation	4.1 To reduce the percentage of people who are repeat victims of house burglary, racist incidents and domestic violence	<p>Target partially met</p> <p>Between April 2001 and March 2002, the average burglary repeat rate of 11.8% was an improvement on the previous year, meeting the Policing Plan target.</p> <p>On average, one in six (16.3%) of those reporting racist incidents between April 2001-March 2002 had experienced a previous incident during the previous year – up from the 14.9% rate recorded last year.</p> <p>The repeat rate for domestic violence is much higher, with more than two out of five (44%) being subject to a repeat incident in the last year. Year on year comparisons suggest a significant reduction, with the repeat rate averaging 35.9%, producing a rate well inside the target for the year as a whole.</p>

Assessment of the Policing Plan

2, Combating Drug-Related Crime

Objective	Target	Achievement
<p>To target and reduce drug-related crime in partnership with other local agencies</p>	<p>5.1 To improve the number of arrests for supply and possession with intent to supply controlled drugs, especially those involving class A drugs</p> <p>5.2 To increase the percentage of persons arrested who are referred to drug treatment programmes</p>	<p>Target not met</p> <p>West Yorkshire was one of the first forces to recognise the importance of tackling drug-related offending and now has one of the highest arrest rates for drug trafficking offences of any force, ranking as second highest in terms of arrests for dealing in heroin. 95% of those arrested for dealing are charged.</p> <p>The level of dealing activity is down on last year. Even so, 1,171 drug dealers were arrested during the year. Available resources have been concentrated on class A drugs and the full year total of 771 arrests for dealing in class A drugs is just 210 lower than last year. This means that the focus on class A is being maintained, with around 66% of all arrests for supply being for class A drugs.</p> <p>Target met</p> <p>The new Best Value Performance Indicator asks for a count of those adults offered and agreeing to be referred to a drug treatment scheme while in police custody. This is then expressed as a percentage of total arrests for all offences, not just for crime. All four schemes in West Yorkshire (the HEAT programme in Leeds, Step in Wakefield and the Kirklees and Calderdale schemes) currently operating have been able to supply results for the full year. Collectively they referred 2,546 offenders to treatment programmes. A new scheme, Ripple, was launched in Bradford on April 1. Following discussion about the drugs problem with the arrestee, a worker will take details and an appointment within 48 hours is guaranteed.</p>

3, Working in Partnership

Objective	Target	Achievement
<p>To work with statutory and other agencies to protect the public and reduce the fear of crime</p>	<p>6.1 By March 31, 2002, to have collaborated fully in the development of the 2002-2005 Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategies</p> <p>6.2 To contribute to the development and operation of social initiatives aimed at diverting people from crime</p>	<p>Target met</p> <p>The five Districts have made separate arrangements for the development of their Strategies, in which the police were fully involved. All five Districts agreed to use part of the funding they received from Government through the Partnership Development Fund to recruit an analyst to help in monitoring performance and to develop reports that will identify where and how partnership resources might be best used. The analyst, who is employed by West Yorkshire Police, is now in post and working with the Districts to improve the flow and analysis of information.</p> <p>Target met</p> <p>During the summer months, the Force supported various activities, sporting and play schemes, designed to occupy and educate young people and improve relationships with the police. Many of the schemes operating across the county are well established and have demonstrated their value in diverting young people from crime. Lund Park Youth Action Group, set up three years ago, is a group of 12 to 17-year-old Asian boys who have been involved with more than 30 voluntary projects since 1998. The group recently won the under-18s category of the Nationwide Awards for Voluntary Endeavour, with a ceremony at the House of Commons.</p> <p>In September, police joined with Leeds City Council and Education Leeds in an anti-truancy campaign as part of the Target Initiative. Teams patrolled hotspots and stopped more than 300 school age children to ask why they weren't in school. Those without a valid reason were either returned to school, or their parents contacted.</p>

Assessment of the Policing Plan

Objective	Target	Achievement
<p>To contribute towards reducing road traffic collisions involving injury</p>	<p>7.1 To work with Highways Authorities to reduce the number of road traffic collisions involving death or serious injury</p>	<p>Target met</p> <p>The number of collisions resulting in fatal and serious injury had been on a downward trend for some time. Figures for this year are 42 (3.4%) down on last year, with 1,176 reported fatal or serious injury collisions.</p> <p>West Yorkshire Police, together with the five local authorities, the Highways Agency and the Health Authority, have formed the West Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership. Recognised as a Centre of Excellence, the Partnership is committed to achieving the targets in the current national road safety strategy, 'Tomorrow's Roads, Safer for Everyone.' A cost recovery scheme utilises receipts from fixed penalty tickets to offset the costs of installing and operating highly visible speed cameras at locations that reduce road accidents.</p>
<p>To deal speedily and effectively with young offenders and to work with other agencies to reduce re-offending</p>	<p>8.1 To increase the percentage of cases relating to young offenders dealt with within relevant targets</p>	<p>Target not met</p> <p>The Joint Performance Management Initiative set national standards for the submission of police files to the CPS and a framework for the assessment and review of performance against those standards. Prior to April 2000, measured performance rather over-stated the actual quality of files being submitted because lawyers did not always complete and return the necessary paperwork. Shortcomings in file quality were addressed in the short term by the police retaining files until they were confident that they were satisfactory. This strategy is being supported by the recruitment of 'case builders' who are now in post in all divisions. This should produce an improvement in both timeliness and quality of files over the longer term.</p>

4, Building Public Confidence

Objective	Target	Achievement																				
To increase visible policing	9.1 To increase the number of operational police officers	<p>Target met</p> <p>Police officer strength at the end of March stood at 4,889 Full Time Equivalent, a net increase of 74 officers since the start of the financial year. Most of the increased strength has been channelled into Operations Support to form the new Operations Support Unit, a team of officers dedicated to high visibility policing across the Force.</p>																				
To deliver the policing service set out in 'Your Service, Our Standards'	10.1 To improve satisfaction levels for victims of house burglary, assault and injury road accidents, as well as for 999 callers	<p>Target not met</p> <p>Victim and caller satisfaction levels are estimated on the basis of replies received to questionnaires distributed as part of a continuous survey programme. These results would suggest that the workload pressure on officers has impacted on their ability to deliver as high a quality service to the public as previously:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Survey</th> <th>Satisfaction</th> <th>Sample</th> <th>2000/01</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Burglary</td> <td>89.6% (+ - 1%)</td> <td>6,952</td> <td>89.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assault</td> <td>63.4% (= - 4%)</td> <td>250</td> <td>75.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Injury RTAs</td> <td>88.9% (+ - 2%)</td> <td>2,337</td> <td>91.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>999 Callers</td> <td>77.5% (= - 3%)</td> <td>1,083</td> <td>81.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Disappointment with the amount of follow-up information received continues to be the cause of most dissatisfaction. 78% of dissatisfied assault victims reported they had received no information on progress.</p>	Survey	Satisfaction	Sample	2000/01	Burglary	89.6% (+ - 1%)	6,952	89.8%	Assault	63.4% (= - 4%)	250	75.0%	Injury RTAs	88.9% (+ - 2%)	2,337	91.3%	999 Callers	77.5% (= - 3%)	1,083	81.5%
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Assessment of the Policing Plan

Objective	Target	Achievement
	<p>10.2 By April 1, 2002, to have established an effective means of measuring the satisfaction of callers at police station front counters</p> <p>10.3 To answer 85% of all 999 calls within 15 seconds</p>	<p>Target met</p> <p>Motorists stopped by the police who do not have valid motoring documents in their possession are issued with a form which requires them to produce their documents at a police station within two weeks. These details are now used as a 'sampling frame'. At each month end, 40 motorists from each division are sent a questionnaire designed to test how satisfied they were with their visit to the police station. Since the start of sampling in July, of the 812 returned surveys, 92% indicated that they were very or fairly satisfied with the service provided at the front counter.</p> <p>Target not met</p> <p>Increased demand lead to call handling being reorganised so that calls are received at a Force Call Centre in Wakefield, with resource despatch from Despatch Centres in Leeds and Bradford. Early results suggested that this had successfully addressed pick-up performance. However, during 2001/02, 999 calls from mobiles increased by a further 66,100 (37%). Some of these were duplicate calls, others were 'silent' – accidental activations which used to be screened out by BT. The service nationally has responded by setting up a facility to receive these 'silent' calls and still enable genuine callers to receive a response. The scheme came into effect in October and, with some further internal changes and routing of calls, has gone some way to addressing the problem. Although the target for the year has been missed, the target was exceeded in three of the last four months. The expectation is that this will be sustained.</p>

Objective	Target	Achievement
<p>To police in a way that is fair and sensitive to the diversity within the population of West Yorkshire</p>	<p>10.4 To arrive at 90% of all incidents graded 'immediate' within 15 mins of the receipt of the call</p>	<p>Target not met</p> <p>Both the number of incidents and the number and percentage of those graded immediate, is rising. Immediate incidents have risen by 5% during the last year – this comes on top of a 21% increase during 1999/2000 and a further rise of 12% during 2000/2001. This, compounded with the workload pressures arising from increased 999 calls has caused performance to slip just below the 90% target. However, increases in divisional strength combined with proposals aimed at improving deployment of resources to incidents will move performance back up towards the target.</p>
	<p>11.1 To increase satisfaction with policing amongst minority groups</p>	<p>Target partially met</p> <p>Satisfaction with policing is tested through regular surveying of the public. Despite a delay in starting the 2001/02 survey, 1,227 replies have been received. Of these, just 3% are from people describing themselves as having minority ethnic backgrounds – 83% of these agree with the statement that the police are doing a good job, compared with 77% of white respondents.</p>
	<p>11.2 By April 1, 2002, to have a means of demonstrating whether stop and search powers are applied fairly</p>	<p>Target partially met</p> <p>In anticipation of a revised Code A of PACE becoming effective from July 1, 2002, a training programme was devised for officers. All officers would have received training by the end of June. In parallel with this, new arrangements are being made for the collection, storage and analysis of stop and search records. A revised form is being devised, along with a new computer system to hold the data. This will be programmed to provide managers with the information they need to ensure that stop and search activity is properly monitored and supervised.</p>

Assessment of the Policing Plan

Objective	Target	Achievement
To identify and repond effectively to hate crime	<p>12.1 To maintain or improve the reporting rate for racist and homophobic incidents</p> <p>12.2 To increase the percentage of racially motivated and homophobic crimes that are detected</p> <p>12.3 To improve satisfaction levels for victims of racist incidents, domestic violence and homophobic incidents</p>	<p>Target partially met</p> <p>Improved recording and increased reporting means there is no sign of a levelling off in the upward trend in the number of racist incidents. 2,919 incidents were recorded from April 2001 to March 2002, compared with 2,535 last year, a rise of 15%. 127 reports of homophobic incidents have been taken in 2001-2002, compared with 154 in the previous year. Following a successful pilot scheme, reporting of hate incidents through the crime system has been extended to all divisions.</p> <p>Target not met</p> <p>From April to March, 266 such offences were detected, 74 more than last year, showing a detection rate of 53.4%, against a detection rate of 62.5% the previous year.</p> <p>Target partially met</p> <p>A market research company surveys victims of racist and homophobic incidents. Replies from the 738 racist incident victims surveyed show that 76% are satisfied with the overall service they receive from the police, marginally higher than last year's out-turn of 75%. An in-house survey of domestic violence victims saw 1,538 questionnaires completed and returned during 2001/02. Of these, 128 expressed dissatisfaction with the way the police dealt with their incident, producing a satisfaction rating of 91.4%, which is very much in line with the 92% rating achieved last year.</p>
To have a workforce that better reflects the ethnic diversity of West Yorkshire	13.1 To increase the representation of minority ethnic communities in the workforce	<p>Target met</p> <p>The Force mounted an extensive recruitment campaign throughout 2001/02. The campaign attracted sufficient suitably qualified candidates that both increased the number of officers with minority ethnic backgrounds and moved the ethnic make-up of the Force closer to that of the local community.</p>

Audit and Performance

The Audit and Performance Committee comprising the 17 Members of the Authority was chaired by Melvyn Smith and met regularly throughout the year.

The Committee's responsibilities include:-

- Ensuring value for money;
- Best Value;
- Overseeing Internal Audit through the Treasurer;
- Receiving Reports from the District Auditor about Financial Affairs;
- Monitoring Police Performance Against the Targets Set in the Policing Plan; and
- Monitoring the Force and Authority Budgets.

Of particular interest to the Committee was Monitoring Minority Ethnic Recruitment in West Yorkshire Police. This was important because of the Macpherson Report and the 'Dismantling Barriers' initiative which was driven by the Home Office. West Yorkshire Police, in common with all the Forces in England and Wales, had been set targets for the recruitment of minority ethnic police officers and support staff. The target, over a 10 year period, was to achieve levels of representations which match those of the working population within Force geographical boundaries. In the case of West Yorkshire Police, it will need to recruit at a level of approximately 20% minority ethnic police officers each year for the 10 year period, assuming it recruited to wastage in order to meet the Government's target. Whilst this was not impossible, it was clearly extremely difficult when set against a background of a 9% minority ethnic population. The Force had set a series of targeted initiatives to begin the work towards meeting the target. Considerable success was achieved in attracting significant numbers of minority ethnic candidates to consider joining the Force as a career option.

The management of police officer medical retirements had been a significant issue for the police service in general since the early 1990s. At that time, up to 80% of all police retirements were on the grounds of ill health. From 1994, a much more hands-on approach to the management of medical retirements had resulted in a significant reduction in the proportion of medical

retirements and, for the past four years, they had averaged between 26% to 35% of all retirements. This was set against a current Government target of 33%.

The Committee also considered with the Chief Constable the implications for West Yorkshire Police of adopting the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) with full effect from April 1, 2002.

The revision of the Home Office counting rules, which took effect in April 1998, had been an attempt to bring the count of recorded crime closer to the "true" crime level and introduce greater consistency into the counting process. In July 2002 the Government called for action to introduce greater consistency into recording practice, particularly in respect of reducing any under-recording. This was seen as a necessary means of restoring public confidence.

The effect was to move towards a more "victim focus" approach to crime recording. Rather than requiring police officers to have evidence to support the fact that an offence had been committed, the new standards require an offence to be recorded provided that that was what the victim believed and there was no evidence to indicate otherwise. Implementation of the National Crime Recording Standard would increase recorded crime. Whilst welcoming the victim approach towards crime recording, the Authority was concerned that any resultant increase in the number of recorded crimes would increase the fear of crime.

Audit Panel

Through the Audit Panel comprising a small group of Members, effective scrutiny of the work of the Authority's own Internal Audit Team into the performance of the Force was undertaken. The Panel also received reports from District Audit about its role and its work in auditing West Yorkshire Police.

Best Value

The Local Government Act 1999 requires the Police Authority to undertake a programme of Best Value Reviews of all functions and services over a five year period, in order to comply with the principles of Best

Other Information about the Authority

Value. These principles require continuous improvement having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness, a statutory duty which the Authority takes very seriously.

Best Value Reviews continued throughout the Year. Reviews were undertaken of the Force Command Team, Scientific Support, Personnel Services, Wakefield and Pontefract Divisional Policing, Crime Management/Crime Operations, Bradford District Policing and Leeds District Policing. Best Value Reviews, however, were still in their infancy, and the Authority considered that the time was now opportune to have another look at the Best Value process. This was duly undertaken and a new process agreed.

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee comprises four Members of the Authority plus two external Members and was chaired by the Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch.

The functions of the Standards Committee are to promote high standards of conduct by Members and, more specifically, advise the Authority on the adoption of a Code of Conduct, monitor the operation of that Code and provide necessary advice or training to Members on matters relating to the Code.

During the year the Police Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001 had been made. This introduced a Model Code of Conduct, the provisions of which had to be adopted by all Police Authorities by May 5, 2002. The Authority adopted a Code of Conduct in the form of the Model Code and this document is available for public inspection. All Members of the Authority have signed an undertaking agreeing to observe the provisions of the Code. Also established by the Act was a new National Standards Board, to which all complaints alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct by a Member had to be referred to the Standards Board. The Code of Conduct for Members in the form of the Model Code was adopted by the Authority.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme enables local people, who are unconnected with the police or the Criminal Justice System, to inspect and report upon the way in which people detained at Police Stations are dealt with by the Police and also the conditions in which they are held. The Scheme is intended to increase public confidence in policing and is an important part of the relationship between the police and the community.

The Authority was one of a number of Authorities to operate a pilot Scheme during 1984. Due to its success, in 1986 the Home Office recommended the establishment of such Schemes to all Police Authorities and Police Forces in England and Wales.

A number of amendments to the operation of the Scheme have been made since that time. Most recently, recommendations made by the Home Secretary in May 2001 resulted in several changes to existing arrangements in West Yorkshire. These included lowering the minimum age of Custody Visitors from 21 to 18 years, excluding Members of the Police Authority from undertaking Custody Visits, checking the operation of CCTV systems suites and a requirement that all custody visits were undertaken in pairs.

Following a recruitment campaign during the Autumn/Winter of 2001/2, 30 local people were appointed to undertake the role of Custody Visitor with effect from April 1, 2002. These were in addition to the existing 15 Custody Visitors.

A schedule showing the number of Custody Visits undertaken to Police Stations/Bridewell in the County from April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 as a comparison with the same period in the previous two years is set out on the following page, together with details of the welfare issues raised during custody visits:-

Custody Visits to Police Stations/Bridewell

Designated police stations in **bold**

Station/Bridewell	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
Bradford Bridewell	35	54	54
Javelin House	51	50	0
Lawcroft House	56	63	64
Keighley	36	55	37
Ilkley	9	12	8
Halifax Bridewell	71	64	64
Brighouse	6	11	3
Todmorden	6	5	7
Huddersfield	34	50	35
Dewsbury	32	47	66
Leeds Bridewell	25	53	39
Weetwood	28	56	71
Chapelton	27	57	55
Killingbeck	35	59	47
Garforth	8	1	0
Wetherby	15	12	10
Holbeck	52	80	62
Pudsey	46	56	70
Morley	12	20	8
BTP, Leeds	13	8	4
Wakefield	32	58	60
Normanton	0	3	0
Pontefract	51	52	30
South Kirkby	5	4	2
Ossett	2	2	2
Total	687	932	798

Welfare Issues Raised During Custody Visits to Police Stations/Bridewells

April 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002

	Total No. of Visits	Welfare Issues Raised & Resolved Immediately	Welfare Issues Requiring a Response from the Police Authority	Resolved
April - June 2001	177	91	23	23
July - Sept 2001	232	69	20	20
Oct - Dec 2001	175	56	24	24
Jan - March 2002	214	105	30	30
Year 2001/2002	798	321	97	97

Welfare issues are, for example:-

- Request for blankets, cigarette, exercise, food and drink
- Requests to phone solicitor, family, girl/boy friend
- Request to be seen by doctor
- Complaints of mistreatment when arrested

Finances

Revenue Expenditure

Around 80% of the Authority’s spending is financed by the Government, through Police Grant, Revenue Support Grant and Non Domestic Rates. The remainder is raised locally from the Council Tax by precepting on the five district councils of West Yorkshire.

The majority of the budget is spent on people, including serving police officers, support staff, and the pensions of retired police officers.

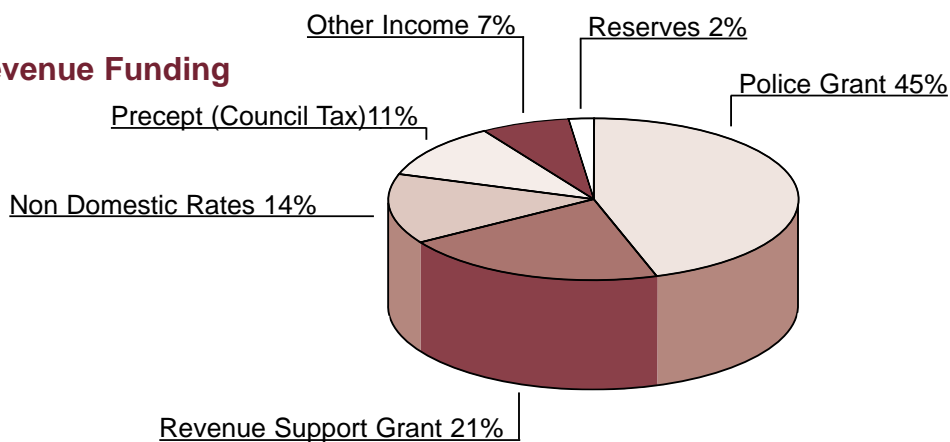
The Authority budgeted to spend £314 million in 2001/02, which meant that the Council Tax for a Band D property was set at £60.82 a year. The costs associated

with the Bradford Riots of July 2001, including claims for the damage caused to property which must be met by the Police Authority, resulted in a net overspend of some £8.1 million. This was met by a withdrawal from the Authority’s reserves.

Capital Expenditure

The Authority also spent £11.3 million in the year on capital schemes, including building works, vehicles, information technology and the leasing of new premises. This was financed from Government Grant (£0.9 million), Borrowing (£3 million), Capital Receipts (the proceeds of the sale of capital assets – £2 million) and the revenue budget (£5.4 million).

Revenue Funding



Revenue Expenditure

