


West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Record of Decision made in respect of the Mayor's Police and Crime Commissioner functions

Title/Subject: Bobby Bear - Bears in Primary Schools
Serial No: MPCC092
Summary: In 2018, Bobby, the police bear, was taken into Oyster Park Primary School, Castleford by the Early Intervention Team. The purpose was to build trust between the police and the youngest children in school (ages 5-7 years). Some children can find police uniform scary and seeing the bear in uniform helped to break this barrier and gain their confidence. 116 bears were required, one for each primary school in Wakefield to be distributed by PCSO's who are linked to the primary school. A story is read to the children, 'How are you feeling today Baby Bear' by Jane Evans, which encourages them to talk to a trusted adult, if something doesn't feel right. The bears provide a great opportunity for engagement where some schools hadn't previously been open to inputs from the Police, and for PCSO's who were less familiar with the school setting to have a 'reason' to go into school with something to discuss and read with the children.
Requested Decision: That £5,000.55 of funding is approved for the purchase of additional bears so that every single primary school in West Yorkshire has one and for 115 'How are you feeling today baby bear?' hardback books.

Decision: Approved, subject to receipt of Home Office funding
Signature:  Title: Head of Policing & Crime Date: 15/05/2022

Publication	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No – 'Sensitive' under the GSC Scheme
	<input type="checkbox"/> No - Exempt under 2(2) of The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011.

Execution of legal documents (please list documents)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Seal of the Combined Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature ¹
¹ The Head of Legal Services in West Yorkshire Police has delegated authority from the Head of Legal and Governance Services to apply the seal of West Yorkshire Combined Authority	