

QUARTERLY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN REPORT

October 2018

Introduction

The Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire is published by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). It outlines his priorities for the area and how he will work with the police and partners to achieve them.

The Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 has been renewed in 2018. The overall aim remains:

For South Yorkshire to be a safe place in which to live, learn and work. This can be achieved by:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Treating people fairly

The outcomes in support of the aim are:

- Safer Communities
- Trust and Confidence in the Police and Crime Services
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money

This report aims to provide an overview of the progress of all policing and crime partners across South Yorkshire against achieving the four outcomes of the Plan. The report does not include everything being delivered. More information can be found on the PCC's website www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk.

Disclaimer

Much of the performance indicator data used in the graphs in this report is not yet fully audited and is subject to change as records are up dated and quality checks undertaken. Therefore, data is subject to change until published by the Office for National Statistics and cannot be reproduced without permission from the owner of the data.

Safer Communities

This is about partners working together with the communities of South Yorkshire to help them feel and be safe by:

Prioritising joint problem solving, protecting vulnerable people, preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, delivering victim led services, addressing the causes of offending and sharing data and good practice.

Trust and Confidence in Police and Crime Services

This refers to treating everyone fairly and in accordance with their police and crime needs by:

Understanding different communities and taking action to address their concerns, effectively managing calls for service, understanding factors affecting trust and confidence including of hard to reach groups, putting in measures to provide a better experience for victims and taking action to address workforce issues.

Serious and Organised Crime

South Yorkshire Police also have a role in tackling crime on a regional, national and international scale by working in partnership to counter threats to national security as well as building specialist capability and raising awareness of cyber dependant and cyber enabled crime.

Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money

This is about making sure that police and crime services provide value for money to the public by pooling funding where this would provide a better service. It is also about working smarter and equipping officers with the training, equipment and technology they need and reporting regularly on successful delivery of agreed savings plans.

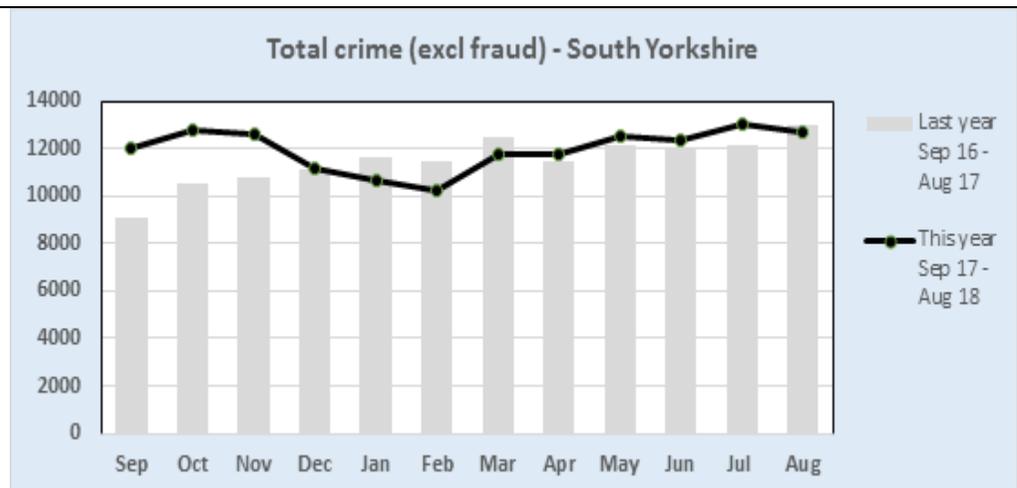
1. Safer Communities

Keeping communities safe is not a job the police can do alone and needs a partnership approach.

A key objective for partners in keeping communities safe and helping people feel safe is preventing crime and anti-social behaviour including tackling the recent spate of violence in the form of knife crime. Over the past 12 months residents have also highlighted burglary as a particular issue that affects how safe they feel in their community.

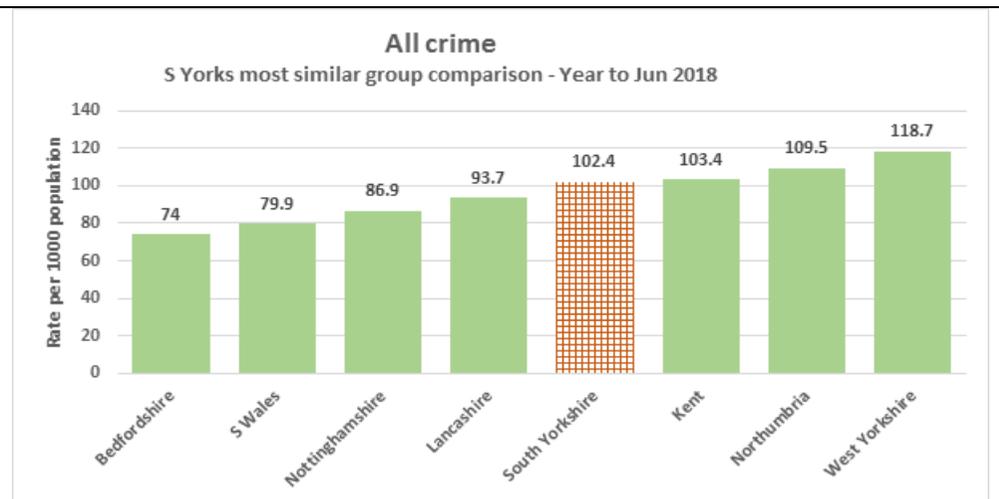
Protecting vulnerable people, such as those who are victims of hate crime or domestic abuse, is also a key objective for partners, as well as providing effective and accessible support services for those who have been the victims of crime.

A number of performance indicators have been chosen for this report to give a broad overview of the effectiveness of partners working together to tackle these issues and data can be seen in the following graphs. As well as looking at data and performance indicators, there is also information about the range of work going on aimed at keeping communities safe - details of which are included after the graphs.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – Most recent unaudited data subject to change

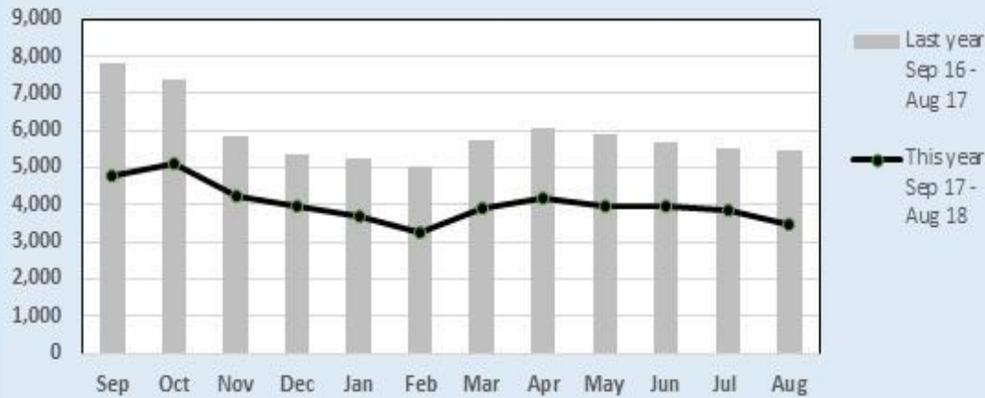
There has been a generally increasing trend of total recorded crime in South Yorkshire since Sep 16, although with some periods of fluctuation. Total recorded crime also rose nationally in the 12 months to 31st June 2018 compared to the previous 12 month period to June 2017. Part of the increases can be attributed to better recording by the police.



Source: ONS

South Yorkshire recorded the fourth highest rate of all crime in the year to June 2018 when compared to most other forces that are seen as most similar to South Yorkshire. This is down one place compared to the previous period (year to March 2018), when S Yorkshire was third highest. Kent, Northumbria and West Yorkshire had higher rates than South Yorkshire in this latest period.

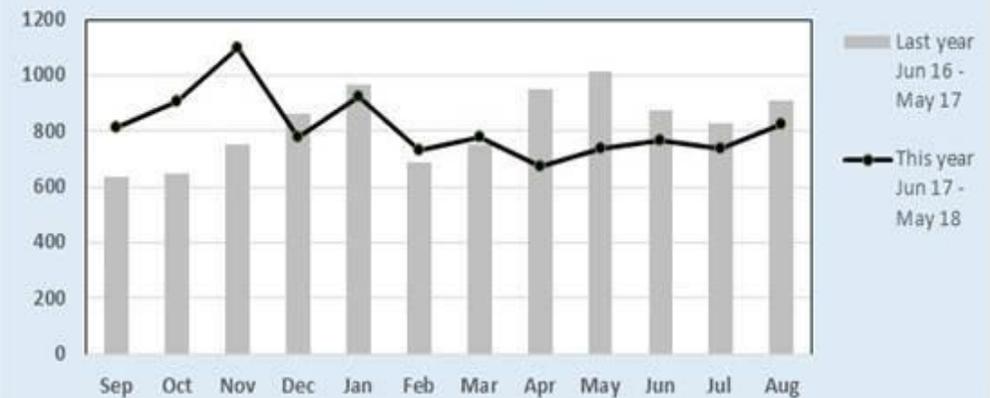
Recorded Anti Social Behaviour- South Yorkshire



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

The number of recorded anti-social behaviour has shown a generally falling trend over the past year and is lower than for the same period last year.

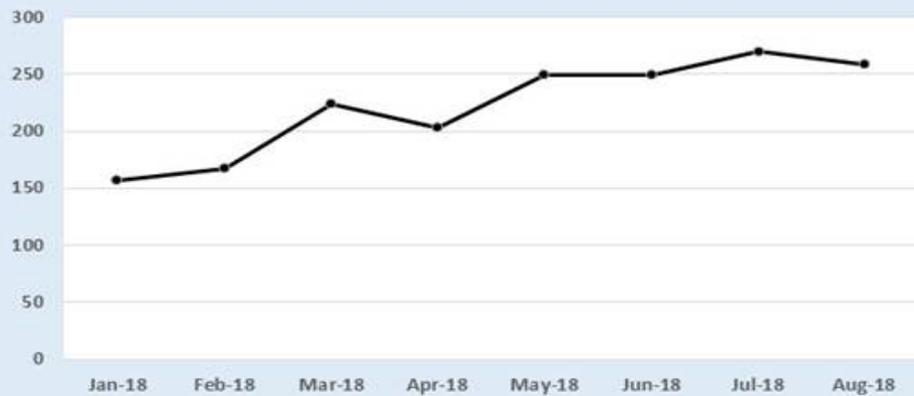
Total residential burglary - South Yorkshire



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

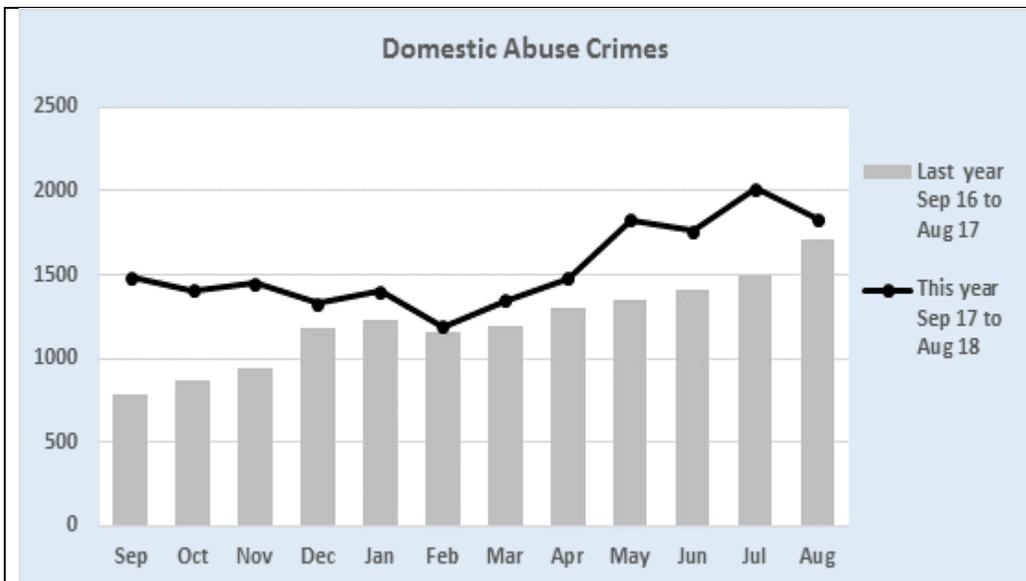
There has been a falling trend in residential burglary from the end of 2017 and into the start of 2018, however, from April the trend has started to increase slightly although recorded residential burglary is still lower than for the same period last year. The coming winter months usually see an increase in burglary.

Recorded Hate Crime



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

The recorded level of hate crime, which is identified as one strand of vulnerability, is increasing in South Yorkshire - this is in line with the national picture. The results will partly reflect the fact that South Yorkshire Police and the PCC work to make sure people are confident in reporting hate crime.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

Domestic abuse crimes are higher in 2017/18 than 2016/17 with an increasing trend since February 2018. Figures reflect the increased focus on identification of crimes from all domestic abuse incidents reported – in September 2018 61% of incidents were identified as crimes compared to 53% in January 2018.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – Victim Satisfaction Survey.

Overall satisfaction with the service received from South Yorkshire Police is currently falling with a larger fall in the latest quarter. Comparisons since April 2018 may be affected by the additional sampling of vulnerable victims since April. The police are working to understand the reasons for this but analysis shows that victims are less satisfied with the “follow up” aspect of their support and so this is an area of particular focus for improvement.

1. Safer Communities

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

CSPs are a key way in which all partners across South Yorkshire work together to keep people safe. CSPs are made up of representatives from South Yorkshire Police, Local Authorities, Health services, Housing Associations, Fire and Rescue Services and Criminal Justice partners covering, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. The PCC holds bi-monthly meetings of the County Wide Community Safety Forum where representatives from each partnership meet together. This is how the Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley partnership have been working to tackle issues of concern to local residents.

Rotherham – Safer Rotherham Partnership

A range of initiatives and partner activity has been underway over the previous few months within the Safer Rotherham Partnership across all priority areas, which are; protecting vulnerable children; protecting vulnerable adults; building confident and cohesive communities; domestic abuse and serious organised crime. Some of this work has included direct engagement with service users to help them inform how services work in areas such as Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime. Direct projects have seen a number of diversionary activities linked to sport within local communities, with a number of those young people gaining further opportunities to learn and coach. Finally, over the last few weeks the partnership has re-launched a mobile app to be used by professionals to help them report information or intelligence about a range of issues they may witness or be told about. The more we know the more we can do.

Doncaster - Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership

In the last report, the partnership provided information about how they were dealing with nuisance off road motorcycles; a major concern raised by the public across all areas of Doncaster. Work has continued in this area with joint operations between SYP and Partners. Within the last month the team have carried out patrols and operations in Doncaster which has resulted in the recovery of two stolen scooters from the Conisborough area and three quad bikes and a stolen motorcycle from the Armthorpe area. Public reaction to the team's highly visible patrols has been extremely positive.

In addition to off road motorcycles, the partnership has also been working Operation Shield and tackling domestic abuse.

- Operation Shield was launched in Doncaster on the 1st October 2018 and aims to offer free forensic marking kits in those areas affected by high levels of burglary. Already 119 homes have been visited with many households signing up to the scheme, marking valuable property, details of which are then held on a secure database. The funding for the scheme in Doncaster was approved by the Community Safer Partnership using a grant from the PCC.
- Tackling Domestic abuse remains a priority for Doncaster and raising awareness amongst Partnership staff is key to ensuring staff working in our communities are able to recognise the signs of abuse and how to offer support to victims and families.
- Doncaster has recruited a specialist Domestic Abuse Workforce Development Officer and so far this year over 546 people have received training in a classroom environment. Work is also on-going to develop a schools toolkit to enable staff in schools to have a full awareness around signposting and offering support to children affected by domestic abuse.

Barnsley – Safer Barnsley Partnership

- Efforts to reduce and tackle anti-social behaviour continue and have been successful in reducing incidents. Neighbourhood policing and locality working are key to tackling this area. Reported incidents have steadily reduced since April 2018 with a significant reduction since June onwards. In June 2018, 562 incidents were reported compared with September 2018 where 331 were reported.
- Community engagement within the localities is showing significant improvement by ensuring a visible uniformed presence within our local communities, this is key to ensuring the development of public satisfaction and trust. Community engagement has taken place during this quarter at prominent locations including the Alhambra Centre, the interchange, Gala Bingo and the Town Hall. Officers were visibly present during Barnsley Cycle Road Race on 27th July and at the Gay Pride event on 2nd September.
- The partnership continues to focus on dealing with the effects of and use of the drug "Spice". Within the Town Centre arena South Yorkshire Police are collating evidence for a test case of Public Nuisance under Common Law in an attempt to tackle the problem.

1. Safer Communities

YOYO

Last time we talked about a project funded by the PCC and led by his office called YOYO (You're Only Young Once). The project is about engaging with young people in schools to help them get their voices heard and prevent them becoming the victims of crime.

YOYO is now in the second phase of delivery. In phase one Bauer Academy tutors visited Darton Community College in Barnsley and Brinsworth Academy and Wales High School in Rotherham.

Podcasts and radio advertisements have been produced explaining the consequences of joining a gang or how to spot some of the signs of child sexual exploitation. Six professional radio advertisements were produced and aired on Hallam FM as an awareness raising campaign with an estimated 2,148,668 impacts and reaching 43% of the South Yorkshire population.

The phase two delivery was to six schools across Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield and has produced some excellent video and podcast content that can be found on the website www.yoyosyorks.co.uk

Supporting Victims - Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Service

Mountain Healthcare's South Yorkshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Hackenthorpe Lodge, has received approximately 144 referrals, with 104 being from the police, during the most recent quarter (July-September 2018). This compares to 92 referrals in the previous quarter. Mountain Healthcare and the PCC have worked to increase the number of referrals being made and ensure people are aware of the SARC services and how to access them.

Following the success of last year's joint campaign, which was launched in time for the Christmas period, Mountain Healthcare will be teaming up with the PCC's Communications Team in the coming weeks, to look at the possibility of developing another joint campaign for this year.

The Independent Sexual Advocacy Service (ISVA)

The Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service (ISVA), run by The South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partnership, offers practical help, advice & information for victims of rape and sexual abuse either currently or at any time in the past.

Upon referral to the service, victims are assigned an individual worker who will offer practical support and information.

The service is available to men, women, children and families, regardless of whether they have told the police or anyone else about the attack.

Upon referral to the service victims will be assigned an individual worker (ISVA) who will listen to victims and find out what their needs are. He or she will then help victims access support from other agencies, such as:

- Health services
- Housing/Homelessness
- Benefits
- Counselling

Between April and June this year, the service received 503 referrals - higher than in the same quarter the previous year and higher than any quarter in 2017/18. The majority of referrals came from the police and from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

Victim Support

Last quarter we reported on the face to face work that the South Yorkshire Victim Support service undertakes, commissioned through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC). Victim Support also works closely with children and young people and use a number of ways of engaging with this group of vulnerable victims and witnesses.

Using tools and resources is imperative to working with children and young people, particularly after a traumatic event such as being a Victim or Witness of a crime. Often events such as this affect both a child's confidence and trust in those around them, meaning that the tools used at Victim Support play an important part in building up a trusting relationship with children, young people and their parents.

1. Safer Communities

Through initial conversations and needs assessment with the Children / Young Person's Parents and Guardians, you are able to get a good idea as to how confident they are and what challenges you may face when interacting with them.

During first and subsequent visits, fidget toys are always provided in order to help the Child / Young Person feel at ease and these are also used by the practitioner to ensure it is a more informal and relaxed interaction. These toys also cater to children with additional needs, such as Autism, ADHD or any condition that means there are communication barriers with the child. Other communication tools are used, such as 'Emotions ball' or 'Feelings dice' in order to assist the Children / Young People to talk about difficult topics or events. These tools are also used as a form of icebreaker exercise at the beginning of sessions.

A crucial resource used with Children and Young People is 'Worry Monsters' ('Worry Eaters' for younger children). 'Worry Monsters' are a way for children to be able to communicate their worries to their Parent / Guardian in a way that is more comfortable for them. They can also be used as a conversation starter with the family as well as a way to celebrate achievements that the Child or Young Person has made on their journey.

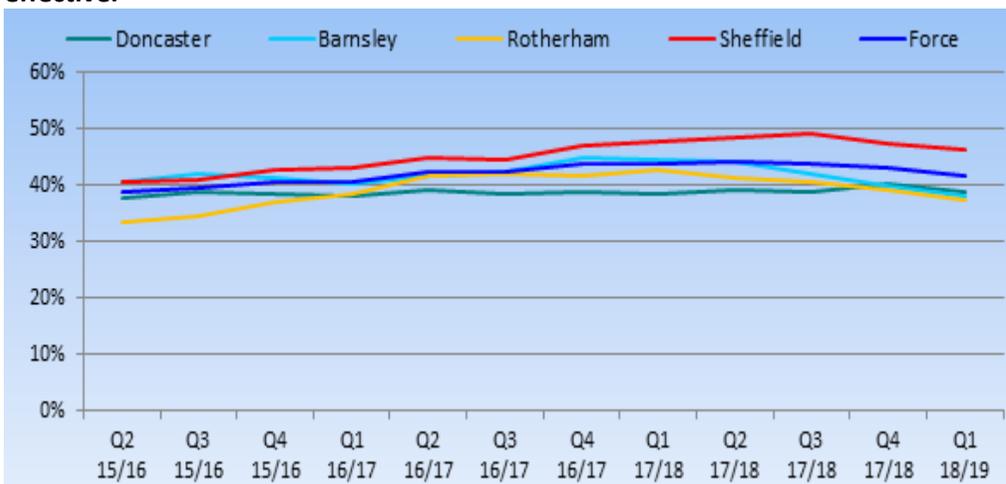
2. Trust & Confidence in Services

South Yorkshire Police has reintroduced Neighbourhood Policing Teams in South Yorkshire. Neighbourhood policing in South Yorkshire provides communities with teams of dedicated local police officers working together with police community support officers. Such teams listen to and work with: the public, community groups, partner agencies and businesses to reduce crime, protect the vulnerable and enhance community safety through problem-solving approaches.

The key performance indicators used in this part of the report are aimed at understanding whether Neighbourhood Policing, as well as the work of other police and crime services and the criminal justice system as a whole, gives the public and victims of crime trust and confidence in those services. The Criminal justice system includes the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, courts, probation services and prisons.

This section also includes information about how the new Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the PCC continue to engage with local residents and how the Force is making sure it listens to its own workforce to address concerns and implement good practice suggestions.

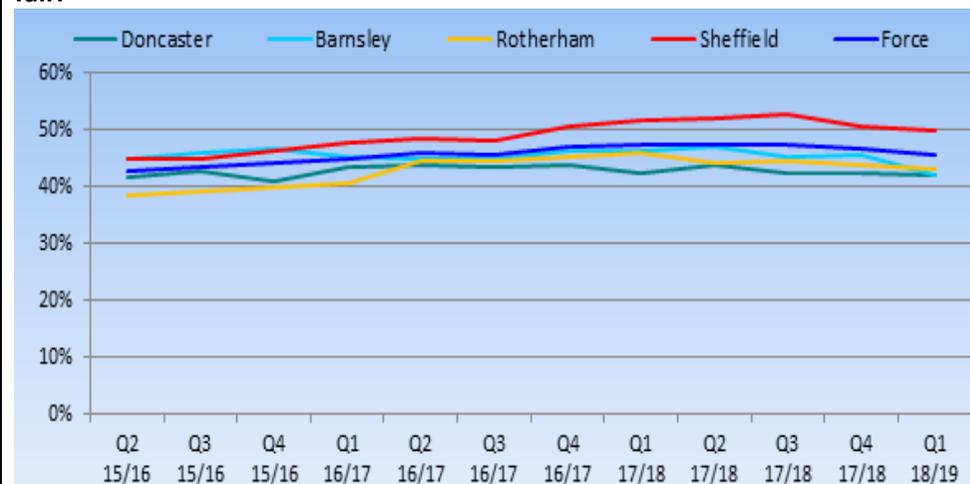
% of people who are very or fairly confident that the Criminal Justice System is effective.



Source: SYP Your Voice Counts Survey

There has been a steady improvement in the percentage of people who are fairly or very confident that the criminal justice system is effective during the past two years, however confidence is showing signs of falling from the end of last year.

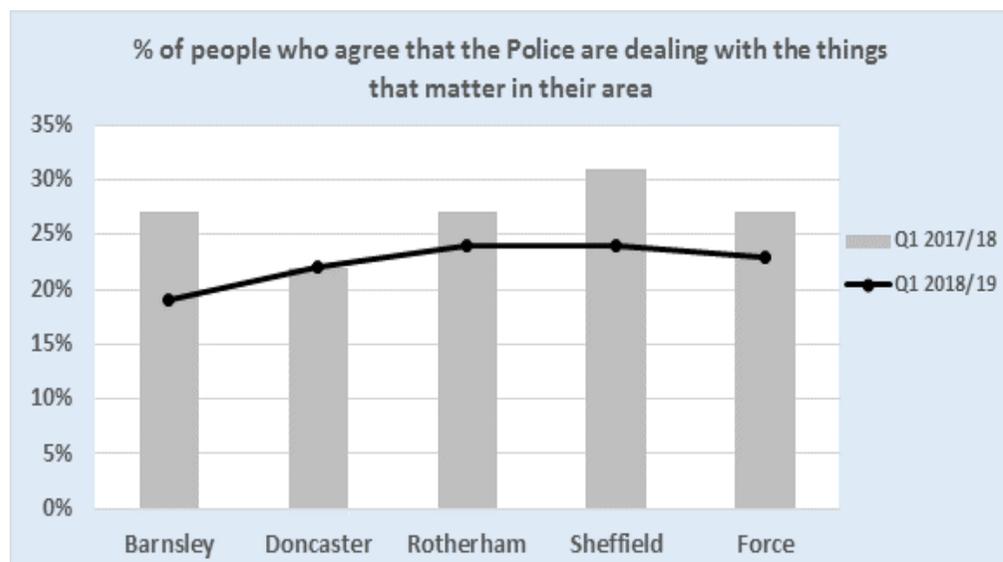
% of people who are very or fairly confident that the Criminal Justice System is fair.



Source: SYP Your Voice Counts Survey

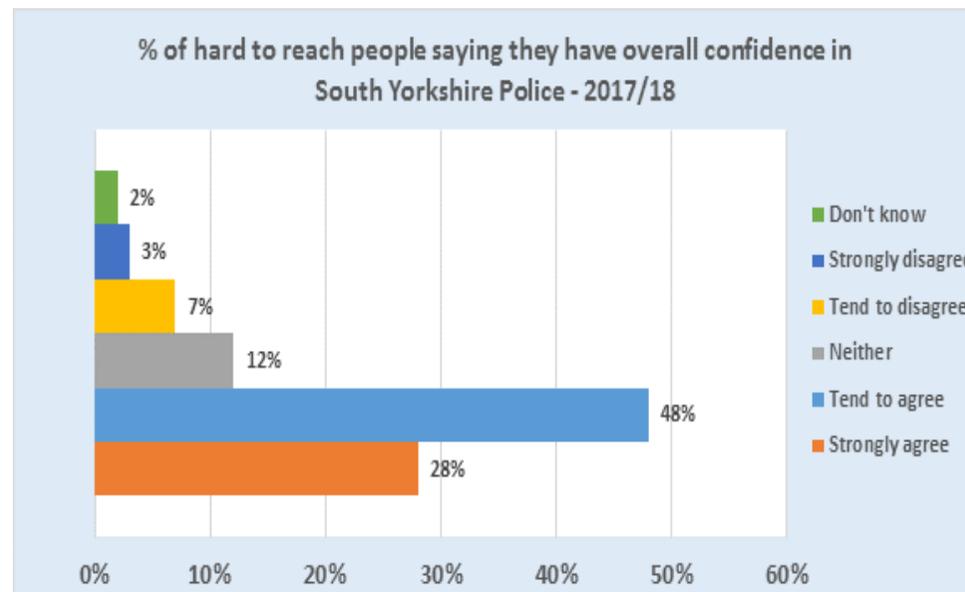
The trend for people who are fairly or very confident that the criminal justice system is fair is mirroring the effectiveness results, with an increase during the past two years but now showing a slight downward trend from the end of 2017/18.

2. Trust and Confidence in Services



Source: SYP Victim satisfaction survey

There has been a reduction in the amount of people who think that the police are dealing with things that matter in their area in Q1 of 2018/19 compared to the same quarter the previous year.



Source: OPCC Baseline Survey

Around 75% of hard to reach people have overall confidence in South Yorkshire Police based on an extensive survey carried out at the end of last year.

2. Trust and Confidence in Services

PCC's Public Engagement

Supporting the work at the community and neighbourhood level and to ensure residents can have trust and confidence in services, the PCC and his office proactively look to understand current and emerging trends to prevent people from becoming victims of anti-social behaviour, crime and harm. The PCC and a small team of officers in the OPCC undertake as many engagement events in the community as possible to help get an understanding of the different communities in South Yorkshire and address their concerns.

Between July and September the Engagement Team have gathered the views of policing from over 2,000 people across the county. They have attended events ranging from meetings with tenants and residents groups to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) groups and business events to hosting a stall at the Rotherham Show, which saw them engaging with over 450 people over the course of the weekend.

Around the town centres there are still high levels of concern about people under the influence of drugs (namely Spice) and alcohol in Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield, which make people feel unsafe when using the town centres. The visibility of officers is raised at nearly all of the events with people consistently saying they want to see more officers patrolling areas to make them feel safe when they are out and about.

The team have been asking the public whether they believe the council tax money invested into policing is good value for money. Most people understand austerity and the need to raise the precept but they still want to see an improved police presence in their local areas.

The public have also been asked if they feel safe in the area where they live. Whilst most people do, there are still many who don't. The reasons given include lack of visibility of officers, people drinking and taking drugs, reports of crime and anti-social behaviour and closures of and reductions in public services and buildings.

Neighbourhood Policing

Neighbourhood Policing in South Yorkshire is also about working at the local level, engaging directly with the community. Neighbourhood policing continues to develop in South Yorkshire and each of the four districts are gaining an understanding of their neighbourhood provision and how it needs to be developed further to tackle community issues. Teams across all four districts are engaging with their local communities through attending community meetings, linking with Neighbourhood Watch, using Social Media and engaging with children and young people through schools and universities.

Barnsley: The Neighbourhood Policing Teams are becoming embedded in their local communities and there is positive feedback being received on their presence and impact. As a result of sustained reductions in certain types of crimes and incidents that have been delivered by Neighbourhood Policing, some modest realignment of resources has been able to take place, leading to the creation of a further Neighbourhood Policing Team and the reopening of Cudworth Police Station as a Neighbourhood base.

Doncaster: In order to better deal with the issues relating to the new psychoactive substance known as 'Spice', there is now a joint operational base in the Town Centre as well as a new tutor unit at College Road which will not only improve the training and development of our student officers but also create additional capacity and visibility within the town centre. In the 6 weeks up to the end of September, officers from the team combined with officers from Doncaster response teams, have conducted a total of 5290 hours patrols in the Doncaster Town Centre area.

Rotherham: A key aim of the Rotherham Neighbourhood Policing Teams is to embed a culture of problem-solving and being victim-focussed. One area of focus within this is dealing with people who go missing from home. In recent years, we dedicated an officer to finding those missing which was efficient but reactive. Now the officer takes a more preventative approach and is focussed on working early with those at risk to understand their circumstances and reasons they might want to leave home. The officer works closely with our partners to work to reduce the likelihood of going missing again and to reduce

2. Trust and Confidence in Services

the risks when they do. Problem solving in this way is beginning to have an impact with a reduction in repeat occasions of people missing from home.

Sheffield: With increasing numbers of homeless on the city centre streets with high proportions of drug and alcohol dependency, the Central Neighbourhood Team have been working with partners, police staff and support workers speaking with every individual, seeking to provide accommodation, food and help with their individual needs. The South East team's priority has been to work with partners to reduce harm caused by gang and drug activity in the Manor and Arbourthorne areas. This has involved reassuring the community, proactively executing warrants and recovering weapons.

Grant funding

To support and empower local groups to assist in tackling local issues the PCC created the Community Grant Fund. The scheme runs throughout the year, with a Grants Panel meeting regularly to consider applications. Funding for the scheme for 2018/19 is £150,000.

The OPCC gathers monitoring information from each of the grants awarded and has a process in place to audit a sample of funded projects to ensure there is evidence of expenditure as per the project application.

As part of this budget the PCC provides funding to the Barnsley Chronicle and Rotherham Advertiser with which to administer a 'micro-grant' scheme. This enables small grass roots groups to bid for a maximum of £1,000, the intention being to encourage bids from areas which historically did not submit many applications to the PCC scheme. An officer from the OPCC is involved in the micro-grant arrangements.

Up to the 26th September grant funding has been awarded to 13 organisations totalling just over £47,000. Micro grants have been awarded to 21 groups totalling just under £8,000.

The last panel met on 27th September to decide on further grant awards but the work on this is not yet finalised.

Details of the application process for grants is on the OPCC website: <http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/About/Grants-Information.aspx>

The Police Workforce

As well as actively engaging with their communities, South Yorkshire Police is helping to create a culture of listening, learning and embracing constructive challenge within the workforce.

In the last report we highlighted the ways that staff can engage with the Force. There is currently a review being undertaken of all the engagement mechanisms to ensure they are relevant. There is also a new staff survey being launched in November together with a "you say, we did" campaign to highlight progress against staff survey outcomes.

In its continued focus on the health and wellbeing of its workforce, a "Well Together Plan on a Page" has been produced which summarises the Force's strategy on how it will prioritise wellbeing to help people stay healthy, feel motivated, be more satisfied at work and have a better work life balance. This is aimed at ensuring the workforce is able to provide an excellent service to local communities.

2. Trust and Confidence in Services

Transparency and Scrutiny

Ensuring the police and criminal justice partners are delivering against the priorities, objectives and outcomes set out in the Police and Crime Plan is a key responsibility for the PCC. Some of the ways that the PCC does this are outlined below:

Monthly Public Accountability Board meetings - 6 held between Apr & Sept.

- An opportunity for the PCC and members of the public to question the Chief Constable and his team.

Quarterly Joint Independent Audit Committee meetings – 2 held since April.

- Focussing on governance and risk management – exception reports to the Public Accountability Board meetings.

Independent Ethics Panel – 3 meetings held since April

- Set up by the PCC and providing independent challenge and assurance around integrity, standards and ethics of decision-making in policing.

Weekly one to one meetings with the Chief Constable

- To ensure regular communication to discuss strategic matters and current issues.

Independent Advisory Panel for Minority Communities – 2 meetings held between April and September.

- A new panel which met for the first time in July and allows as many diverse communities as possible can put forward their views on police and crime issues.

Independent Advisory Panel for Policing Protest – 2 meetings held between April and October.

- Convened as and when a protest occurs in South Yorkshire and the PCC and Chief Constable believe that panel could add value.

Police and Crime Panel – 4 meetings held between April and September

- Where elected members from each of the 4 Local Authorities across South Yorkshire scrutinise and support the PCC.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme – 70 visits undertaken between April and September.

- OPCC run scheme where volunteers visit unannounced to check that those being held in custody are being treated properly.

Decision Log – 16 decisions made and published on the website since April.

- In line with the Decision Making Framework, decisions made by the PCC and the OPCC of significant public interest are published on the OPCC website.

Refreshed Joint Corporate Governance Framework

- Making sure the PCC and Chief Constable conduct business correctly in line with the statutory framework.

3. Serious & Organised Crime

Police forces carry the responsibility for tackling a wide range of threats, risks and harm in order to reduce crime and keep the public safe. Whilst it is up to individual chief constables to respond to the local policing need in each force area some crime types are of such magnitude that they can only be appropriately addressed by forces acting together.

Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking

A key example of this is in relation to Modern Slavery or Human Trafficking.

Someone is affected if they are:

- forced to work through mental or physical threat;
- owned or controlled by an “employer”, usually through mental or physical abuse;
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as ‘property’ or
- physically constrained or has restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

South Yorkshire Police’s Modern Slavery team focuses on:

- intelligence development;
- victim engagement to identify and safeguard victims of trafficking;
- identifying organised crime groups (OCGs) displaying this type of criminality and
- awareness raising.

South Yorkshire Police also have a Vulnerabilities investigation team which targets and disrupts OCG activity through serious and organised crime investigation.

165 pieces of intelligence have been received into South Yorkshire Police relating to modern slavery or trafficking. The National referral mechanism provides support for victims of trafficking. Since January 2018, 96 potential victims of trafficking have been entered into the referral system. In South Yorkshire 52 are victims of offences that have occurred in our area. The remaining 44 are victims from outside the UK or from other force areas.

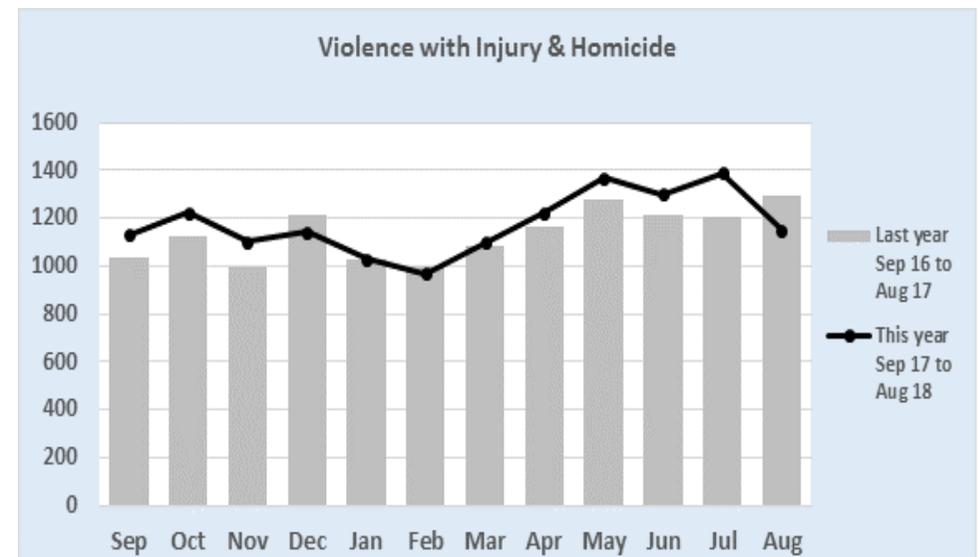
The victims report all differing types of exploitation but the predominant types are trafficking for:

- sexual exploitation;
- labour exploitation and
- criminal activity.

Strong partnership links are in place between statutory partners, third sector groups and charities and an operational anti-slavery practitioners group is run quarterly. Plans are in place to develop a countywide strategic anti-trafficking network in the next few months.

Targeted proactive operations are regularly carried out to tackle this criminality with both a national and local focus. In particular recent operations have focussed on the use of adult service websites in facilitating trafficking or sexual exploitation and child trafficking.

Tackling Violent Crime



3. Serious & Organised Crime

Last time we reported on an increasing trend across England and Wales in crimes categorised as “Violence against the person” over the past 12 months. South Yorkshire recorded an increase at the start of this year in crimes involving violence with injury and homicide (the black line on the chart). Since May, the increase has shown signs of levelling off and is showing some fluctuation.

The PCC is working with the Chief Constable and partners to help tackle these crimes and provide reassurance to the communities affected, including identifying and disrupting organised crime groups and working collaboratively with other forces.

As part of this work, the police launched their Knife Crime Strategy in September which sets out how they intend to tackle knife crime across South Yorkshire working closely with partners both in the public and private sector and with charities and third sector organisations. Operation Fortify was launched in August which brings together a co-located multiagency team who co-ordinate and monitor activity to tackle serious and violent crime across Sheffield. It is the team’s responsibility to make sure active steps are taken to target, disrupt and prosecute individuals involved in this type of crime.

In addition, the Government is making £22m available over 2 years to police and crime commissioners to submit partnership bids to prevent and tackle serious violence in the form of an Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF). The EIYF is open to police and crime commissioners as lead bidders and PCCs must work with Community Safety Partnerships (or similar local partnerships) to bid for funding to support targeted early intervention and prevention activity with young people (and in some instances young adults). In South Yorkshire, two bids have been submitted totalling just over £1.2m over two years. The Government will announce successful bids at the end of November.

Tackling Fraud

Action Fraud is the UK’s national fraud and internet crime reporting centre. On a monthly basis it provides forces with a list of victims within their community that have been subject to fraud, identifying those that have self-defined as vulnerable. Operation Signature supports those vulnerable victims of fraud in

South Yorkshire, including risk assessing those referrals to make sure vulnerable victims are protected and safeguarding them from being targeted for further offences in future.

Between January and July 2018, the Force has received 2542 referrals from Action Fraud, with 906 being supported through Operation Signature criteria.

Victims who are identified as potentially being vulnerable to repeat offending are visited by Neighbourhood Team PCSOs with the most vulnerable victims being visited by the Financial PROTECT officer who will provide crime reduction advice and referrals to partners, if appropriate.

The financial PROTECT officer also organises events within the community and works with partners to proactively promote crime reduction, particularly focusing on fraud offences where the elderly are targeted.

South Yorkshire Police has also recently employed nine civilian Financial Investigators, who will be based both centrally and within districts. One of the core roles of the investigators will be to provide resilience to investigate suspicious financial activity. Once embedded, they will perform research to identify the laundering of money by criminals and their associates.

Working together

Tackling serious and organised crime requires a joint approach between police forces. The newly constituted North East (seven force areas) Transformation, Innovation and Collaboration Programme (‘NETIC’) was established during 2017/18 with an overarching aim:

“To deliver transformational collaborative policing across the NE Region by maximizing the design and delivery of Strategic Policing Capabilities, and identifying new themes and functions to amplify the collaborative approach to address threats, risk and harm.”

One of the new areas for collaboration agreed was the forces’ response to tackling cyber crime.

3. Serious and Organised Crime

Prisons

Last quarter we reported on the setting up of a Prison's Partnership Board to tackle the demand of crime referrals coming from the South Yorkshire prisons, all based in Doncaster District. The Board has held its first meeting and now includes all key stakeholders. There is much to be accomplished by working closer together and this will be an important element in better understand demands, set realistic partnership objectives and ascertain where there are opportunities for improvement. As an example, Doncaster District has sought funding from the prisons in order to recruit additional Civilian Investigators, with HMP Marshgate being the first to support this initiative, with others interested.

The Prisons have also agreed to have a number of their prison officers trained in basic crime scene management and statement taking, which will significantly increase our capability and capacity to manage crimes effectively. The Crime Training department is developing a course for Prison Officers, which is likely to take place in December 2018.

Doncaster District has increased its proactive operations involving the prisons, with Neighbourhood Policing Teams conducting Op Gartley/Visitor operations. Additionally, the District Tasking Teams are undertaking operations to defend the prison perimeters. Excellent links have been forged with Prison Intelligence Officers and the Regional Prison Team to ensure operations are intelligence led wherever possible.

4. Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money

Outcomes

Demonstrating the delivery of efficient and effective services that meet the policing and crime needs of South Yorkshire, pooling funding where a better service to the public would be achieved.

The PCC receives assurances regarding the delivery of an efficient and effective policing service from the activity and reporting of HMICRS. He is also guided by the views of internal and external audit, the Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) and more widely the public of South Yorkshire. However, discussions are planned with Force colleagues on whether there are any gaps in both the Force's delivery of these outcomes and in the OPCC's arrangements to monitor delivery.

HMICFRS expressed a cause for concern as part of its PEEL inspection programme (efficiency) in November 2016 relating to the absence of a comprehensive workforce plan and understanding of the force's workforce capability and capacity. Following a further review in September, the HMICFRS has signed off this cause for concern and are now satisfied with the force's progress in this area. HMICFRS still have one area requiring improvement around workforce relating to the Force's understanding of the future gaps in capacity and capability.

The PCC has oversight of the Force's change programme and scheduled into this programme is a review of enabling services. Terms of reference for this review have been drafted with the aim of ensuring Force enabling services work as efficiently and effectively as possible thereby improving the productivity of the Force as a whole and those individuals working within it.

Understanding current and future demand on police and partners, acknowledging the effect savings plans may have upon each other, to enable comprehensive workforce planning.

The PCC notes HMICFRS's recent view of that the Force understands its current demand and knows what it needs to do to match resources to meet that demand.

South Yorkshire Police's Business Change and Innovation Team is working hard to develop new approaches to understanding future demand. Much progress has been made but there is still some way to go. This is common across most forces. The National Audit Office recently published its report 'Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales' where it criticised the Home Office for the lack of a long-term plan for policing and significant gaps remain in its understanding of demand for police services and their costs.

Ensuring financial planning is fully integrated in strategic planning and decision-making.

As part of the 2016 PEEL efficiency inspection HMICFRS identified a cause for concern in relation to the Force's planning for the future and the absence of a coherent set of future plans that link the financial plans to the workforce plans, coupled with not yet a complete understanding of future demand or workforce requirements.

The Force has introduced a Strategic Resourcing Board to help facilitate a more joined up approach to planning and the PCC chairs a Planning and Efficiency Group with the CC, and key senior leaders from the Force and OPCC, to drive forward and oversee strategic planning and decision-making.

The Chief Constable will be providing the PCC with details of his policing model proposals and required budget for 2019/20 this month. This information will then be used by the PCC to consult members of the public on the level of the council tax precept.

Delivering an Estates Strategy that is aimed at maximising and making best use of the wider public estate, taking advantage of opportunities to share premises whenever appropriate to do so.

An Estates Board has been established to oversee, champion and review the implementation of the Estates Strategy 2015-2020 and subsequent iterations. This is seen as the cornerstone of robust strategic asset management for both land and buildings. A first draft of the Estates Strategy will be discussed at the December Board meeting.

4. Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money

The Board will soon be supported by the formation of an Implementation Group which will oversee the day to day delivery of the Estates Strategy, including management and capital works.

Building on the success of the ongoing collaboration between South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, a new Joint Head of Estates and Facilities Management was appointed earlier this year.

The new department head will oversee estates and facilities within both organisations, helping to progress our collaboration under a shared strategy.

Reporting regularly on successful delivery of agreed savings plans and the capital programme.

JAC provides the PCC with assurance in relation to the delivery of agreed savings plans and the capital programme. Regular exception reports on the work of JAC are provided to the Public Accountability Board.

Working with Regional Procurement to drive down Force spend and produce savings.

The Force reported to this Public Accountability Board in July that a Regional Yorkshire and Humber Procurement Team was established in 2012. The four forces currently spend in excess of £220 million per annum on goods and services. The Procurement Strategy sets out the commitment to achieve value for money for the public purse through all procurement and commissioning activity, in order to both protect frontline services and support a sustainable economic environment.

Focus for the future will be to understand how procurement activity has managed / will manage to drive down Force expenditure.

Improving individual and service area productivity by focussing on wellbeing, working smarter, and equipping officers and staff with the right training, equipment and technology.

The PCC has historically invested in new technology to help support the productivity of the Force. New major IT systems have been / or are due to be

implemented. These coupled with a major change programme have presented challenges for staff and officers.

Recognising the wellbeing of its workforce is key to an effective and productive organisation. The Force has set up a Health and Wellbeing Board and a "Supporting Positive Culture Project" has been commissioned by the PCC with the support of the Chief Constable, which is due to report its findings at the end of this year. The project aims to support the Force in ensuring the organisation is one where people are confident to engage with the public, partners and own workforce in a mutual and respectful way.

Promoting sustainability through the Sustainability Strategy 2016-2020.

At the July meeting the PCC was informed of the positive work by the Force in implementing the Sustainability Strategy. Examples include:

- installing green energy technology to reduce carbon emissions and save money;
- managing the Force's carbon emissions to reduce its carbon footprint. The Force has exceeded its carbon reduction target of 41% (based on 2009/10 baseline);
- supporting and launching alternative staff travel initiatives to promote health and wellbeing and reduce CO2 emissions and
- continuing to run a fleet of ten Vauxhall Amperas, trialling Nissan Leaf vans and hybrid vehicles and planning to procure additional electric vehicles to reduce emissions and improve the Fleet's efficiency.

4. Efficiency, Effectiveness and Value for Money

Financial Position

The current high level financial position for the OPCC and the Force is as follows:

Revenue budget:

- OPCC forecast is £35k underspend. The Commissioning and Partnership budget is forecast to be on budget.
- The Force is forecasting a £5.3m underspend, before the costs of legacy issues and the allocation to reserves for fracking and transitional costs. Within this, the Force is forecasting full delivery of the £6.1m savings plans (with £5.3m already delivered).
- Legacy Costs are forecast to be £2.8m underspent, largely due to the timing of the Hillsborough civil claims now expected to impact in later years, the change in the calculation method for child sexual exploitation civil claims and the updated forecast from the National Crime Agency with regards to Operation Stovewood.

Capital budget:

- Budget is £18.6m with a forecast outturn of £15.4m due to slippage (£1.7m, underspends (£1.6m) and overspends (£0.17m).