

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR POLICING.

Police and Crime Commissioners are required to provide a statement on the contribution of their force to achieving improvements against the national priorities for policing. This is the latest statement dated (August 2021). In line with publication guidance, this includes:

- Reflections on force performance and how the force has contributed towards the delivery of the national measures, including contextual information that might help explain that contribution
- A summary of planned action for the next quarter to drive the force's performance against applicable measures

The key national policing priorities are:

- Reduce murder and other homicide
- Reduce serious violence
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines
- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Improve victim satisfaction with a focus on victims of domestic abuse
- Tackle cyber crime

This statement will be refreshed quarterly.

Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

HO Crime codes and description:

0010	<i>Murder</i>
0041	<i>Manslaughter</i>
0042	<i>Infanticide</i>
00410	<i>Corporate Manslaughter</i>

Recorded crime levels

The volume of Homicides in South Yorkshire has increased in recent years. Volumes from April 2017 to April 2021 are shown with a peak of 5 homicides in May 2019.



Latest month volume of 2 homicides in April 2021. 17 homicides were recorded in the 12 months ending April 2021, with a current rate of homicides per 1000 population on a par with peer forces.

Force response to homicides

The force’s Major Crime Unit deals with all homicide offences. Resourcing is prioritised for homicides. Investigations can be lengthy and involve the support of many officers and staff across the organisation. Homicide offences are often linked to either Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) activity or domestic-related offending; these areas constitute the focus of our homicide prevention activity.

OCG links - Information on the work being undertaken to address armed criminality and OCG delivery (which links to the homicide volumes) is reported under **Reduce Serious Violence**.

Domestic homicides - The force’s Serious Case Review team identify any case fitting the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review, and brings them to the attention of the Local Authority. The team complete a report covering police activity and ensure that learning is disseminated to relevant staff, supporting future prevention.

The force has a positive action approach to Domestic Abuse (DA) with an arrest rate above 50%. DA Matters training was provided to over 1600 front line officers and staff in 2020/21. This included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability to support intervention. A network of DA champions is now in place across the organisation, to support ongoing local delivery.

The force’s Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment team review all DA incidents providing a specialist secondary review of the initial risk assessment, and through research identify any high-risk behaviours such as coercive control, stalking and harassment and recent separation, sometimes seen to be precursors to domestic homicides.

High risk cases are referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which delivers information-sharing, safety planning for victims and their children, and manages behaviour of perpetrators. The force-wide Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meeting focusses on repeat perpetrator behaviour through engagement or enforcement.

Prevention solutions are available to protect DA victims including Tecos phones, SmartWater forensic marking, and the force has submitted a Home Office bid for Buddi Tags which can be monitored via GPS. Civil Orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Stalking Protection Orders are used to good effect to protect victims, supported by a dedicated DVPO team. District-based DA teams provide consistency of quality investigations for all high-risk DA crimes.

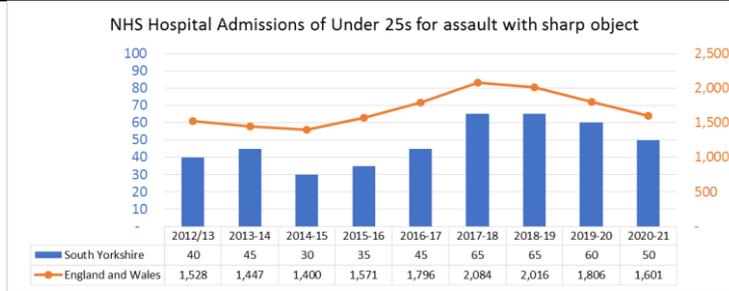
Ongoing focus: Force Lead Supt Ian Scott

- A new DA perpetrator programme (Sept 2021) has been commissioned in partnership with the four local authorities and the OPCC. Doncaster Council is the lead commissioner and contract holder. The programme works to educate DA offenders about the impact of the abuse and persuade them to change their behaviour. It is a requirement of the contract that the provider achieves Respect accreditation in the first twelve months.
- Working with The Crown Prosecution Service, Courts and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service to improve court outcomes as part of the national DA Best Practice Framework
- Implementing the provisions of the new DA Act
- Implementing any recommendations from the academic study into Domestic Homicide conducted by the National Police Chief’s Council lead and the Home Office

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence

- NHS hospital admissions data for under 25 year olds for assault with a sharp object; and
- Police recorded crime data on offences involving the discharge of a lethal barrelled firearm

Recorded levels



Reductions seen in the last 2 years for Under 25 year old admissions to hospitals for assault with sharp object, aligned with a national reduction. Work is ongoing to obtain a regular local dataset.

Firearm discharges have reduced force-wide since Jan 2020. Jan – Jun 2021 recorded 25% reduction in discharges compared to the same period in 2020. In Sheffield, where much of the proactive enforcement has taken place – the force has seen a 41% reduction over the same period. Internally, Knife Crime and Most Serious Violence (MSV) datasets are also reviewed to support understanding and focus activity.

Force response to reducing serious violence

The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception. Clear interdependencies exist with the following:

- GRIP funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis)
- Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity)
- Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)

The Serious Violent Crime Tasking Team undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality and reduce knife-crime offending. Local policing teams and specialist teams such as licensing also operate in response to violent offences, and proactively work to reduce night-time economy offending. Profiles have been delivered to understand the impact of Covid on demand and resourcing needs. The GRIP team will also work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective.

The National Problem Solving and Crime Prevention Team is based in South Yorkshire Police, with a focus of events around tackling serious violence, supporting a national repository. The force engages fully to learn from this beneficial insight.

OCG threats are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force has undertaken mapping to establish the level of firearms capabilities across the OCGs residing in South Yorkshire.

Ongoing focus:

Force Leads: Supt Ian Proffitt (Armed Criminality)
Supt Colin McFarlane (Serious Violent Crime)

- A recent investigation of County Lines drug supply within Sheffield, involved over 120 officers & staff from the force, National County Lines Coordination Centre, National Crime Agency and ROCU. Enforcement was also supported by the local authority Community Safety, Adult Social Care, and Children's Services. There were 34 search warrants executed at addresses linked to suspected drug dealers, class A drugs, cash, and a viable firearm with ammunition seized. Work continues to support the progression of this and other investigations.
- Specific additional activity is in place to support a gun crime campaign (Crimestoppers) in August 2021, and a campaign to publicise the details of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019.
- Within the wider MSV area, Home Office funding of £1,004,500 has been allocated to South Yorkshire Police, a key support to delivering hotspot patrols. Violent crime datasets are analysed to determine small area location 'hotspots' (based on volumes analysis, harm understanding, intelligence, and expert knowledge). These areas are designated across South Yorkshire for foot patrol to deliver a 'visible guardian', providing deterrence and reassurance - supported through GPS software tracking and bespoke problem-solving plans. This work will continue in Q3 and Q4 2021/22.
- The work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is reported to OPCC under separate governance. Work in 2021/22 supports the delivery of commissioned interventions such as Plan B custody navigators, Hospital Navigators, and the re-launch of Trauma Informed Training and Mentors in Violence Protection.
- The VRU funding programme theme for the forthcoming year is 'young people', with 83 applications requesting over £1.3 million in funding (£190,000 funding available). Following a grant review panel, 13 applications were successful, with the aim of starting the projects in the coming weeks.

Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homicide in England and Wales (ONS) data on drug related homicides. • Substance misuse treatment for adults (PHE) data on new presentations to treatment by referral type. 	
Recorded crime levels	<p>ONS dataset shows the proportion of homicide victims and suspects that were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the homicide. The force submits all homicide reports to the Home Office, and the reports include notification of those identified to be drug related. This is captured by the officer in the case with the information known at the point of submission. This dataset is not captured in an automated way and the force is looking to review the datasets to assess a baseline for delivery.</p> <p>Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces. Suitable proxy measures are currently being considered.</p>
Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines	<p>Whilst datasets linked to drugs are being reviewed, the focus remains for the force in the disruption of drugs supply and county lines. The force worked to significantly increase drug expert witness capability, providing greater support to drug-related prosecutions, and assisting the process through the criminal justice system. Operational activity links to the work of the Armed Crime Team and district Fortify Teams with a high proportion of mapped OCGs primarily linked to drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines are monitored (<i>Reduce Serious Violence</i> section).</p> <p>A key challenge in tackling the criminality associated with County Lines activity (often linked to drugs), is understanding the nature and scale of activity. As a result, the force works with partners to raise awareness across the communities; proactively engage with young people who may be vulnerable for targeting by offenders; supporting those who have been victims of exploitation; and investigating and charging offenders with their criminal acts.</p> <p>A quarterly countywide Child Exploitation Group (incorporating County Lines activity) continues to evolve to improve partnership working and information sharing, along with highlighting best practice and addressing any operational issues. The National Police Chief's Council Vulnerability Tracker is fully embedded across the force and utilised within MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meetings. This support the identification of victims for both CSE and CCE, providing a risk score and profile. District PVP teams locally conduct regular MACE meetings, and all Districts have either have a dedicated child exploitation team based within a multi-agency setting or dedicated local lead who works closely with partnership counterparts.</p> <p>In addition to submitting safeguarding referrals, partners also play a key role in prevention work, for example through drug awareness education or through deferring children from youth violence. The work of the Violence Reduction Unit supports the delivery of some commissioned interventions, and the force works with to refer individuals for substance misuse programmes, under schemes such as the Custody Navigator programme, and Liaison and Diversion. Additionally, the force and OPCC are working with Local Authority substance misuse commissioners to develop a conditional caution referral pathway for offenders.</p>
<p>Ongoing focus: Force Leads: Supt Becs Horsfall (SOC) DCI Emma Wheatcroft (CCE and County Lines), DCI Paul Murphy (Drugs markets)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The force Drug Network Focus Group now meets quarterly to update and adapt current working strategies based on the current trends, for example, such as the effect of the drugs market during the pandemic. • Work is ongoing with the University of Sheffield to look at an evidenced-based approach to early intervention / prevention. The force lead is also working with the national lead around project ADDER (prevention) and national best practice in the Metropolitan police for drugs focus teams. These teams undertake specific target enforcement and this approach is being scoped currently for potential investment within the force. • In raising awareness of County Lines, the force is developing a new vulnerability awareness campaign later in 2021, focussed on CSE/CSA and CCE. This follows partnership 'Intelligence training' which took place in May 2021, to increase the submission of partnership intelligence, supporting the development and understanding of the criminal recruitment of children linked to CCE. Monitoring of intelligence will support an understanding of the effectiveness of the partnership work in the coming months. • The force is also working with partners to have an intervention ability through youth offending to speak to young persons in custody for immediate safeguarding to be identified. This is a bespoke intervention put in place whilst in custody, allowing early support to any victims of CCE. A trial of this programme is scheduled. 	

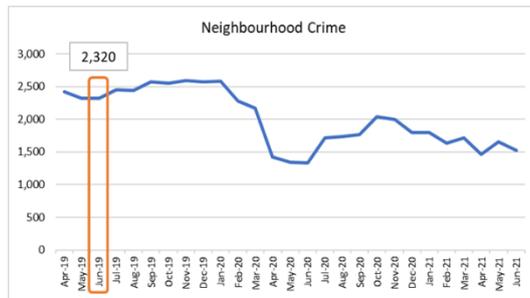
Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime

- **Combined measure of Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data on domestic burglary, robbery, theft of a vehicle, theft from a vehicle, attempts of and from vehicles and theft from the person offences.**

Recorded crime levels

Currently there is no reportable measure within CSEW. Pre-pandemic, neighbourhood crime reported within the CSEW was falling. The survey to March 2020 reported that the *percentage of adults in South Yorkshire who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime are 4% and 11% respectively* – this was aligned with the national picture.

Since June 2019, reductions in recorded crime volumes have been seen in Residential Burglary, Robbery, Theft from Vehicle, Theft from Person, and stable rates of Theft of Vehicle offences.



Some reductions had pre-dated reductions recorded in neighbourhood crime during lockdown. Levels are expected to fluctuate in coming months with the further easing of restrictions.

Despite reductions, the force currently records a higher rate of Residential Burglary, Robbery and Theft from / Of Vehicle than peer forces, and a lower rate of Theft from Person offences.

Force response to reducing neighbourhood crime

Prevention activity undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) is the backbone for long-term delivery of crime reduction. The force has identified wards with the highest rates of neighbourhood crime. The NPTs will apply an evidence-based policing approach to develop local problem-solving plans for these areas. Bespoke neighbourhood policing training has been developed for NPT officers; the first force to achieve officer accreditation by Skills 4 Justice. Intelligence Analysts produce bi-weekly patrol plans for each district, using crime and incident records, incoming intelligence, and analytical profiling to review the modus operandi of the latest burglary reports, support local officer awareness, investigative consideration, target-hardening activity and public-facing crime prevention messaging. Prior neighbourhood crime offenders under imminent prison release are also notified to local officers.

The force delivers relevant media campaigns for emerging neighbourhood criminality (e.g pet theft, keyless vehicle theft, 2in1 burglaries), to ensure the public is alert to any local themes of criminality, and where possible undertaking preventative action.

The force lead has developed a plan and checklist for all frontline officers attending scenes of burglary, to support the quality of the initial investigative response, to increase the potential of suspect identification, and further action being taken. Frontline training has focussed on the importance of the scene attendance process.

A TreadMatch digital application has been launched to improve the identification of offender footwear impressions. Linking 'live-time' to the National Footwear Database, this maximises forensic opportunities whilst persons are in custody.

As a result of the development of NPT structures and investigative focus, the force is in a strong position to focus on the continued delivery of reductions in neighbourhood crime.

Ongoing focus: **Force Leads: Supt Mark James (Neighbourhood Policing) DCI Jamie Henderson (Serious Acquisitive Crime)**

- SmartWater (www.smartwater.com), have supported the Force to forensically mark Catalytic Convertors on vehicles - 280 hits have been distributed to mark vulnerable vehicles, based on the intelligence picture. Funding has also been granted to purchase and roll out forensic marking kits to other specifically funded areas.
- The force is also working with SmartWater to refresh Operation Shield, the force's response to burglary. Prior to the pandemic, over 7,100 homes were protected through forensic marking. The force will continue to use this tactic, to increase awareness of crime prevention, and deter offending in hotspot areas. Working closely with SmartWater, the force is looking to develop greater understanding of the effectiveness of the operation.
- Operational/Investigative work is continuing following the discovery of a significant 'chop-shop' with parts from over 70 stolen vehicles (Transit vans) identified.
- Benchmarking with peer forces is currently underway to understand the areas of good practice in supporting action taken outcomes. Plans are due to be reported to Force Performance Day in Oct 21.

Measure: Improve satisfaction among victims, with a particular focus on victims of DA

- Satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse (CSEW)
- Victim satisfaction with the police (CSEW)

Recorded satisfaction levels	There is no local comparison available against a national measure, but the force has locally invested to undertake victim feedback surveys to support an understanding of service delivery. In the 12 months to May 2021, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is 79% for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 80% for local victims of Domestic Abuse.
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	<p>South Yorkshire Police works alongside OPCC to deliver a victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. Whilst the force usually receives positive feedback for the initial response to incidents, and treatment of victims by officers, the main areas for improvement are in the updating of victims by officer and keeping victims informed of their investigation progress.</p> <p>Compliance against the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP), including an assessment of the force’s delivery of enhanced service where appropriate, and delivery of the communications plan is coordinated through the Complete Victim Care (CVC) Strategic Group.</p> <p>The group includes senior representatives from all partner agencies that can impact on a victim’s journey through the criminal justice process. This includes a member from each district command team, a representative from the force’s call handling centre, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Victim Support (provider of SY victim support services), Criminal Justice, and Remedi (Restorative Justice provider). The Chair reports directly into the Assistant Chief Constable with portfolio responsibility for Cohesion and Legitimacy. This structure ensures clear focus and direction for the force.</p> <p>To date the group has delivered a revised ‘VCOP on a page’ which details the key elements of VCOP in a user-friendly one page summary; amendments to the data dashboards to support the local understanding of those eligible for an enhanced service; a screensaver with the new ‘CARE’ mnemonic supporting messaging internally; a new Inspector Dip Sampling template which now covers more qualitative aspects around follow up (results from dip samples are discussed at the Complete Victim Care group); and delivery of presentations within supervisor Away Days and Performance Meetings</p> <p>DA Matters training was provided to over 1600 front line officers and staff in 2020/21. This included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability to support intervention, supporting the victim service. A network of DA champions is now in place across the organisation, to support ongoing local delivery, and looking for ways to improve the service provided.</p> <p>Changes have also been made to the referrals process to minimise the possibility of victims wanting support who are might not be referred and to help identify vulnerability.</p>

Ongoing focus: Force Lead Ch Supt Steve Chapman (Victim Satisfaction): Emily Jager (Survey Manager)

- A performance framework has been developed to support tracking of key delivery areas, and the force’s use of the investigations management system to record compliance has been reviewed. Work is currently being undertaken to raise the awareness of the revised Victim’s Code of Practice (implemented on 01 April 2021), including links to victim satisfaction particularly in regards to follow up which relates to the quality of updates given to the victim.
- The National Victim & Witness Performance Sub-Group are working on developing a National Performance Framework to measure compliance against the Victim’s Code of Practice (VCOP), for which a current self-assessment piece requested by the Ministry of Justice will contribute. The force is currently undertaking this assessment against the ‘12 Rights’ within the Victim’s Code which will identify gaps and national good practice the organisation can learn from.
- Further materials continue to be developed including a guidance video on VCOP recording; videos featuring members of staff covering each of the 12 VCOP Rights; continued development of performance measures for VCOP; and strengthening the understanding of the link between VCOP delivery and to victim satisfaction.
- Work is also ongoing with the OPCC, and partners within the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (ISVA) and Sexual Assault Referral Centres, to ensure the appropriate referrals are being made and received. The force is also working closely with the OPCC on other service re-commissions to support victims.

Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public confidence in the law enforcement response to cybercrime (Cyber Aware Tracker) • Proportion of businesses experiencing a cyber breach or attack (Cyber Security Breaches Survey) 	
Recorded	<p>The datasets are not currently available at a local level. On a quarterly basis the force provides data returns to the region which feeds a national performance report to the NPCC Cybercrime Programme Board. These are currently being reviewed to provide potential proxy measures. Recorded cybercrime offences have continued to increase in recent years, with over 7000 offences recorded in 2020/21. The largest cybercrime categories are harassment and malicious communications (including domestic abuse), fraud and computer misuse, indecent images of children, and sexual communications with children, thus tackling this criminality is widespread across a number of operational areas.</p>
Force response to reducing cyber crime	<p>There is an increasing digital footprint within criminality and the force has taken steps to support officers in undertaking cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled investigations. Despite this, keeping pace with the rate of technological advancement adopted by offenders is a challenge. Cybercrime is a cross cutting theme within the force Control Strategy, and the approach to cybercrime mirrors the four strands of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy – Pursue, Protect, Prevent and Prepare. SYP has a dedicated Cyber Protect Officer who is responsible for supporting the delivery of the Protect strand in relation to cybercrime. This officer works extensively with local businesses and public groups to support prevention messaging, and circulating emerging issues across media platforms. Key to this work is the early intervention in place to deliver ‘cyber choices’ input for children considered to be at risk of cyber offending. The force has invested in a Digital Forensics Unit, digital evidence kiosks (available to officers across the organisation) and a Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit (specialises in the investigation of complex cyber-dependent offences). The Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit also works to support the wider Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU), the National Crime Agency, and other force Cyber Crime Units as required.</p> <p>Digital Media Investigators across the force work to support local officer knowledge and capability. Street Skills training, reaching all frontline response and NPT officers, includes cyber-crime input. The force has an internal intranet page dedicated to cybercrime to provide an information support for all officers. This includes the force’s Little Book of Cyber Scams, and links to the Met Police mini videos on various cyber scam topics.</p> <p>ISO 17025 is the international standard applicable for all laboratories performing calibrations and/or tests. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national body with responsibility for assessing organisations that provide these services. In 2019, SYP gained accreditation in the physical capture and preservation of data from computer related devices and in Autumn 2020 completed an extension to scope the capture and processing of data from mobile devices. The force recognises the need to continually improve the resources and training to respond to and prevent cybercrime, and is committed to continued investment in digitally capability.</p>
Ongoing focus:	<p style="text-align: right;">Force Lead DCI Claire Mayfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current emphasis for the next three months, is on the provision within the Digital Forensics Unit (DFU). As identified within the latest Force Management Statement, a comprehensive review is underway - structures, processes, technology and roles are all being reviewed to ensure that an optimum service is created. It is recognised that financial growth will be required, accommodated within the force’s financial plans, with significant investment planned over the next two years. • Over the next three months, the overarching Digital Investigations capability will be benchmarked against peer and regional forces. The review is expected to report in September 2021. • A greater emphasis on performance reporting within the unit is required and the DFU has been working to deliver an appropriate analytical product to support internal management and assurance processes, with oversight of this work given by the new thematic lead. • Currently the DFU is working towards accreditation for ISO 17020, the standard to cover the screening, capture, preservation or analysis of data at a scene. A target date for accreditation has been set for October 2022, but this is an ongoing, significant piece of work, to support the long-term capability of the force.

