

SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

10 JUNE 2021

PRESENT: Dr Alan Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner)
Michelle Buttery (Chief Executive & Solicitor)
Sophie Abbott (Chief Finance Officer)
Ellie Parkinson (Performance and Assurance Officer)
Kevin Wright (Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)
Lauren Poultney (Temporary Chief Constable)
Tim Forber (Temporary Deputy Chief Constable)
David Hartley (Assistant Chief Constable)
Alison Fletcher (Office Manager)
Carrie Goodwin (Head of Corporate Communications)
Sarah Poolman (Acting Assistant Chief Constable)
Melanie Palin (Chief Superintendent, Doncaster)
Shelley Hemsley (Temporary Chief Superintendent, Sheffield)
Nancy Byrne (Violence Reduction Unit)
Ann Macaskill (Interim Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel)
Steve Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)

APOLOGIES: E Redfearn, S Parkin and J Bland

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner welcomed those who had joined the meeting, including Councillor Knowles a member of the Police and Crime Panel, one member of the public and one member of the press.

2 **VIDEO CONFERENCING AND RECORDING**

The Commissioner confirmed that the meeting was being recorded and, subject to the quality being acceptable, would be published on the website.

3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commissioner confirmed that L Poultney is the preferred candidate to be the next Chief Constable of SYP. The decision will be presented to the Police and Crime Panel for endorsement on 11 June 2021.

South Yorkshire is to receive £850,000 from the Safer Streets Fund. This represents an award of £432,000 for Sheffield and £418,000 for the Dearne Valley.

In Sheffield, the funding will be used in the Ecclesall Road/Sharrow area to increase CCTV and ANPR (number plate recognition) coverage and for home security scheme to make properties safer.

In the Dearne Valley the funding will be used to increase CCTV and ANPR coverage and to engage with householders to help them make their homes safer, including using a product called 'Smartwater'.

The Commissioner acknowledged all the hard work undertaken in submitting the bids and thanked all those involved, including all four local authorities, SYP and staff from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Commissioner highlighted that a further round of funding is expected to be announced shortly. £25m is likely to be available nationally for projects to support violence against women and girls.

An announcement is expected early next week on funding to support serious violence (GRIP funding). SYP is expected to receive around £1m.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

6 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no items to be considered in the absence of the public and press.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 9 APRIL 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

9 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

396	The Commissioner's Office would establish if Sheffield City Council are considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the Page Hall area. 09/02/21 - The Commissioner has written to Cllr Johnson, the Leader of Sheffield City Council. Both the Commissioner and Chief Constable have met with Kate Josephs, the Chief Executive of Sheffield City Council. SYP and Sheffield City Council continue to liaise about this. The Chief Constable
-----	--

	<p>confirmed that whilst SYP would like a PSPO this needs to be part of a wider plan. 10/03/21 – The Commissioner and ACC T Forber are meeting with Cllr Wood and K Josephs next week. Ongoing 09/04/21 – T Forber confirmed that he had met with Cllr Paul Wood and Superintendent Simon Verrall earlier in the week. This is now going to the local authority’s legal department for them to take forward. 10/06/21 – T Forber confirmed that meetings are now taking place at an operational level to put this in place.</p>
410	<p>A breakdown of domestic abuse arrest rates by category would be provided in future district reports 10/06/21 – The Commissioner suggested this action be re worded to provide District Commanders to reflect the action required. T Forber confirmed that scrutiny on the different categories of domestic abuse does take place at District Performance Days. He highlighted that all domestic abuse is serious but categorisation has to take place due to the broad definition. Scrutiny take place around arrest rates and also the time taken to make an arrest. Data is available and can be provided. It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The action “A breakdown of domestic abuse arrest rates by category would be provided in future district reports” be reworded to: “A breakdown of domestic abuse arrest rates by risk category (High, Medium and Standard) would be provided in future district reports”
411	<p>A Boucher (Police Now) to attend a future PAB to see how she is progressing on the Police Now scheme. 10/06/21 – To come back in 6 months. DISCHARGED</p>

10 FORCE PERFORMANCE - DONCASTER DISTRICT SUMMARY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide a brief update in relation to local operationally based delivery of the Police and Crime Plan in Doncaster, in line with the reporting requirements.

The Commissioner thanked M Palin for the report.

The Commissioner highlighted the high demand in Doncaster, and the impact on staff. M Palin confirmed that there are some significant issues in Doncaster associated with organised criminality. She highlighted the long-standing challenges of organised criminality in Mexborough and Conisbrough, and the extensive work undertaken by the local neighbourhood team, with the police Fortify team and local partners to address these issues.

The Commissioner enquired about how SYP engage with local communities about the work being undertaken to tackle organised criminality. M Palin confirmed that the District had good relationships with local councillors and they keep them updated. There is a long standing local neighbourhood Inspector who has good

engagement with local communities. Community alerts are used to provide relevant information. Doncaster has also seen an increase in the number of people attending online Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings although, as lockdown eases, Doncaster is wanting to undertake more face to face engagement. PSCOs also have good relationships with local communities.

The Commissioner enquired about the localities model and the development of the Clear, Hold, Build approach to rebuilding communities. This approach is owned by local communities, and aims to provide a 'whole life' outcome, rather than just focusing on criminality.

T Forber commented that SYP had seen levels of confidence in the police increase during the Covid-19 period. He highlighted how neighbourhood policing teams have had to adapt quickly to engaging online via platforms such as social media and Facebook. Districts have been asked to identify lessons learnt and plans have been developed to build on the increase in confidence.

Organised criminality in Edlington is also challenging, although this is more sporadic. Two people are currently on remand following a firearms discharge.

The Commissioner highlighted that communities want to help, but are fearful of repercussions. M Palin confirmed work has taken place with Crimestoppers to address this. This is currently being evaluated.

The Commissioner highlighted the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) process. M Palin confirmed that the MATAC process has been introduced to focus on repeat offenders and their behaviour rather than providing support to victims. The partnership is currently working with 12 offenders. M Palin suggested an update on the impact of the MATAC be provided in the next Doncaster report.

T Forber confirmed the MARAC process was important to help reduce repeat offending.

The Commissioner referred to the co-location of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs). M Palin confirmed that, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, work had started to co-locate the IDVAs with the police domestic abuse team, and she was keen to continue with this co-location.

The Commissioner enquired about the Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) process. This involves utilising a nationally recognised scoring matrix to identify those children most at risk of child exploitation. Partnership work around the children is coordinated through the group, and vital intelligence and evidence shared. MACE also provides bespoke support and interventions. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in reporting of child exploitation as schools re-open and more face to face interaction takes place.

The Philomena protocol was raised. This relates to looked after children (LAC) who go missing. In 2019/2020, the percentage of young persons reported missing who were LAC was 53%, and in 2020/2021 it was 84%. These often relate to multiple missing episodes for individual children. This can be an indication of children becoming involved in exploitation. This protocol seeks to ensure that children are placed in locations that deliver the best outcomes for them, and also to ensure

appropriate sharing of information to ensure the swift return of the child to a place of safety.

The Commissioner highlighted the issue of speeding vehicles and road safety, and confirmed this is a big issue for local communities, particularly in places like Doncaster which have a large number of outlying villages. This is about people feeling safe and their perception. He enquired if the Roads Policing Unit are able to meet the public's need.

T Forber confirmed that the Roads Policing Unit focus on the strategic roads network. He acknowledged that local villages do not see the benefit of this. A more holistic approach is required, involving initiatives like Community Speed Watch. The Commissioner confirmed he was having conversations with the Safer Roads Partnership, and suggested this be revisited after the summer.

The Commissioner highlighted that Doncaster does have a rising serious violence problem, and enquired if Doncaster needs an Armed Crime Team (ACT) like Sheffield. M Palin confirmed that there is an increase, but the numbers are still relatively small. Whilst an ART would be beneficial, SYP has to prioritise its resources.

It was agreed that:

- **An update on the impact of the MATAC be provided in the next Doncaster report**
- **A report on speeding vehicles and road safety be brought to a future PAB after the summer**

11 FORCE PERFORMANCE - SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SUMMARY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide a brief update in relation to local operationally based delivery of the Police and Crime Plan in Sheffield, in line with the reporting requirements.

The Commissioner highlighted the recent enforcement activity which had taken place in Sheffield. S Hemsley confirmed that a successful operation had taken place following a six-month operation looking at county lines and disrupting organised crime in south Sheffield. The operation has been very successful, with 34 warrants issued; 19 people arrested; 4 people charged; £25,000 of cash, 6 vehicles, a firearm and Class A drugs seized. A vulnerable child was also safeguarded.

S Hemsley confirmed that the operation, which commenced in December 2020, was set-up as a direct response to firearms related incidents in the south of Sheffield. Officers from the SYP's dedicated Armed Crime Team and Operation Fortify come together to address the root cause of violent crime in the city. Fortify is South Yorkshire's overarching operation where police and partners come together to tackle organised crime.

The operation has been run in partnership with the National County Lines Coordination Centre, British Transport Police, Home Office, National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).

T Forber highlighted the large amount of time and work the operation had taken, which is unseen by the public. He confirmed the importance of reassuring the public that SYP do take drugs and safeguarding young people seriously.

The operation has increased SYP's knowledge of county lines.

T Forber thanked Sheffield City Council for their help in delivering the operation.

T Forber also thanked the National County Lines Coordination Centre, British Transport Police, Home Office, NCA and the ROCU. He confirmed that this work will continue.

The Commissioner acknowledged that members of the public do want to help, but are fearful of ramifications. T Forber confirmed that perpetrators rely on people being scared. SYP can protect people's identity, and do this all the time. He hoped that this demonstrates to local communities that the police are on their side and do act on their information.

The Commissioner thanked all the officers involved.

The Commissioner enquired about the coordinated work taking place to address county lines. S Hemsley highlighted the Amber Project, which aims to provide effective safeguarding solutions for children at risk of being criminally exploited. This is enhanced by the use of a MACE risk assessment tool, which informs discussions regarding safeguarding plans through the Sheffield Vulnerable Young Persons meeting.

The Commissioner highlighted the Sheffield Fortify partnership, with the South West Neighbourhood Policing team, and local schools in Nether Edge and Sharrow. S Hemsley confirmed that this is in its early stages. A new neighbourhood coordinator has started work, looking at diversionary activity to support enforcement action.

The Commissioner acknowledged the increase in investigation capacity in the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) teams, and enquired if this would increase the pressure in other areas. S Hemsley confirmed this is part of the uplift project. Resources are being allocated to Sheffield and Doncaster. There will be double the number of detective sergeants supervising the teams, and an increase in detective constables. This will provide more active supervision in a growing and complex area of work.

The Commissioner made reference to the Armed Crime Team and their involvement in the operation in Nether Edge and Sharrow.

The Commissioner highlighted the reduction in firearms discharges, and the increase in the number of firearms seized. This is not the perception of the public. S Hemsley confirmed that investigations have so far led to over 80 arrests linked to firearms offences, and the execution of over 30 search warrants and address searches, between January and April 2021. She acknowledged that the discharge of a firearm is alarming, but highlighted that the vast majority do not end up in injury. She hoped that the recent activity shows that SYP is making every effort to keep the public safe.

T Forber highlighted the importance of specialist units such as the ACT and Specialist Roads Policing, which are not always visible to the public.

The Commissioner acknowledged the drop in residential burglary and the introduction of the specialist team. He enquired if the reduction was as a result of this team. S Hemsley confirmed that it was. Between February and May 2021, there had been a reduction of 45%. The Commissioner enquired about the outcome rates. Between February and March, there had been an outcome rate of just under 10%, this was an increase of half. S Hemsley confirmed that she would like this to be higher.

The Commissioner highlighted the newly formed Page Hall and Shirecliffe team. S Hemsley confirmed that a lot of work is taking place. This area has one of the lowest crime levels in the North East Neighbourhood. Since January 2021, 66 suspects have been prosecuted for drug, assault and driving offences following victims making reports to the police. The team are dedicated to delivering a proactive service in this area, and have issued 275 motoring related tickets in their road safety campaign, 128 stop and searches for mainly drug misuse, 73 cars have been seized and 29 tickets issued to protect the community against the dangers of inconsiderate driving and drivers having no licence. The team have worked in collaboration with Sheffield City Council and Public Health England and have issued leaflets in various languages outlining the Covid19 guidance and restrictions. To help stop the spread of the disease, the team has issued 114 tickets for Covid19 breaches.

The Commissioner enquired about the pop-in police stations which are going to be hosted in schools during parents' evenings. S Hemsley confirmed that a number of teams are looking at how they can engage better with schools. One team has started to attend school gatherings, such as parents' evenings. The school has been very supportive, and has provided a room.

The Commissioner highlighted that he had been approached by a number of Councillors who would like early conversations about dark nights. S Hemsley acknowledged this and confirmed that they would be starting to look at diversionary activities and parental support for dark nights towards the end of the summer.

T Forber confirmed that there is a force lead and forcewide plan around dark nights. There will be a multi-agency approach.

The Commissioner thanked S Hemsley for the report.

12 FORCE PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017 - 2021 (RENEWED 2019) - PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress against the 'Protecting Vulnerable People' outcome of the Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021 in support of the Commissioner's overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn and work.

The Commissioner highlighted the number of acronyms in the report.

The Commissioner invited G Jones, the Head of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), to talk about a recent campaign launched by the VRU to encourage anyone

experiencing domestic abuse to access help and support. The campaign includes eight animations that cover domestic abuse stories of male towards female abuse, female towards male abuse, a gay man's story of abuse from his family, an example of economic/financial abuse, an honour based abuse scenario that also features forced marriage, a young person's story growing up in an abusive family, and one animation explaining what domestic abuse is and how it can happen to anyone.

All of the animations are hosted on YouTube. The aim of the campaign is to increase reporting and provide support.

T Forber highlighted the importance of obtaining an early arrest. This enables professional help to be put in place, and provides a gap in the cycle of abuse. Domestic Abuse Matters training makes sure officers understand this.

The Commissioner highlighted the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Gatekeeper. T Forber confirmed that there is a concern nationally that too many rape cases do not result in an outcome. This role provides a level of consistency in dealing with this type of crime.

The Commissioner confirmed that this is raised with him by a lot of groups locally. T Forber confirmed that stranger attacks are very rare. There are challenges around third party disclosures, and the use of social media and digital forensics. He confirmed that it is important to maintain one central team that has quality relationships with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). This helps to improve knowledge and learning. The team is absolutely committed to getting justice for victims.

The Commissioner highlighted the overarching Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Strategic Profile, and enquired if he could see this. He confirmed that CSE remains a priority for him and SYP.

T Forber confirmed that CSE investigations are an absolute priority for SYP. Where possible, proactive measures such as abduction notices are used and will continue to be used. He highlighted that the police cannot deal with this alone, and continue to maintain strategic and tactical partnerships with local authorities and private agencies.

The Commissioner highlighted the digital desk and online portal now available. T Forber confirmed that alternative communication is a challenge for SYP. Historically, people call when they have a problem and want to talk to someone. SYP will not be able to talk to people the way that private companies can, but they want to give people a range of options.

It was agreed that:

- **The Commissioner receive a copy of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Profile**

13 IEP EXCEPTION REPORT

A Macaskill presented the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) exception report.

As part of the new members induction programme, members are receiving briefings on key topics ahead of the meetings. A briefing was provided on Use of Force, followed by a report on the Use of Force within South Yorkshire Police for the period September 2020 until the end of March 2021 (Quarter 3 and 4). The Panel considered gender, ethnicity and the tactics used. Detailed information was also provided on two incidents where Use of Force had been used on two people under the age 11. The Panel was reassured that safeguarding arrangements are in place with partner agencies when incidents like these arise.

The Panel had expressed concern around the level of scrutiny being undertaken in relation to Stop and Search during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the interim period, the Panel had picked this up. T Forber confirmed he was keen for Body Worn Video to be used in the scrutiny of Stop and Search.

The Panel had undertaken scrutiny of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for Covid-19 breaches. The Panel had been impressed by the patience and professionalism of officers, and were able to provide assurance to the PCC around the process put in place to scrutinise FPNs.

A review of SYP's Internal Ethics Committee had taken place, and an independent chair has been appointed. An introductory meeting with the Committee took place on 4 April 2021. This included a training session by the IEP Chair. A further training session for new members is scheduled to take place prior to the next meeting. Further discussions are due to take place around how the IEP and SYP's Internal Ethics Committee work together.

New Panel members have now been allocated roles.

The Commissioner enquired how the new Panel was getting along. A Macaskill confirmed that some work was getting done outside of the meetings.

14 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Chief Executive and Solicitor was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide the Board with a record of key decisions taken by the Commissioner outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting.

M Buttery highlighted the following PCC decisions:

- Approved funding of £15,000 to expansion of the mini police initiative into a further 18 schools
- Formally accepted external funding from the Home Office of £1.4m for Covid-19 enforcement activities
- Approved the appointment of Deputy Chief Constable Lauren Pouttney, as temporary Chief Constable
- Approved Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding to a number of worthy causes

T Forber highlighted the effectiveness of the mini police initiative and welcomed the Commissioner's support.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - TO BE NOTIFIED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

M Buttery informed the Board that the work programme is currently under review. The next meeting will focus on Rotherham district and there will be two performance against the Police and Crime Plan reports. The Force Year End Performance Assessment Report has been deferred until August 2021.

16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8 July 2021 at 1pm.

CHAIR

