

# **SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

**8 JULY 2021**

PRESENT: Dr Alan Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC))  
Michelle Buttery (PCC's Chief Executive & Solicitor)  
Sophie Abbott (PCC's Chief Finance Officer)  
Fiona Topliss (PCC's Engagement and Communications Manager)  
Ellie Parkinson (PCC's Performance and Assurance Officer)  
Kevin Wright (PCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)  
Lauren Poultney (Chief Constable)  
David Hartley (Assistant Chief Constable)  
Sarah Poolman (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable)  
Dan Thorpe (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable)  
Jackie Bland (SYP's Director of Resources)  
Steve Chapman (Temporary Chief Superintendent, Sheffield)  
Deborah Carrington (SYP's Chief Finance Officer)  
Alison Fletcher (SYP's SCT Office Manager)  
Tanya Wright (SYP's Head of Organisational Development and Learning)  
Jessica Adams (Violence Reduction Unit)  
Ann Macaskill (Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel)  
Steve Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)  
Adam Baines (Observing)

APOLOGIES: E Redfearn, S Parkin, T Forber and C Goodwin

### 1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner welcomed those who had joined the meeting, including members of the Police and Crime Panel and member of the press.

### 2 **FILMING NOTIFICATION**

The Commissioner confirmed that the meeting was being streamed live on You Tube (SYPCC Media) and was being recorded and uploaded via You Tube to the website ([www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/)) where it could be viewed at a later date.

### 3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Commissioner formally welcomed L Poultney as the new Chief Constable to the meeting following approval of her appointment by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel.

The Commissioner also congratulated T Forber on his appointment as Deputy Chief Constable and acknowledged the other moves within the Senior Command Team of South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

The Commissioner invited D Hartley to provide an update on the police response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

D Hartley confirmed that SYP continue to support the NHS, but the emphasis is now on delivering the vaccinations. There will be further challenges from 19 July 2021, when the restrictions are removed, and nightclubs, shows and events such as Tramlines take place.

Covid-19 incidents have reduced with very few fixed penalty notices now being issued. Those that are being issued relate to large gatherings or parties. Normal demand has already exceeded pre-pandemic rates, with the previous weekend seeing New Year's Eve type demand levels.

There are resourcing challenges as Covid-19 infection rates continue to increase and restrictions stop. Clear plans are in place to address this, and SYP will continue to provide a visible presence and serve local communities with the service they want and expect. Extra capacity will be provided through officers working overtime.

The Commissioner acknowledged that the plans depend on overtime when staff are already tired. D Hartley confirmed that the Commissioner was right and SYP had hoped that there would have been an end to the pandemic by now. SYP recognise the challenge and are providing health and welfare support to staff.

The Chief Constable confirmed that a series of options had been considered to increase capacity. Consultation had taken place with the Police Federation and SYP had decided to extend people's shifts rather than cancel rest days. This does not apply to all shifts.

All shifts have been extended on Sundays to ensure cover for football matches.

The Commissioner confirmed that this would be revisited at the August meeting.

The Commissioner highlighted that victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in South Yorkshire will benefit from an extra £1 million of funding from the Ministry of Justice, following a successful bid from his office.

Two different allocations have been awarded, and this money will be distributed to charities and community-based support services to provide a funding boost to support victims across the force area, between now and March 2023.

Funding of £683,667 has been awarded to fund extra posts as part of the Independent Sexual Abuse Advocates (ISVA) and Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDVA) provision in South Yorkshire. The ISVA funding will be used specifically to support children.

The Commissioner has also committed a further £51,185 to bring the total allocation to £734,852.

An extra £314,710 has also been awarded to support community-based support services. This is split with £251,955 being allocated to domestic abuse services and £62,755 to fund sexual violence services across the county. The Commissioner confirmed that this also has been supplemented.

The Commissioner commented that the funding had had to be bid for, and thanked all those involved in doing this. He highlighted how successful his office had been in securing funding and the amount of work that goes into this.

The Commissioner confirmed that he had made a general point in a recent meeting at ministerial level that, whilst he was very grateful for the funding available, these funding streams are time limited and risk distorting local priorities. Long term support is required to really make a difference.

Government are currently looking at the Comprehensive Spending Review, but it is still unclear whether this will go ahead and, if so, for how long.

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 10 JUNE 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

9 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

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| 396 | <p>The Commissioner's Office would establish if Sheffield City Council are considering a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the Page Hall area.</p> <p>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 confirmed that whilst SYP would like a PSPO this needs to be part of a wider plan.</p> <p><b>16/07/21 – D Thorpe informed the Board that there had been a reducing in activities taking place in the Page Hall area and SYP were not seeing the same challenges or levels of ASB than previously. He highlighted that a large amount of enforcement and engagement activity had taken place</b></p> |
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|     | <b>which had resulted in such activity as vehicles being seized. The PSPO is still been considered by Sheffield City Council, but this is being monitored. Discharged</b>   |
| 412 | 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”<br><b>16/07/21 – D Thorpe confirmed that this information would feature in future reports. Rotherham’s Quarter 4 (January to March) data was High 86%, Medium 83% and Standard 34%. SYP overall stands at High 90%, Medium 76% and Standard 27%. In relation to High risk, the Commissioner enquired what percentage was expected. D Thorpe confirmed that SYP aim to be consistently over 90%. S Poolman highlighted that there can be a 10% discrepancy rate. The initial grading, which is undertaken at the scene, can be downgraded once more information is obtained. S Chapman confirmed that districts do deploy officers to other force areas if serious offences have been committed. The Commissioner requested that, if possible, numbers could also be provided.</b> |
| 413 | An update on the impact of the MATAC be provided in the next Doncaster report. <b>Added to the work programme. Discharged</b>   |
| 414 | A report on speeding vehicles and road safety be brought to a future PAB after the summer. <b>Added to the work programme. Discharged</b>   |
| 415 | The Commissioner receive a copy of the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategic Profile<br><b>08/07/21 – Profile sent. Discharged</b>  |

10 FORCE PERFORMANCE - ROTHERHAM 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 Rotherham, in line with the reporting requirements.

The Commissioner informed the Board that, with the easing of the Covid-19 lockdown, he was now able to get out and about. One of the first places he had visited was Rotherham, where he had met a number of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

The Commissioner highlighted two meetings which are taking place in Rotherham, where residents can sign up to a virtual meeting with himself and members of the relevant Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss all issues relating to police and crime in their area. The meetings are taking place via MS Teams on Tuesday 20 July (Rotherham North) and Thursday 22 July (Rotherham Central).

S Chapman welcomed the Commissioner’s involvement.

The Commissioner thanked S Chapman for the detailed report.

The Commissioner highlighted the multi-agency approach being adopted to tackle Organised Crime Groups (OCGs). S Chapman confirmed that Rotherham had good relationships with partners such as Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and the Environment Agency.

Rotherham is currently in the process of recruiting an OCG Partnership Co-ordinator in collaboration with RMBC. This approach has already allowed Rotherham to increase the funding opportunities for diversionary activity, which have now been expanded in Swinton and extended to Eastwood. Rotherham district have also been successful in obtaining a 'Safer Streets Fund' Grant for the Dearne Valley area, in collaboration with neighbouring districts. Partnership working has resulted in stopping and recovering £25,000 in fraudulent tax claims.

The Commissioner highlighted the Rotherham Domestic Abuse Team, and enquired if the team was up to full strength. S Chapman confirmed that there are currently 14 officers but there should be 22 detectives, and these should be in place by September.

The Commissioner made reference to the Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC) approach. He highlighted that Rotherham have five perpetrators currently on the programme, and four who had not engaged. S Chapman confirmed that the purpose of this approach is to reduce reoffending and maximise the safety of victims who can suffer abuse in their daily lives. It relies on people engaging in the programme, and suggested that it is not surprising that everyone does not engage. When someone does not engage, SYP work with partners around disrupting the offender through other means. For example, eviction from tenancy.

The Commissioner enquired if this is replicated across all districts. D Thorpe confirmed that it is, and agreed to provide figures for other districts.

The Commissioner asked about the CEASE programme. This is bespoke to Rotherham, and offers young people from the age of 13-24 domestic abuse educational programmes, one-to-one mentoring and support to victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. This is funded through the Rotherham Community Safety Partnership, and run through Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH).

The Chief Constable highlighted that the focus is on identifying good practice, and sharing this across the SYP area.

The Commissioner enquired about the number of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) / Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) cases. There is a significant number recorded. A review of those cases with no positive outcomes is currently taking place with partners. The Commissioner enquired if this had increased during lockdown. There were fewer referrals, but they are starting to increase. There is a sergeant and five detectives in the investigation team, working alongside an equal number of social care staff.

The Commissioner commented that he got the sense that CSE was moving online. S Chapman confirmed that this is correct, and highlighted that staff need to be skilled in new technology.

The Commissioner enquired if the mental health nurse post is now secure. S Chapman confirmed that it is; RDaSH has made funding available. The Commissioner enquired if one nurse was enough. S Chapman acknowledged that he would like more, but confirmed that the work currently being undertaken by this post is outstanding.

The Commissioner enquired if this was replicated in all districts. Each district has some support, but this is not embedded.

The Commissioner highlighted the agreement SYP has with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to provide them with transport within 40 minutes, and the fact that this is seldom the case due to other demands placed on them. D Thorpe confirmed that this is a challenge nationally. SYP is conscious of the demands on the Ambulance Service, but do put in requests when appropriate.

The Commissioner enquired about the Youth Engagement Officers, and whether these are in every school. Each school has a representative, but officers have more than one school.

The Commissioner enquired about the vacancy rate in Rotherham. Rotherham has a vacancy rate of around 10%, with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams being slightly less.

S Chapman highlighted the problem solving approach and engagement methods undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. S Chapman confirmed that engagement is undertaken to identify and prioritise issues which impact negatively on the quality of life for local people. Feedback is collected through the 'Your voice counts' survey, social media, engagement with elected members and partners and a wide array of other engagement initiatives such as drop ins, patrols, and Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs). Speeding, drugs, anti-social behaviour, and off-road motorcycles consistently show as priorities.

In June, the Rotherham South Neighbourhood Policing Team, held a virtual meeting involving the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), community representatives, and the local Member of Parliament in Dinnington. Residents were able to ask questions of their local officers. More of these meetings will be arranged in the near future across Rotherham district.

S Chapman highlighted that Rotherham's confidence levels had previously been below the SYP average. These are now in line with the force.

The Commissioner confirmed that it had been reassuring to meet the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Previously, there had been only a handful of officers, but this has now increased. He highlighted that the Government increase in police officer numbers had led to the public expecting to see more officers on the street. S Chapman acknowledged this, and confirmed that SYP would need to be flexible. Rotherham is considering deploying mobile police stations in high footfall areas to obtain feedback.

The Commissioner highlighted the work being undertaken to combat drugs in Rotherham, and enquired about a local landlords scheme which had taken place in Barnsley. S Poolman confirmed this was a Barnsley initiative which has been advocated for force wide roll out.

S Chapman highlighted the slight increase in firearms discharges earlier in the year, and the district's focus on prevention, preparation and pursuing those involved in organised crime. Discharges have now been reduced.

L Knox highlighted that Rotherham is developing a Youth IAG. This will allow younger members of the community to advise on topics that are important to them.

S Chapman highlighted an Anti-Social Behaviour victim care pilot which is taking place in Rotherham to increase victim satisfaction. All incidents are being reviewed to identify any patterns and trends. The Commissioner requested an update on this in the next Rotherham report.

S Poolman highlighted a satisfaction pilot in Sheffield which is being undertaken by PCs on the fast track programme. This will take place in 3 similar areas and intends to provide a better understand of what drives up satisfaction.

**It was agreed that:**

- **Number of perpetrators on the MATAC programme in Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster be provided**
- **An update on the Anti-Social Behaviour Victim Care Pilot be provided in the next Rotherham district report**

11 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017 - 2021 (RENEWED 2019) - TACKLING CRIME AND ASB

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 'Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' priority within 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 issue of public confidence, and the perception that there will be more officers on the street. He expressed concern that expectations would not be met.

S Poolman acknowledged this, and confirmed that a robust communication plan is in place, which explains the emerging threats in policing, and where officers are being placed to address this. Local officers need to be made aware of the key messages to ensure there is a consistent approach.

D Thorpe highlighted the investment SYP has made in Neighbourhood Policing, and confirmed that vacancies would be filled by the end of the year.

The Commissioner commented that an increase in police officers should lead to an increase in crime detection. This in turn should result in more crimes being reported. This will need explaining to the public.

S Poolman highlighted SYP had seen a reduction in crimes during the pandemic, but that crimes are starting to increase. The Government also expect to see crime reducing, and have introduced new policing measures.

S Poolman expressed caution around reductions in crime reporting. She would want to see crime reporting increasing, not reducing.

The Chief Constable confirmed that under-reporting had been a concern for a long time. Reporting of some crime types has increased, although she did not think crime had increased; there are just more people telling the police about this.

The Commissioner highlighted the issue of residential burglary. S Poolman confirmed that residential burglary had decreased during the pandemic but, as lockdown eased, this crime type started to increase. As a result of the work being undertaken, burglary levels are currently being maintained.

The Commissioner enquired why the Armed Crime Team (ACT) are working with Rotherham Fortify teams, rather than with Doncaster. The Chief Constable confirmed the ACT was originally a Sheffield resource, but Rotherham have invested some of their resources into the team. There are challenges in relation to the capacity of specialist posts, such as posts in the ACT. Capacity will increase once the police officer uplift starts to be rolled out.

The Commissioner highlighted OCG management. S Poolman confirmed that an OCG mapping process had taken place to recognise whether offenders are working on an individual, district, SYP or national level. This will enable the appropriate resources to be allocated.

The Commissioner mentioned a pilot which had taken place, where low level Registered Sex Offenders (RSO) were being managed by local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. S Poolman confirmed that, when this had been reviewed, SYP had decided to go back to the original position and increase the number of staff within the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) team.

The Commissioner enquired how the recruitment of detectives was progressing. S Poolman highlighted that the shortage of detectives is a national issue. Applications for trainee detectives, and through the Police Now Detective scheme, had been received. The trainee detectives are in the process of being posted to their respective districts. The new phase for Police Now Detectives has just commenced.

S Poolman highlighted the 40% reduction in firearms discharges, particularly in Sheffield. The focus is, however, wider than firearms discharges, and is about disrupting OCG activity. This is a positive step.

12 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2017 - 2021 (RENEWED 2019) - TREATING PEOPLE FAIRLY

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 'Treating People Fairly' priority within 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 enquired about hate crime. S Poolman highlighted the focus had been on accurately recording hate crime. SYP has seen an increase in the proportion of hate offences recorded with a cyber-crime flag (64% increase in the last 12 months), which now accounts for 10% of all hate crime offences. This may be influenced by the lockdown restrictions, and the prevalence of social media. All

districts now have Evidential Review Officers, providing specific resources to review investigations and advise officers on how to achieve the best outcome for the victim. This is driving further improvements in outcomes. SYP is currently looking at the charging rates for online offending. This is an ongoing challenge, with some offenders living abroad.

The Commissioner highlighted the number of leavers from the organisation, and the impact this is having on the diversity establishment figures. T Wright confirmed that this had been highlighted as a risk. Whilst there is only a small proportion of leavers from ethnic minority backgrounds, this has a big impact. In depth interviews with leavers are now taking place, but it is too early to obtain full trend data.

The Commissioner enquired about the creation of external scrutiny panels for victims of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO). S Poolman confirmed that the scrutiny panel will review the cases that have been filed by SYP without a submission to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

The Commissioner expressed his concern about the number of cases without a submission to the CPS. S Poolman confirmed that benchmarking work is being done with other forces to try and understand where the gaps are for improvement.

### 13 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to inform the PCC of the Force's projected outturn on its revenue and capital budgets, as at 31st March 2021. It is based on an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, before accounting adjustments. This report covers the Force financial position only, and should be read in conjunction with the report by the PCC's Chief Finance Officer.

D Carrington informed the Board that SYP's outturn for 2020-2021 is a £3.28m underspend; which is 1.25% of the total budget before legacy costs. This year has not been a typical year, due to Covid-19. The prudent omission of the £4.2m of ring-fenced Uplift funding when setting the 2020/21 budget, has enabled SYP to contain the cost of the excess police officer strength, to bring forward / increase police officer recruitment ahead of target and contain the cost of Covid-19. SYP also received additional, unanticipated Home Office funding, including a £1.7m Serious Violence Crime Grant at the start of the year, and Covid Enforcement funding in March 2021, which has increased the end of year underspend by £1.5m.

The Commissioner acknowledged the underspend, and commented that this was remarkably low, considering all the additional funding that had been received.

The Commissioner commented on the reduction in income from speed awareness courses. He enquired if there are plans to continue holding courses remotely. D Thorpe agreed to provide an update on this.

**It was agreed that:**

- **D Thorpe would provide an update on whether Speed Awareness Courses would continue to be held remotely**

14 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Chief Executive & 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 that both decisions reported relate to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funding. The first, is to increase Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA). The second relates to funding anticipated activity to support victims between 01/04/21 – 31/03/22.

Both grants have been increased by the PCC.

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

None.

16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 13 August 2021 at 10am.

CHAIR

