

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR POLICING.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

And

THE OFFICE OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

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 December 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 and should be available in April 2022.

Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

HO Crime codes and description:

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 0010 | Murder |
| 0041 | Manslaughter |
| 0042 | Infanticide |
| 00410 | Corporate Manslaughter |

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.



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. Whilst this is the total number of homicides initially recorded, there will be an expected number which following post-mortem, associated tests and other enquiries, will not meet the categorisation for homicide. This is overseen by the Senior Investigating Officer for the case. As this can take time to conclude, caution is advised in any review of homicide volumes from recent months.

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 force. 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 Serious Case Review team identify cases fitting the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review, bringing them to the attention of the Local Authority. A report covering police activity is circulated; ensuring learning is disseminated to staff, supporting future prevention. With a positive action approach to Domestic Abuse (DA) the force arrest rate is above 50%. Training (DA Matters) was provided to over 1600 front line officers/staff in 2020/21 - it included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability, supporting intervention. The force Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment team review all DA incidents, providing a specialist secondary risk assessment, researching to identify any high-risk behaviours such as coercive control, stalking/harassment or recent separation, which are sometimes seen as precursors to DA 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 – December 2021: Force Lead D/Supt Ian Scott

- Awaiting the outcome of the academic study into Domestic Homicide conducted by the National Police Chief’s Council lead and the Home Office.
- The partnership-commissioned DA perpetrator programme works to educate DA offenders persuade them to change their behaviour. In the first 2 months, 184 offenders were referred to the programme, with a retention rate of 69%. Currently seven forces are using conditional cautions linked to perpetrator programmes - which would be expected to improve the retention of offenders on the programme - but South Yorkshire is not one of the selected force areas.
- Work is ongoing 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 – despite DA cases being prioritised, there is a considerable backlog of trials to overcome.

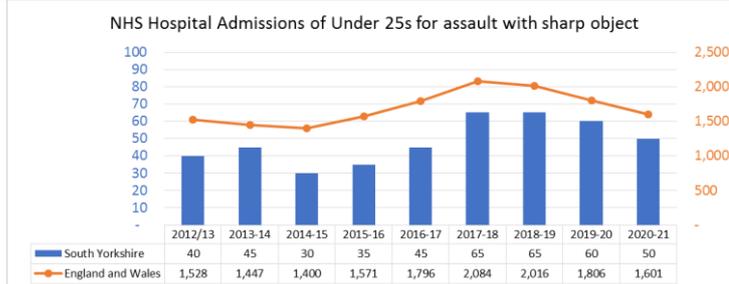
Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

- Implementation of the provisions of the new DA Act, with particular focus on embedding the new definition.
- SYP has requested to be a pilot force in the implementation of new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders.
- Four coordinators have recently been appointed to support the work of the MARAC / MATAC meetings, delivering a consistent, researched input into each meeting.
- A network of 200 DA champions is now in place across the organisation, to support investigations delivery. In addition to this investment, the force is reviewing demand, capability, capacity and wellbeing in its public protection teams, including DA.
- The serious case review team monitor suicides for links with domestic abuse as potential causes or motivating factors for the suicide. Where this is found, the case is referred to the Domestic Homicide Review panel for consideration of a full review. This work has received attention from the Home Office nationally and a researcher from the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) visited the force to obtain more information of our delivery in this area.

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. The force is working with the National Data Quality Improvement Service to support the data capture against the Home Office (HO) definition of knife crime.

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 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, in which 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 December 2021:

Force Leads: D/Supt Paul Murphy (Armed Criminality)
Supt Colin McFarlane (Serious Violent Crime)

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence

- 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 the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU). Enforcement was also supported by the local authority Community Safety, Adult Social Care, and Children’s Services. This major operation led to the arrest of over 60 individuals linked to organised crime groups involved in the drugs trade, with 39 of those individuals charged so far and other prosecutions pending. The majority of those charged were remanded into custody for the supply of class A drugs. Over 40 years of imprisonment has been handed out to date, with many more yet to be sentenced.
- There was an increase in firearms related intelligence submissions to Crimestoppers, coinciding with the gun crime campaign (Crimestoppers), and a campaign to publicise the details of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 in August 2021. This latest available data shows the amount of submissions has since reduced, which is to be expected due to a reduction in the number of shootings and firearms discharged during the period.
- Within the wider MSV area, Home Office funding was allocated to South Yorkshire Police. Violent crime datasets were analysed to determine small area location ‘hotspots’ (based on volumes analysis, harm understanding, intelligence, and expert knowledge). These areas were 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. Between April and Sept 2021, the force completed 2,744 hours of dedicated visible foot patrol in the violent hotspots areas. This work is to continue until March 2022. A further grant agreement has now been received from the Home Office to increase the number of violent hotspot locations, bringing the total investment to over £1.2million.
- Most hotspots locations are seeing stable or reducing reports of violence compared to last year, a positive result, given the previous year volumes were already reduced due to the impact of the pandemic. The approach taken by SYP was recently presented to a national conference, opened by the Policing Minister.
- In September 2021, SYP and VRU hosted two lead academics to hold an event with Neighbourhood Policing Teams aimed at developing further bespoke Problem Solving Plans for reducing violence in the hotspot locations.
- The work of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is reported to OPCC under separate governance. 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, and are now underway. A mid-point monitoring exercise will take place in December 2021.

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 | 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 developing the datasets to assess a baseline for delivery. Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces. Suitable proxy measures are to be considered. |
| Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines | 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 section</i>). The Force employs a Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Co-ordinator who attends the monthly regional SOC Co-ordinator’s forum – this is chaired by an Home Office representative and regional county lines leads, facilitating wide sharing of intelligence, emerging threats and notable practice. 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 |

Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines

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.

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 supports the identification of victims for both Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation, providing a risk score and profile. District Protecting Vulnerable People 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.

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.

Ongoing focus December 2021: Force Leads: Supt Becs Horsfall (SOC),
D/Supt Emma Wheatcroft (CCE and County Lines), DI Aneela Khalil-Khan (drugs markets)

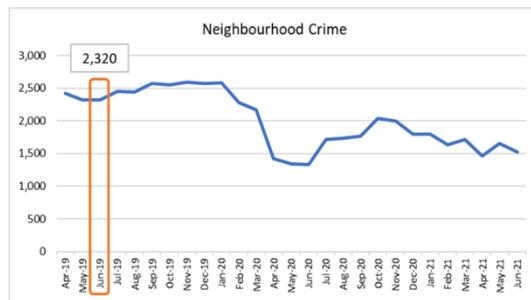
- The force Drug Network Focus Group now meets quarterly to update and adapt current working strategies based on the current trends, for example, such as the pandemic’s impact on the drugs market. Early findings are that the pandemic has had a lesser impact than expected, but analytical conversations are continuing.
- Operation Venetic relates to the infiltration by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Police, of encrypted communication platforms across the UK. When an international law enforcement team cracked the encryption of Encrochat, one of the largest providers of encrypted communications, the NCA and Police were able to review messages sent between criminals relating to the distribution of firearms and drugs, and money laundering. With a number of these communications relating to criminals within South Yorkshire, SYP executed several search warrants, resulting in the arrest and charge of perpetrators and the recovery of a large quantity of illegal drugs.
- South Yorkshire Police and the University of Sheffield continue to work towards an evidenced-based approach to early intervention and prevention. In addition, the force lead continues to work 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. Work continues in this area, with scoping for funding in progress.
- A vulnerability campaign raising awareness of exploitation was planned for roll out in the second half of 2021. The campaign has been narrowed to focus on encouraging awareness to spot the early signs of exploitation and locally further work has been identified through research with survivors to assist in the development of this campaign to maximise impact.
- Partnership ‘intelligence training’ 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 Child Criminal Expoltation. Monitoring of intelligence submissions following this training shows an increase in the amount of partnership intelligence received and importantly of the quality of the information within the submissions.
- There continue to be multiple avenues for information sharing with the Region with thematic threat reduction groups established to tackle, amongst many other SOC themes, drugs and county lines.
- 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. A trial of this bespoke intervention (which takes place face to face in custody suites) has been challenging to implement whilst agencies work to find ways to operate safely amid the pandemic. As a result, PLAN B Custody Navigators, who already undertake preventative intervention with offenders aged 18 and over within custody suites, have agreed to work support the delivery of the trial.

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 December 2021:

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

- In the districts of Barnsley and Sheffield a '12 streets operation' has been delivered, in which residents of repeat burglary streets were surveyed to assess the victims perception of burglary and general safety in their home and area. This was supported by a Designing Out Crime Officer to provide advice and support. The operation also delivered good links to Neighbourhood Policing Teams and resident sign-ups to receiving Community Alerts. Work is ongoing to understand the problem-solving benefits from the operation.

Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime

- Districts have also reinvigorated a Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme, in which a monthly intelligence document provides hotspots and trends, supporting deployment of officers and PCSOs to prevent further offences, increasing awareness and providing a visible deterrent.
- Plans are currently in place to increase Crime Scene Investigator attendance at vehicle crime offence scenes to align to the regional average, which will increase the service to some crime types in specific geographic areas, supported by a commitment from the Regional Scientific Support Service. Included within this work is an internal focus to improve the recording of house searches, and footwear prints from acquisitive crime suspects in custody.
- 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. This work will now be supported by funding from the Safer Streets Fund to target vulnerable communities across the county.
- Recent activity has taken place in relation to a newly mapped OCG suspected to be engaged in theft of high value vehicle via keyless means (using relay devices). A successful day of action saw a number of people arrested and house searches in Rotherham, and work continues with the investigation. Similarly, investigations continue in relation to a number of 'chop shops' in both Doncaster and Sheffield that were uncovered earlier in the year, resulting in the recovery of parts harvested from a large number of stolen cars and vans.
- The force has a new serious acquisitive crime media Single Point Of Contact, and plans are in development for the Christmas period and seasonally expected increases in residential burglary. A calendar of media releases is planned for 2022 around specific crime types, including 2in1 burglary, keyless theft, catalytic convertor theft, pet theft and shed/outbuilding burglaries.

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 | South Yorkshire Police works alongside the 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. 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. 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. 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 |

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

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

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.

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.

Ongoing focus December 2021:

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

- A programme of videos focussed on the 12 Victims' Rights outlined in the Victims' Code of Practice (VCOP) has now been delivered and all videos are available for officers to view at any time. The Complete Victim Care (CVC) strategic meeting structure continues to focus on the area of 'Follow up', looking at the quality of updates given to victims and the manner in which they are conveyed. Training is currently being developed to support improvements in this area, with departmental CVC leads delivering and driving this within their own area of business.
- The delivery of VCOP remains a key focus with continued development of performance measures and monitoring as part of the performance framework which will feed into the CVC strategic meetings for review of improvements. Encouragingly, improvements have been seen in the area of Domestic Abuse investigation 'Follow up' in the last Victim Satisfaction survey.
- 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 delivered a self-assessment in support of this work. The initial findings are expected to be made available to forces in the sub-group meeting in December 2021.
- Work continues, in conjunction with the OPCC to ensure referrals are made to our partners in the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service (ISVA) and Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC), with the aim of ensuring appropriate support is always made available. Specialist Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) training is due to be delivered to a number of front line officers and the developers are looking to ensure this package includes an input from ISVA with the aim of improving the referral process and increasing the level of support available for victims and survivors. A webinar, accessed by officers and staff across the organisation on the topic of attending incidents involving sexual offences, covered the role of ISVA and how they can help officers 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> |
| <p>Ongoing focus December 2021: 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. There has been progress in this area and the force is taking a phased approach to the review and implementation to ensure achievability and sustainability. • Investment has confirmed the creation of a dedicated Quality Team to focus on maintaining and attaining accreditation in all aspects of digital forensics. Current accreditation is due for a full review and recent legislation means that there will be greater requirement for extended scope in accreditation under the international standards ISO17025, and scene examination under ISO17020. • Performance management reporting for DFU has been improved. There is opportunity to enhance this further, with a bid for investment into a new case management and combined quality system currently being benchmarked. A full business case is being delivered to support the options. | |

Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

- The wider digital portfolio has been brought under the force strategy and the role of Digital Service Manager has been agreed and created - this role will provide the cohesion across SYP for all aspects of digital investigation, horizon scanning, business planning and benefit realisation. This is currently in the recruitment phase.