

## Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

### Home Office crime codes and description:

0010	Murder
0041	Manslaughter
0042	Infanticide
00410	Corporate Manslaughter

Recorded crime levels

The monthly volume of homicides from April 2018 to March 2022 is shown below, with a peak of 5 homicides recorded in May 2018 (highlighted in red).



The volume of Homicides in South Yorkshire has increased since 2019/20, albeit a reduction on volumes in 2018/19. In 2021/22, 19 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire, with a rate of 13.5 homicides per 1000 population, above that of the national average.

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.

The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs. The proportion of domestic homicides remains comparatively low.

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 remains high nationally. 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 domestic incidents 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 Tecso phones, SmartWater forensic marking, and 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 – October 2022:

Supt Dave Cowley (Domestic Abuse, Serious Violent Crime)

The force awaits the new national homicide prevention framework and problem profile template. In the interim, representatives from the force and Violence Reduction Unit met with the National Police Chief's Council homicide lead along with colleagues from HMICFRS and the College of Policing, to explain our approach to homicide prevention, highlighting the custody navigators and hospital navigators projects. This followed a national Conference that was held in New Scotland Yard in July 2022 attended by D/Supt Ian Scott and D/Supt David Cowley, force lead on Homicide Prevention and serious Violent Crime Prevention.

The force strategy will be reviewed as soon as the national framework is published. The current strategy focusses on 6 key areas – better Data Analysis, Effectively Safeguarding the Vulnerable, Targeting Dangerous Perpetrators, Making Locations Safer, Raising Investigative Standards and Educating Our Community. These areas are delivered through district policing but also with dedicated support from the Armed Crime Team, Op Fortify district teams. GRIP team, Violence Reduction Unit and the work of the Serious Violent Crime Programme Board and Investigations Improvement Unit.

The force continues to work with the Home Office on the national Domestic Homicide review database in order to identify patterns and learn lessons from Domestic Homicide Reviews nationally and has invested resources to strengthen the MARAC and MARAC processes focussed on the safeguarding and management of DA victims and perpetrators respectively.

The force continues to analyse its homicide and serious violent crime data in order to target resources effectively via Op Fortify and through domestic abuse services. The Violence Reduction Unit have recently produced a problem profile for violent crime in the county and this will be supplemented by a force problem profile which will follow the model recommended by the NPCC lead as soon as guidance is published. Through the Evidence Based Policing board, the force and VRU has approached academics from Sheffield Hallam university to conduct an in-depth study into the OCG related homicides and attempted homicides experienced over the last few years. The focus will be on understanding the drivers behind these homicides and identifying ways to reduce and prevent them, using a combination of conventional police approaches and the VRU public health approach to violent crime reduction.

In October 2022, the force will deliver the new Force Strategic Assessment which will incorporate any emerging risks of identified homicide drivers. Intelligence analysts complete a Homicide Comparative Case Analysis as required and have included a focus on homicide within the Serious and Organised Crime local profile.

The Cranstoun ‘Inspire To Change’ DA perpetrator programme continues to receive a high number of referrals and has a 60% retention rate, which is considered excellent for a voluntary programme. The service will continue to develop and, should the force be successful in its bid to pilot the new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, will link into these new processes. The force will also be working with Cranstoun to develop a CARA (Cautions and Relationship Abuse) based DA perpetrator programme linked to conditional cautioning. It is anticipated that the Crown Prosecution Service will publish guidance on police initiated conditional cautioning for lower risk domestic crimes in early 2023.

Hot spot areas of OCG activity continue to be targeted and there are regular operations in the night time economy areas to prevent violence. Although the force was unsuccessful in its Home Office bid for £500K to assist with these proactive deployments, the force has internally funded a £300k budget to resource this important work.

**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	<p>Reductions have been seen in the last 2 years for Under 25 year old admissions to hospitals for assault with sharp object, aligned with a national reduction, although some increases are being seen in recent months. Data is available for forces to review local datasets internally.</p> <p>Firearm discharges have reduced force-wide since Jan 2020. Jan – Dec 2021 recorded 27 per cent reduction in firearms offences compared to the same period in 2020.</p> <p>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 HO definition of knife crime.</p>
Force response to reducing serious violence	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GRIP funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis)</li> <li>• Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity)</li> <li>• Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)</li> </ul>

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 and profiles delivering against thematic areas are delivered throughout the year. Taking learning from analytical products, the GRIP team work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective.

The [National Problem Solving and Crime Prevention Programme](#) 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 - October 22:**

D/Supt Paul Murphy (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)

The force GRIP team was successful in its application for Home Office funding, and secured nearly £1.1m. This included funding to support ACT intelligence, the Grip analytical team, Hot spot overtime patrols and a budget for violent crime related Problem Orientated Policing. The force has conducted further analytical work using the Cambridge Crime harm index to identify hot spots where the most serious offences are committed. This work has identified over 50 'hot spot' areas. The force can demonstrate the integrity of its patrol activity through tightly controlled GPS monitoring, briefings and deployment returns. The force is working with the Cambridge Centre for Evidence Based Policing to evaluate the activity and will conduct a randomised control trial to thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of the tactic.

The quarterly Serious Violent Crime Programme board in September will focus activity on both operational activity and preventative work. This provides an opportunity for operational districts and departments to outline the types of serious violent crime within their areas from the latest quarter and report against the ongoing prevention and detection work. Intelligence analysts have finalised a local profile for Organised Crime Groups, with a number of intelligence gaps identified and recommendations to support proactive targeting of the most serious violence which is associated with OCG activities.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) are continuing to fund the Hospital Navigators and Custody Navigator projects, together with Trauma Informed training, and targeted programmes designed to intervene early with individuals who may be drawn towards violent crime. The Cranstoun Inspire To Change Domestic Abuse perpetrator programme is receiving high numbers of referrals, and has a 60% retention rate, which is considered excellent for a voluntary programme. The service will continue to develop and will link in with the new DAPO process.

The force awaits the Home Office selection of pilot forces for the new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders. These civil orders can be longer in duration than the existing Domestic Violence Protection Orders and can impose positive obligations on perpetrators such as attending a DA perpetrator programme, attending substance misuse programmes and submitting to GPS monitoring as well as the usual prohibitions. Given the force's strong record in the use of DVPOs it is hopeful of selection for the national pilot. If successful, the force will review its IOM structures to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to manage these new orders.

Operation Sceptre (a national intensification week of action to raise awareness of and tackle knife crime) is scheduled for its second week of action in November 2022. This programme will comprise of enforcement activity, media activity, education, and preventative patrols.

Work to reduce Violence Against Women and Girls is supporting the need for safer spaces and is being incorporated into the night-time economy and event planning. Neighbourhood Policing Teams have access to the Streetsafe App dashboard which highlights the areas people feel most unsafe. These are being incorporated into the analytical problem profile products being produced over the course of the year. The force has recently introduced a night time economy coordination meeting, to share best practice across the county.

In September 2022, the force will deliver the NPCC national data return for VAWG to inform the national problem profile. The national profile will inform the national action plan, moving into year two of the three year national strategy. Year Two will involve enhanced partnership working to tackle VAWG at a local level.

The force has also recently delivered a *Rape and Sexual Offences Problem Profile*, which has been used to inform the force’s strategy and action plans. Partnership versions of this have been used at each District to direct local activity. The *Non-Domestic Stalking and Harassment Strategic Profile* has also recently been delivered internally to support an understanding of required activity in this area.

The reporting of firearms discharge offences has seen an increase in early 2022, which resulted in the force developing a joint force and regional operation, which reports into the Chief Superintendent Head of Crime. This operation was a full compendium approach utilising the very roots of neighbourhood policing supported by covert specialist tactics through a singular command structure. It has led to an increase in the recovery of firearms and continued targeted disruption of the organised crime groups. This work will continue to develop as need arises within the different policing district hot spot locations.

The armed crime team continues to support local policing through the adoption of investigations around armed criminality with over 60 investigations held by the team. This brings a level of expertise and specialist knowledge around investigations of this nature. The force has recently held a recruitment campaign in relation to the expansion of the Armed Crime Team, further supporting and building upon the success of the core team and expanding its force-wide capability.

Externally, the force has recently launched its internal firearms surrender campaign with a large media campaign across the county supporting the national week of action encouraging individuals to hand in firearms.

**Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines**

- **Homicide in England and Wales Office for National Statistics (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. The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs – drug related homicides accounting for 59% of the homicides in the county in 2021, a higher proportion than seen nationally. Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces.
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Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines	The force focus continues 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 SOC Co-ordinator who attends the monthly regional SOC Co-ordinator’s forum – this is chaired by a 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 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
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Exploitation) meetings. This support the identification of victims for both CSE and CCE, providing a risk score and profile. District Protecting Vulnerable People (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. 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 - October 2022:**

Supt Becs Horsfall (SOC), D/Supt Emma Wheatcroft (CCE and County Lines), DCI Mark Oughton (Drugs Markets)

The force's SOC Co-ordinator and SOC thematic lead have collaborated with Senior Lecturers in Criminology at the University of Sheffield to produce an application to the N8 Policing Research Partnership for funding to support a project around conceptualising and evaluating the impact of policing drugs markets. The application for funding continues and is now through to the final submission stage. In the interim period, an additional £30k of funding has been secured by the Serious and Organised Crime thematic lead, ensuring that the project around conceptualising and evaluating the impact of policing drugs markets will go ahead. The project will run from February 2023 for 12 months, ultimately delivering a drug-harm matrix that can be used at the planning, implementation and evaluation stages of each new operation.

A problem profile was commissioned internally, to focus on the drugs markets in South Yorkshire and to re-assess the threat, risk, and harm of drugs markets to South Yorkshire. This has been a large piece of analytical work for the force, completed in July 2022, and will lead to a revision of the current drugs markets strategy. The Intelligence Analysts cohort have now commenced work on delivering partnership versions, which will be localised to each Districts. These versions should be completed and delivered into October 2022, and will enable a collective understanding of the landscape alongside key partnership stakeholders.

A sum of £200k has been allocated into the Custody department to support equipment, training, and dedicated resources to support drugs testing for trigger and non-trigger offences, to ensure those who offend through drugs misuse can be referred appropriately for the support they require.

Work is also taking place within Sheffield district to ensure detainees for drugs supply offences are processed whilst in custody, ensuring phones can be downloaded and drugs tested, to assist in a prompt charging decision. Training will be provided in October 2022 for the Evidence Review Officers at each district, to ensure they have the skills and contacts to support officers and ensure all avenues in these investigations are exhausted in a timely manner within the custody clock period, and to seek remands where possible.

A working group has been formed to look to streamline the disassembling of cannabis cultivation establishments to ensure evidence is captured in an effective and ideally more efficient manner than current processes support.

Further training will be delivered throughout the year as a comprehensive CPD package is in place to support a further number of officers becoming part of the Drugs Expert Witness Team.

SYP SOC Co-Ordinator continues to provide sustainable support across the Force at the varying Fortify management groups ensuring a continued partnership approach to dealing with serious violent crime and organised drug criminality. Current work includes refreshing the Organised Crime Partnership Board which is designated as the overarching executive governance group for the county. A relaunch is anticipated in mid-October.

A new County Lines intelligence development team has been established in Sheffield, to trial and use new ways of obtaining intelligence to focus the disruption of drugs lines and impact the gangs that are running the lines. This method has been trialled and used in other police forces, and Sheffield are utilising this methodology for disruption with an initial assessment of results being seen as positive.

The force's Hydra-based training starts in September for force investigators to upskill in the investigation of County Lines offences. The training is being delivered in conjunction with the region, and ensures South Yorkshire has the training capability to continue the programme of upskilling throughout the Force.

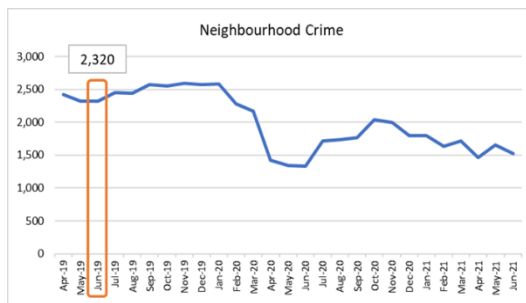
**Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime**

- **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.

In the 12 months to June 2019 (baseline) there were 26,496 Neighbourhood Crimes recorded in South Yorkshire. 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. As restrictions have eased there have been increases in volumes of crime, although not to pre-pandemic levels, with an overall reduction in 2021/22 of 18 per cent in comparison with the baseline period.

Whilst reductions are largely maintained, theft of vehicle is an increasing challenge, and the force currently records a higher rate of Residential Burglary, Robbery and Theft from / Of Vehicle than peer forces, although 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 analysts have identified wards with the highest rates of neighbourhood crime. The NPTs 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.

Resulting from 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 October 2022:**

DCI Jim Bateman (Serious Acquisitive Crime), Insp Louise Kent (Neighbourhood Policing)

The Intelligence Analysts have completed a refresh of the Annual Burglary Problem Orientated Policing (POP) Plan Analysis to inform local activity to tackle burglary hotspot areas.

Due to the recent increases in vehicle crime, the intelligence analysts have also completed analysis on 12-month hotspot locations for vehicle crime to inform local POP plan activity. The analysis provides each District with an overview of vehicle crime as well as analysis on each hotspot location including an overview of the area, common modus operandi, and temporal analysis.

City centre neighbourhood teams, where officer uplifts have been agreed, have plans in place to achieve the increase in resources. With Sheffield city centre having a third sergeant now in place, applications for officers looking to join the team are underway. This uplift will support the work on problem oriented policing plans for areas where there are high levels of neighbourhood crime. Quarterly Performance Review processes ensure governance around POP plans for ward areas of highest antisocial behaviour and neighbourhood crime.

Training for the force's Police Community Support Officer (PCSOs) on their designated powers has taken place in August 2022, with further sessions planned for September to ensure each PCSO has received their refresher training. This input will enhance the force offering to communities, enabling the valuable PCSO resources to utilise their powers where proportionate and necessary in dealing with low level offending and neighbourhood crime. Supplementing the work of officers with warranted powers, this provide support to POP plans and work in areas where the highest levels of crime and ASB are occurring.

The trial of the new Neighbourhood Crime Investigation Team in Sheffield has now been in place for its first month and has seen reductions in volume and increases in outcome rates. Moving away from the notion of addressing this criminality by crime type and alternatively approaching it more holistically is seeing an enhanced focus within this area of business. Following this initial period, the vision of aligning investigators with neighbourhood policing teams is the next phase and some thought has been given to ensuring that opportunities for intelligence development are maximised along with supporting crime prevention in those areas most targeted by criminals.

A smaller version of this dedicated approach to investigating neighbourhood crime is also being trialled in Rotherham district.

In the next few months, Sheffield will see the addition of a burglary scene attender, likened to that in place in Doncaster district, to improve the initial response to residential burglary offences. The post-holder has significant policing experience and will work to improve the link between offending patterns, whilst also ensuring that the public receive a quality and consistent service.

A revised forensic management process has been agreed internally, to ensure that opportunities to detect crime and develop intelligence are highlighted to the appropriate department, utilising the local intelligence functions within districts, along with the centralised crime support hub. This process will ensure investigators have timely focus on the key forensic opportunities that are likely to progress an investigation to detection and improve the gathering of intelligence locally.

A monthly governance meeting continues to assure the force's processes for intelligence development and drug testing in custody, to provide relevant support to those offenders at high risk of entering acquisitive crime, and to maximise forensic opportunities across all neighbourhood crime types. This group is also addressing the impact of those prolific offenders who commit offences across geographical boundaries to ensure there is appropriate ownership and drive to bring prolific offenders to justice quickly.

External links continue to remain high on the agenda to seek to understand new methods of tackling emerging trends and within this next quarter an opportunity has arisen for force representatives to attend the national Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime Conference 2022. This will provide an excellent opportunity for key networking and develop innovation surrounding this area of business.

**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 March 2022, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is <b>74%</b> for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and <b>82%</b> for local victims of Domestic Abuse.
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	<p>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.</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 – October 2022:**

Ch Insp Nat Gilmour (Victim Satisfaction), Det Supt Dave Cowley (Domestic Abuse)

The force continues to deliver a range of victim feedback processes to support improvement in the service delivery for victims. This includes a series of surveys, which seek the views of members of the public across South Yorkshire who have been recent victims of domestic burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking, vulnerable victims and anti-social behaviour victims.

Plans are in place to deliver an ad hoc survey for victims whose investigations have been finalised with a Restorative Justice outcome, to establish their perceptions of the service provided – to deliver this, 600 telephone surveys will be conducted in total in 2022/23.

Whilst results remain positive when asking victims if they are satisfied with the initial contact they had with the police, or their overall treatment by the police, the areas the force continues to work to improve amongst victims are in ‘Follow Up, and ‘Action Taken’. There is a drive around the quality of the updates staff provide to victims to be more meaningful, and by the means agreed in the contact contract, along with improving the force’s investigative standards in order to support achieving better outcomes for victims.



Internally the work to understand compliance with the revised Victim Code of Practice (VCOP) has been supported by the development of three new areas in the VCOP report for vulnerability, most serious crime, and those aged under 18. Each new tab includes the following:

- An explanation on what the enhanced service means and what is expected of officers/ staff
- Selectable filters: District/ department, Team, Crime status (e.g., filed, under investigation) and a date range to provide a self-serve function for users.
- Record-level data to allow officers/ staff to see the exact investigation details according to what they have chosen in the filters.

The dashboard is available for supervisors to use to understand the VCOP compliance within their teams and understand any areas for improvement.

The National and Regional Victim and Witness meetings are currently supporting the development of the proposed Victim Code of Practice metrics, for which all areas have been asked to assess their capability to deliver the information. Last month feedback was provided by the force, which showed that most of the aspects could only be provided / assessed through dip sampling or manual checks, as they are not readily available to be extracted from the investigations system.

When all forces submissions have been assessed, it will be confirmed by the Ministry of Justice exactly what the future requirements will be, including the timescale and frequency of returns. At this point, the force will be able to assess the steps required to support delivery, be it through amendments to the technology in place, or resourcing to support requirements.

It has been noted that whilst victims rarely complain about the service provided by the Criminal Justice Unit, the late notice trial cancellations at Crown Court are naturally a frustration for victims and witnesses and dissatisfaction is being voiced. Whilst this is a situation outside of the policing remit, the force lead for Victim Satisfaction, Chief Inspector Natalie Gilmour has raised this at a senior level within HM Courts and Tribunals Service.

Specifically with regards to domestic abuse, the force continues to work closely with Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to improve the conviction rate and reduce unnecessary delays in the system. The Domestic Abuse scrutiny panel with the CPS recommenced in July 2022 with a view to improving victim engagement and victim experience of the Criminal Justice process. Sheffield has introduced a Specialist DA court one day a week, as a pilot. Early feedback is good and it is expected that this court will be able to better manage DA cases at first hearing and increase guilty pleas

A 'Good Sam' IT solution has been purchased by the Force Control Room, and work is ongoing to implement it into business practices with a short pilot commencing in November. This product allows police officers and staff to conduct an early video conversation with victims in order to assess risk and should provide a more bespoke level of service. This has been trialled successfully in Kent and West Yorkshire, and it is anticipated that improvements in victim satisfaction will be seen, combined with improvements in efficiency for the force.

The Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Governance team continue to audit DA cases as part of the dip sampling process (known as QATT), and the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) team continue to provide a specialist secondary risk assessment process to all DA cases and make referrals to key statutory and third sector support agencies. An evaluation of the new national DA risk assessment tool has shown an improvement in the assessment of risk. The new DARA risk assessment tool will be introduced in the next 12 months to replace the current tool 'DASH', with training rolled out to all front line staff.

The Investigations Improvement Unit and Organisational Development and Learning team are running a series of continuous professional development (CPD) events on domestic abuse for frontline officers. The aim of this training is to address some of the issues identified in the dip sampling process, equip Evidential Review Officers (EROs) with the training necessary to evaluate evidence and manage effective DA investigations, as well as to update staff on the new Domestic Abuse Act provisions. The training will also provide an opportunity to remind staff of what is expected of them when attending domestic incidents. A training guide for domestic abuse investigators has also been produced by a member of the DA team in Sheffield, and will be circulated forcewide.

These steps are expected to continue to improve the overall quality of the force's response to domestic abuse, and investigative deliver, which should in turn lead to improved victim confidence and satisfaction.

**Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime**

- **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.</p> <p>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>
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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>
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**Ongoing focus - October 2022:**

DCI Claire Mayfield (Digital Investigations and Cyber)

As outlined within the Force Management Statement, there is a significant programme of review of the resourcing and capability within the Digital Forensics Unit (DFU). The phased business improvements within DFU are progressing.

The review of DFU and scene examinations by the CMI and cyber team is still ongoing. The next paper to be presented to the Senior Command Team will be around the creation of a dedicated scene and submissions team. The aim of this is to achieve accreditation under ISO 17025 and ISO 17020. It will allow the governance and demand to be monitored and for the provision of a consistence service.

The unit has undergone the process of reaccreditation and although there is no decision to date, the initial feedback is positive with reference to good work and improvements in the DFU.

There is also progression on the digital hub to enable expansion and professionalization of the cyber and digital policing response.

The intention is for the cyber fraud team to continue to be regionally managed and locally delivered.