

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 – December 2022:
Supt Dave Cowley (Domestic Abuse, Serious Violent Crime)

In the previous quarterly update, the force was waiting to receive the new national homicide prevention framework and problem profile template. The homicide and ‘near miss’ problem profile template has now been received and will be submitted to the College of Policing at the end of January 2023. The work to support the profile has been allocated to the specialist team of intelligence analysts who will liaise with the performance analyst from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), who authored the violent crime profile.

The profile will support the lead in bringing together the contributions from all key departments who have a part to play in homicide reduction including the VRU, Major Crime Unit (MCU), Armed Crime Team, Protecting Vulnerable People specialists, Intelligence and Fortify teams. It will also bring the localised knowledge from the delivery within district-based neighbourhood, response and CID teams, as well as the Community Safety Department, and those working to reduce serious violence within the Grip team. When the profile is completed, the force lead will review the force's existing Homicide Reduction Strategy. Whilst the strategy was produced relatively recently (Q4 2021/22) based on the national and local knowledge at the time, the profile should provide some further areas of activity to support the prevention of homicides in future.

The force lead is also reviewing the national Homicide Prevention Strategy and considering areas of highlighted good practice that can be implemented locally, including the provision of targeted interventions for victims and perpetrators of knife crime, and introducing a 'quick time debrief' for homicides and near miss incidents with a preventative focus. Representatives from the force will be visiting other forces identified in the 'what works' section of the Homicide Prevention Framework to help benchmark this work, and pick up good and promising practice. This work will be delivered within the governance structure of the Serious Violent Crime Programme Board, chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable for Crime.

Recent homicide analysis has focussed activities towards knife crime and violent crime linked with the activity of Organised Crime Groups. Op Sceptre (national knife crime campaign) commenced on 14th November 2022, and the knife crime lead has coordinated a wide range of enforcement, educational, investigative and preventative activity across the force, linking in with colleagues from the VRU.

During the week of action, officers recovered ten knives, three swords and a crossbow; engaged with more than 2000 people within the community; visited 30 retailers and conducted ten test purchases.

There were 50 weapons sweeps and searches of 152 people, in which ten arrests were made. A further 50 people were arrested during warrants and direct arrests. Following four warrants, 241 cannabis plants were also recovered and seized.

Detective Superintendent David Cowley, who led Operation Sceptre said: *"This week has been a fantastic success and I am really pleased with the results. The focus this year was on education, and we had officers out and about engaging in the community and going into schools to educate young people on the dangers of carrying knives and the consequences this can have"*

T/Assistant Chief Constable Rick Alton thanked the public for their support to the operation, adding: *"Tackling knife crime is a key focus for the force and we continue to prioritise reducing the number of knife-related instances throughout the year. We don't only prioritise knife crime during these weeks of action, it's a priority all year round"*



The force is looking at models of good practice that aim to tackle knife crime in West Midlands Police and the Metropolitan Police with a view to the introduction of similar initiatives. The Operation Grip team in force continue to oversee high visibility hot spot patrols of 60 identified hot spots around the county. The team are working with the Cambridge Centre for Evidence Based Policing to conduct a forcewide Randomised Control Trial to evaluate the effectiveness of this tactic. The team is also using the £300K provided by the force to support proactive operations linked to organised violent criminality and the Violence Against Women and Girls priorities in and around the night time economy. The force has submitted a bid to the Home Office for £300k over the coming two years to continue to support this work.

Further information on wider violence reduction activity is provided in the next section: *Reduce Serious Violence*.

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 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. 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. 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.

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 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 - December 22:

D/Supt Mick Hakin (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)

As previously reported, the increase in firearms discharge offences during the early part of 2022 led to the force developing a joint force and regional operation. This operation focused on a full compendium approach utilising both Neighbourhood police and covert specialist tactics under a singular command structure, namely Operation Train Kilo. The potential success of this activity can be shown through the most recent assessment of the impact on firearms discharges in the Sheffield area, as it shows 50% decrease with regards to the level of risk in line with the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement assessment process (MoRILE) and the 'Organisational Risk Indicator'. The operating model for delivery has now been replicated, and is currently in place to address firearms discharge offences across the Doncaster area of the force.

Since October 2022, the force did initially see a rise in firearms discharge offences, with seven offences recorded in October alone, however since this time this has reduced, with only one confirmed report of a firearms discharge offence across the force in November to date (28th November 2022).

The Force is aware of the risks arising from the theft of lawfully held firearms. Licensed holders continue to be the victim of residential burglaries in which their firearms are stolen; be it through targeted or opportunistic means. Analysis of offences in which viable firearms were stolen identified limited intelligence and therefore a lack of named suspects and confirmed links to existing crime groups. The Force has implemented further policies and procedures around firearms licensing, and these requirements (such as meeting of specific security standards for storage) should help to reduce the theft of firearms through burglary offences. Despite this, volumes in 2022 to date are high in comparison to 2021.

The Armed Crime Team continues to support local policing through the adoption of investigations around armed criminality with a significant number of investigations held by the team. This includes assistance and guidance to district investigators. The force is currently assessing the potential organisational benefit of Armed Crime Team having direct ownership of offences linked to incidents whereby lawfully held firearms are stolen.

The recently held recruitment process to support the expansion of the Armed Crime Team was successful and eight candidates were selected for the team. The transition of resources from districts into the Armed Crime Team is subject of a staged process, with four members of staff having now already joined the team, and plans for the remaining four members of staff to join the team in January and March of 2023. This recruitment process is designed to enable the Armed Crime Team to expand their reach across all four districts.

Results from the national firearms surrender weeks of action (Operation Aztec, led by the National Ballistics Intelligence Service) held in May 2022, have now been made available. Over 3,400 items were handed in to police forces across England, Wales and Scotland during the two-week period. The results showed that within the South Yorkshire there were 80 firearms surrendered (61 being shotguns), along with six imitation firearms, two component parts, and twenty-five articles of ammunition. Given the damage that can be caused by a single firearm, this was considered a successful activity in support of public safety in South Yorkshire.

With reference to Domestic Abuse, the force is still awaiting the announcement of the forces who will be piloting the new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) – something the force bid for several months ago. The Home Office is now in the process of considering the applications for the pilot. The forces selected to pilot DAPOs will not be doing so until Spring 2024, as the timescales have been moved by the Home Office

The force is also waiting for materials for the new Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment form. Once materials are received from the College of Policing, there should be 18 months in which the force can train all officers and staff with the new process and embed the new assessment process. The current plans are to maximise the opportunity for implementation through face to face training, which can be supported by the timescales. It is considered a critical part of the delivery within the domestic abuse area to ensure all officers and staff are correctly trained to use the risk assessment tool to support the safeguarding of victims.

All districts are currently experiencing an increase in referrals to the multi-agency (MARAC) process and some local authorities have commissioned a review to look at ways of making MARAC more efficient. The force is linked into these reviews, which are being carried out by staff from the charity SafeLives (<https://safelives.org.uk/>). The National Police Chiefs Council's lead for Vulnerability, Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe recently announced a national review of MARAC conducted with support from the Home Office. There are no timescales for this review at present.

South Yorkshire Police is currently trialling 'Good Sam' (<https://www.goodsamapp.org/>). This is a rapid video response that enables officers and staff to deal with calls via a video link to a victim's phone, subject to victim consent. This has been trialled successfully in Kent Police, and initial feedback in South Yorkshire has shown that it has potential to be used effectively for domestic abuse calls where the perpetrator is no longer present and the victim consents to its use. Kent found that this system increased efficiency, dramatically improved victim satisfaction, and also increased criminal justice outcomes for domestic abuse victims. The current trial will end on 28th November 2022, and the findings will inform decision making as to whether there should be a permanent roll out of the system.

The force is linking in with local authority Domestic Abuse commissioners to prepare for the introduction of police decision conditional cautioning outcomes to be linked to a short perpetrator programme for standard risk cases of domestic abuse. This is expected to become available in Spring 2023, and discussions are taking place on how best to provide a linked perpetrator programme. Given West Yorkshire Police introduced a similar model in 2020, the force lead is liaising with equivalent colleagues across the border.

Using funding from the VRU, Sheffield District are working with the Independent Domestic Abuse Services, IDAS (<https://idas.org.uk/>), to pilot a problem-solving approach to dealing with couples who repeatedly meet the threshold of high harm domestic abuse offending. The pilot to work in partnership to support the complex needs in these cases will last for 12 months and will be evaluated at the 6-month and 12-month intervals. The force lead has considered similar projects elsewhere in the country, and considers this process brings potential to reduce the risk for victims, address the complex needs of those concerned, and reduce repeat demand on the force and other support agencies.

Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines

- **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. 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.

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 (*Reduce Serious Violence section*).

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 Exploitation) meetings. This support the identification of victims for both CSE and CCE, providing a risk score and profile. District PVP teams locally conduct regular MACE meetings, and all Districts have either have a dedicated child exploitation team based within a multi-agency setting or dedicated local lead who works closely with partnership counterparts.

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 2022:

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

The force's Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Co-ordinator and SOC Thematic Lead worked with Senior Lecturers in Criminology at the University of Sheffield to prepare a funding application bid to the N8 Policing Research Partnership (<https://www.n8prp.org.uk/>). In November 2022, the team were delighted to be informed that the application had been successful. Together with an additional £30K of funding already secured by the T/Chief Superintendent Becs Horsfall, the N8 funding will ensure that the project around conceptualising and evaluating the impact of policing drug markets will go ahead. Recruitment is now underway to identify research and analytical support for the project.

Work is also ongoing to identify innovative ways in which to address offences of cannabis cultivation through existing partnership problem-solving approaches.

A drugs problem profile has now been received by partners through local meeting structures. This will enable a collective understanding of the landscape alongside key partnership stakeholders. Alongside this, the force lead continues to engage with district teams, and the newly formed Combatting Drugs partnerships (CDP), to understand the information is required to assist in delivering against the national requirements.

Drugs-related deaths continue to increase in the county, and reducing this is a key ambition of the CDP. Plans are in place to recruit a Drugs Death Coordinator to supply Local Authorities with live time surveillance to learn lessons quickly and intervene where necessary. This work also includes the use of Naloxone (a medication used to reverse the effects of opioids, which is being presented as an option at the Strategic Demand Board in December), and understanding the four authorities early warning systems.

Drug testing on arrest continues to be driven in custody suites with the assistance of Home Office funding to ensure interventions take place with drugs workers. Tests for trigger offences are monitored through custody performance frameworks, whilst non-trigger offences are being driven through districts and dedicated custody staff. Jointly this has seen a sharp rise in those being tested and hence those receiving intervention. The Force lead is engaging with partners to understand the impact on outcomes. Funding had also secured for further Drugs Experts witness training, to increase the cadre of officers forcewide within the next twelve months. A process is being developed to provide regular assurance of the quality of evidence within a timetable of CPD. Supervisors and Evidence review officers have received training around drugs supply investigations to ensure suspects for drugs supply offences are put before the courts at the earliest opportunity to stop them committing further harm to communities.

Cannabis dismantling continues to be an issue in force, and benchmarking has been carried out with other forces. Rotherham's Operation Grow has highlighted key learning, and proposals for future process will be under consideration within internal governance boards in the near future.

The force continues to seek influence from national and local notable practices in its effort to maintain and improve its delivery in terms of tackling SOC and organised criminality within the county. Working in conjunction with the Home Office, the force was referred to colleagues in the north west who had secured an innovative piece of software. The software has been proven to provide a good means of managing OCGs and SOC holistically. The system would be accessible across the force for partners with the ability to geo-fence certain areas and restrict parts of investigations for operational security. This was recognised as operational excellence by the HMICFRS and was influential in Merseyside's positive recent inspection result. The force's Chief Superintendent Head of Crime has progressed procurement of this product, and it is anticipated that it will be available for use in 2023.

Continuing the innovative approach of the force to tackling SOC, the Crime Services management team have been working extremely closely with the SOC local delivery team from the Home Office. In building a strong relationship with the national experts, the force leads became influential in developing a new national matrix for tackling community-embedded OCGs who blight local communities. Under the title of Clear, Hold and Build this national pilot strategy provides a structured way to achieve a whole systems approach to tackling SOC, ensuring that partnership resources are coordinated and applied collectively to make increase community resilience to SOC activity. Being at the forefront of the national delivery, the force was one of the few selected forces chosen to pilot the process.

The pilot is being delivered in Barnsley district, with initial success with the project now moving from Clear to Build. During this process, significant class A and B drugs have been recovered, along with a firearm, ammunition and significant assets seized and frozen (value into £1m arena). The partnership have created an Operational Delivery Group, chaired by the council lead for Community Safety, delivering bespoke youth outreach, extended CCTV coverage and extended community clear up and engagement events. Such is the recognised success of the project in Barnsley, that the Home Office is supporting the force in a further roll out of Clear, Hold and Build in Doncaster as part of the Phase 3 national uplift.

In addition to the developments to tackle SOC, the force has also utilised the National County Lines Coordination Centre training designed for frontline staff. There were two approaches delivered across multiple sessions in three days in South Yorkshire Police. The first was a series of TED style talks (20 minute presentations) designed to give staff some useful knowledge around county lines methodology, tips to support them in identifying county lines, recording information, referring concerns and supporting the investigation of offences. The second was a workshop for investigators, which was a more in depth training session to

- Assist investigators to apply the modern slavery act to a practical situation.
- Recognise when the statutory defence can apply in criminal exploitation.
- Identify how the NRM works and how it links to the criminal justice process.
- Know the principles of identifying the status of a subject in criminal investigations.
- Outline investigative strategies to build prosecution cases.

The Regional Organised Crime Unit supported the training implementation for the force and feedback for this has been described by the force lead as fantastic. Plans are underway to book further days of training that will raise skills and knowledge of County Lines for the police and partnership organisations in all districts.

The national County Lines Intensification week ran from 3rd to 9th October 2022 and again brought excellent results throughout South Yorkshire with targeted warrants and searches/arrests and identification of vulnerable people within the communities. This intelligence led operation, supported by the ROCU County Lines coordinator resulted in the seizure of drugs and cash. The force continue to improve the recognition and response to identified drugs lines through analytical work and prioritising disruption work through the wider partnership.

A pilot scheme 'Your Life Your Choice' that was delivered in 2021 by colleagues in Community Safety Department has been delivered to 2,830 Year 9 pupils in 14 schools across the county. The success of the pilot has lead to it being extended and offered to all secondary schools across the county from October 2022. The aim is to support the safeguarding of young people who may be vulnerable to exploitation, reducing the likelihood of them being drawn into criminal gangs and violence. The team who delivered the training have received internal recognition from CI Lee Dowswell, whose interest in this area instigated the development of the training.

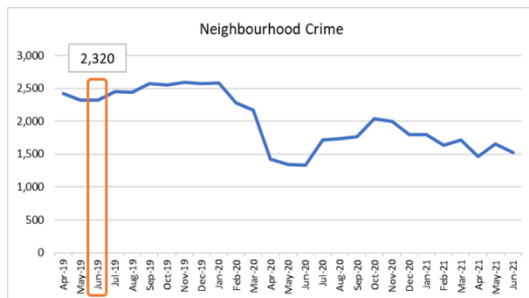
Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime

- **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 – December 2022:

DCI Jamie Henderson (Serious Acquisitive Crime), Insp Louise Kent (Neighbourhood Policing)

The force's Intelligence Analysts completed a refresh of the Annual Burglary Problem Orientated Policing (POP) Plan Analysis to inform local activity to tackle burglary hotspot areas. There are currently 16 active mapped POP plans across the county. Due to the recent increases in vehicle crime, analysis has also been delivered on 12-month hotspot locations for vehicle crime, to further inform local POP plan activity. Problem solving approach training is

being delivered to a number of individuals in the force supported by external academic speaker inputs. This supplements previous training in this area and will look to enhance knowledge and capability around the management of our POP plans, specifically looking at why problem recur, and measures that can be taken in prevention.

An intervention catalogue is now available to all officers via the internal Neighbourhood Portal to support activity and learning. The catalogue provides an evidence base of what has worked well and supplements the problem oriented policing approach. The intervention library provides a link to the documentation for each of the entries, which are categorised by offence/problem type.

To support local tasking process, a bi-weekly Residential Burglary analytical document continues to be circulated, supported by a monthly vehicle crime analytical document. The analysis provides each of the four district areas with an overview of the local vehicle criminality as well as analysis on each offence hotspot location and deposition site location. It also includes an overview of the area, common modus operandi, and temporal analysis.

The monthly acquisitive crime 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 also reviews cross-district forensics outputs to address the impact of those prolific offenders who commit offences across geographical boundaries and ensure there is appropriate ownership and drive to bring prolific offenders to justice quickly. Forensics management is also considered within the daily management meetings within each district to support the development of intelligence and crime detection opportunities, supported by a local allocation process.

Sheffield and Rotherham have now embedded their Neighbourhood Crime Investigation Teams by seconding officers from existing operational structures. It is expected these teams will deliver some significant improvement in outcomes and reduction of neighbourhood crime offending due to the focused collective attention. A work tray on the force's crime system is being created for the neighbourhood crime investigation team, so that investigators can develop the incoming intelligence. Doncaster and Barnsley continue to support this crime type from existing structures and maintain neighbourhood crime as district priorities. Each district also uses their Tasking Teams to ensure high visibility tasking takes place in identified neighbourhood crime hotspots. Wider force resources, such as a Proactive Roads Policing and Tactical Support Group are used to patrol these areas that are identified on a monthly basis through the intelligence led analysis. Where required, these teams are provided briefing products with details of nominals and vehicles to be aware of. Use of stop and search is also encouraged where grounds exists, with additional training provided by force leads.

A trial took place in Rotherham to attend every vehicle offence, maximising the use of CSI resources – but this has so far not been shown to improve the outcomes of the investigations. The force will continue to take the approach of assessing each incident on its merits to identify the best evidential opportunities to determine the most appropriate response. .

The newly promoted supervisors who are completing their national police promotion framework (NPPF) portfolio, are required to undertake roles and projects to achieve unit sign off. In Doncaster, these individuals are supporting the completion of pre-planned operations which look to address identified neighbourhood crime issues in the district.

There continues to be ongoing training for the force's PCSOs on their designated powers. In the current quarter, all PCSOs have received refresher training, 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 provides support to POP plan activity, focussed in areas where the highest levels of crime and ASB are occurring.

Preventative work is taking place through community safety partnerships; in Doncaster funding has been obtained to support work around vehicle thefts in the city centre and this has been shared with the other boroughs. Nationally, transit vans are the most stolen vehicle and the work of the Reducing Crime and Reoffending

group has helped secure funding to purchase disk locks which can be hired for use by workmen and tradespeople using local cheap hotels within the hotspot locations.

Regional links continue to be formed and strengthened by the force lead, who is working closely with Yorkshire and Humber force equivalents to share information on trends and emerging technologies to ensure the force can quickly respond to any emerging crime patterns.

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 74% for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 82% for local victims of Domestic Abuse.
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	<p>South Yorkshire Police works alongside OPCC to deliver a victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. Whilst the force usually receives positive feedback for the initial response to incidents, and treatment of victims by officers, the main areas for improvement are in the updating of victims by officer and keeping victims informed of their investigation progress.</p> <p>Compliance against the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP), including an assessment of the force's delivery of enhanced service where appropriate, and delivery of the communications plan is coordinated through the Complete Victim Care (CVC) Strategic Group.</p> <p>The group includes senior representatives from all partner agencies that can impact on a victim's journey through the criminal justice process. This includes a member from each district command team, a representative from the force's call handling centre, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Victim Support (provider of SY victim support services), Criminal Justice, and Remedi (Restorative Justice provider). The Chair reports directly into the Assistant Chief Constable with portfolio responsibility for Cohesion and Legitimacy. This structure ensures clear focus and direction for the force.</p> <p>To date the group has delivered a revised 'VCOP on a page' which details the key elements of VCOP in a user-friendly one page summary; amendments to the data dashboards to support the local understanding of those eligible for an enhanced service; a screensaver with the new 'CARE' mnemonic supporting messaging internally; a new Inspector Dip Sampling template which now covers more qualitative aspects around follow up (results from dip samples are discussed at the Complete Victim Care group); and delivery of presentations within supervisor Away Days and Performance Meetings</p> <p>DA Matters training was provided to over 1600 front line officers and staff in 2020/21. This included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability to support intervention, supporting the victim service. A network of DA champions is now in place across the organisation, to support ongoing local delivery, and looking for ways to improve the service provided.</p> <p>Changes have also been made to the referrals process to minimise the possibility of victims wanting support who are might not be referred and to help identify vulnerability.</p>

Ongoing focus – December 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.

The national landscape is continuing to develop in this area, with the introduction of the Victims Bill into parliament as a Government priority. The Justice Select Committee has made recommendations for PCCs and included clauses to ensure an appropriate capture of consistent victim information in support of the work of the Victim's Commissioner and inspectorates.

There a nine rights for the victim within the code and this has been developed into the collection requirement for 20 different metrics, from the number of victims requesting an interpreter, and those who received one (under a single metric), to the timeliness of the information about a case going to court being provided by the Witness Care

Unit. There is an acknowledgement that requests will likely require changes to force crime recording systems, however until they are finalised the force is unable to make meaningful progress in making any required changes.

Whilst the force delivers a victim satisfaction survey, and has done so for many years, the Home Office is in the process of introducing a National Victim Satisfaction Survey. The force will continue to await further updates and understand what the sampling requirements will be for the provision of information into this process. There will obviously be work to avoid overlap and duplication within the existing victim survey process when there is more clarity of the detail underpinning the national delivery.

Whilst all areas remain stable, within the feedback the area of 'follow up' is consistently identified as an area the force needs to address. The force lead is holding a Complete Victim Care strategic meeting to discuss the formalising of a 'follow up' contract in order to improve the quality of provision for victims. This can be measured by the survey metrics to see if any such focus impacts on the satisfaction with the service provided by the police for our victims.

Work is also being progressed to update systems to enable staff to complete a full Initial Victim Needs Assessment. This will cover the Vulnerability Assessment; identify those victims entitled to an enhanced service; and identify those victims of VAWG (violence against women & girls) offences. This will support the force to understand any additional requirement and demands on the officers from this assessment. More importantly, it will support the force in better understanding the needs of victims in South Yorkshire and embed the delivery of service levels bespoke to a victim's needs and entitlement.

Specifically with regards to domestic abuse, work is ongoing with regards to Good Sam and training for officers and staff with the support of the Investigations Improvement Unit. Work to identify vulnerabilities around Honour Based abuse, Forced Marriage and Force Genital Mutilation continues, with staff being trained in partnership with Karma Nirvana. The Violence Against Women and Girls Independent Advisory Group has been established. It provides useful feedback from victims and individuals from hard to reach communities to inform the future service delivery across the force. This feedback has already been used to improve the literature given to victims of rape and serious sexual abuse.

The processes in place to protect victims of domestic abuse are considered to be robust and the lead works with Domestic Abuse services commissioned by the Local Authority to support the proactivity of the service offered by the force. The force currently awaits the findings of the HMICFRS PEEL inspection which should inform on numerous areas of force delivery including the treatment of 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.</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>
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>
<p>Ongoing focus - December 2022: DCI Claire Mayfield (Digital Investigations and Cyber)</p>	
<p>The response to cyber crime and cyber fraud within SYP is regionally managed and locally delivered. The region have recently changed the way the portfolio is managed, in that it now falls under the management alongside the regional response to economic crime. This is a move nationally that the force is currently reviewing – keen to ensure that the activities and structures within South Yorkshire can be managed and governed in a way that complements the national and regional picture.</p> <p>The phased business improvements within DFU are progressing. The Digital Forensics Unit, and the way in which digital forensics is used, has been under internal review for some time and continues to be so. The complexity of the work and changing national landscape had proved difficult to assess the prioritisation requirements for delivery. The current phase of the project has been submitted for consideration at the next Crime Services Board. This looks to deliver governance around demand and process, as well as delivering a victim-led service as recommended in the Home Office end to end rape investigation review.</p>	

There is a legislative drive for the Forensic Science Regulator to be given enforcement powers. For the force, this means that there will be a future impact of delivery, encompassing the wider areas of forensic examination such as Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Comms Data (cell sites). In the coming 24 months there will be a need to focus on accreditation in these areas as well as the wider digital provision. This will bring a challenge for those impacted - which will be broader than the current digital portfolio.