

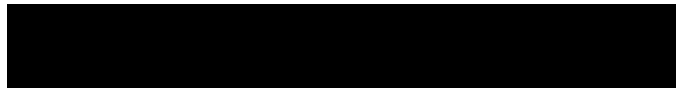
Public Document Pack



26 January 2023

To: Members of the Public Accountability Board

This matter is being dealt with by:
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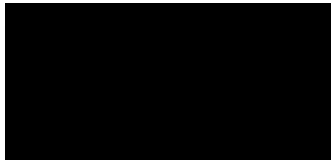
Dear Colleague

Public Accountability Board

You are invited to the next Public Accountability Board which will be held on **Thursday 2nd February 2023** at **2.30 pm** at the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Carbrook House, 5 Carbrook Hall Road Sheffield S9 2EH and via MS Teams.

The agenda and supporting papers are attached.

Yours sincerely



Erika Redfearn
Head of Governance

Enc.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2023

AGENDA

	Item		Page
1	Welcome and Apologies	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
2	<p>Filming Notification</p> <p>This meeting is being filmed as part of our commitment to make Public Accountability Board meetings more accessible to the public and our other stakeholders. The meeting will be streamed live on our You Tube channel (SYPCC Media) and will be recorded and uploaded via You Tube to our website (https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/) where it can be viewed at a later date.</p> <p>The OPCC operates in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Data collected during the filming will be retained in accordance with the OPCC's published policy.</p> <p>Therefore by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for publication on our website and/or training purposes.</p>	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
3	Announcements	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
4	Public Questions	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
5	Urgent Items	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
6	<p>Items to be considered in the absence of the public and press</p> <p>THAT, using the principles identified under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, or that they</p>	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report

	Item		Page
	are otherwise operationally sensitive or would attract an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.		
7	Declarations of Interest	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
8	Notes of the meeting of the Public Accountability Board held on 9 January 2023	Dr A Billings	5 - 10
9	Matters Arising/Actions	M Buttery	11 - 12
	FORCE PERFORMANCE		
10	Doncaster District Summary Update	I Proffitt	13 - 34
11	Force Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan 2022 - 2025 - Protecting Vulnerable People	T Forber	35 - 46
12	SYP's Quarterly Budget Monitoring Overview	D Carrington	47 - 54
13	Firearms Licensing	C Buttle	55 - 58
	CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTING		
14	Strategic Planning and Budget Setting	M Buttery	Verbal Report
15	PCC Decisions	M Buttery	59 - 62
16	Work Programme	M Buttery	63 - 64
	ASSURANCE PANEL REPORTING		
17	JIAC Assurance Report	S Wragg	65 - 70
18	Any Other Business To be notified at the beginning of the meeting		
19	Date and Time of Next Meeting		
	27 February 2023 at 1300 hours		

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD: NOTE OF THE MEETING

9 January 2023

Attendees present (in person and virtually)

Dr A Billings (Chair)
 M Buttery (Chief Executive & Solicitor, OPCC)
 S Abbott (Chief Finance Officer, OPCC)
 F Topliss (Engagement and Communications Manager, OPCC)
 S Parkin (Governance and Compliance Manager, OPCC)
 S Baldwin (Evaluation & Scrutiny Officer, OPCC)
 L Poultney (Chief Constable, SYP)
 T Forber (Deputy Chief Constable, SYP)
 D Thorpe (Assistant Chief Constable, SYP)
 S Hemsley (Chief Superintendent, Sheffield, SYP)
 A Fletcher (Office Manager, SYP)
 A Greenwood (Violence Reduction Unit)
 J Humphries (Violence Reduction Unit)
 S Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)
 M Lewis (Interim Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel)

Observing

E Salla (Student Health Visitor / Rapid Response SUDIC Nurse)
 Cllr P Garbutt (Sheffield City Council)
 Cllr C Ransome (Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council)
 Cllr R Milson (Sheffield City Council)

Apologies received

J Bland, D Carrington, D Hartley and M Lewis

NO:	AGENDA ITEM NAME
2	<u>FILMING NOTIFICATION</u> The Commissioner confirmed that the meeting was being streamed live on You Tube (SYPCC Media) and was being recorded and uploaded via You Tube to the website (www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/) where it can be viewed at a later date.
3	<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Chief Constable announced the appointment of two Assistant Chief Constables (ACCs), S Poolman and D Thorpe.

	The Chief Constable also reported that she had established a temporary ACC post to give dedicated drive to SYP's efficiency programme, including technological change, and with additional responsibility for Criminal Justice. T/ACC R Alton will undertake this role.
4	<p><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></p> <p>There were no public questions.</p>
5	<p><u>URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
6	<p><u>ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></p> <p>There were no items to be considered in the absence of the public and press.</p>
7	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
8	<p><u>SUMMARY NOTE AND DECISIONS/ACTIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2022</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
9	<p><u>ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>445 - S Wanless would provide more detail on the outcomes on the attacks on retail workers in Barnsley.</p> <p>Update: The investigation is still ongoing awaiting ID procedures and the forensic download of the device left behind at the scene. The investigation has had recent oversight by a Detective Sergeant and the Detective Inspector who has given further investigative direction to the Officer in the Case. The suspect is on conditional bail. Discharged</p> <p>446 – T Forber would provide more details on the rights of victims within the Victims' Code</p> <p>Update: T Forber confirmed that there had been an error in the report. There are 12 victims' rights. Discharged</p>

10	Sheffield District Summary Update
Purpose	To provide assurance to the Public Accountability Board (PAB) and the communities of Sheffield that South Yorkshire Police are committed to working with our partners to deliver the vision and strategic objectives of the Police and Crime Plan.

Key points	<p>A discussion took place with Chief Superintendent Shelley Hemsley, the District Commander for Sheffield.</p> <p>The Commissioner drew attention to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burglary outcomes • Vehicle crime • Response times • Increase in demand • New recruits • Visibility and accessibility of officers to the public • An initiative which had taken place at the Steel City Steps • Disruption of Organised Crime Groups and the positive work of the Fortify Team
Decision / Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information on missing children to be received at a future meeting

11	Force Performance Against Police and Crime Plan – Treating People Fairly
Purpose	To provide an update on the progress against the ‘Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour’ priority of the Police and Crime Plan, ‘Safer Streets More Police 2022-2025’ to support the Commissioner’s overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn, work and travel.
Key points	<p>A discussion took place in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter received from Home Secretary on 30 December 2022 in which she is clear on her ambition to cut homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime by 20% from their 2019 baseline by the end of this Parliament. • Force control room and public access to service • Crime volume and trends • Homicide and attempt homicide • Firearms and related criminality • Neighbourhood Crime Investigation Teams • Rural Crime • The use of technology in tackling crime • Speeding and road safety, in particularly the positive work of the Roads Policing Proactive Team
Decision/ Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCC to receive an overview of the Regional Scientific Support Service • The IEP’s ethical framework and checklist for new technology is to be re-circulated to SYP • The IEP be involved in SYP’s work around Drones • Analysis of collisions data is to be shared at the next Road Safety Partnership meeting

12	PCC's Strategic Planning Timetable
Purpose	To provide an overview of the Commissioner's annual strategic and financial planning process in relation to reviewing the Police and Crime Plan (2022-25) and setting a supporting budget and council tax precept for financial year 2023/24
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Process has two tracks – setting or refreshing the Police and Crime Plan and Budget Setting • The PCC's precept proposal will be presented to the SY Leaders on 16 January • A budget familiarisation session will take place with members of the Police and Crime Panel on 31 January • The PCC's precept proposal will be formally taken to the Police and Crime Panel on 3 February and then to a Special PAB on 27 February • Public consultation has shown that the public are willing to pay more in their council tax for police services compared with last year
Decision/ Action	None

13	PCC Decisions
Purpose	To provide the Board with a record of key decisions taken by the Commissioner outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting
Key points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no key decisions since the last meeting
Decision/ Action	None

14	Work Programme
Purpose	To provide the Board with an overview of the content of future meeting agendas
Key points	<p>The following reports are on the agenda for February 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster District Performance Report • Force Performance Report on Protecting Vulnerable People • SYP's Quarterly Budget Monitoring Overview • Firearms Licensing • HMICFRS's PEEL inspection report [Update 22/1/23 -This has now been deferred to March due to a delay in the publication of the report]
Decision/ Action	None

15	AOB
Key points	None

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MATTERS ARISING / ACTIONS

Ref	Date of meeting	Matter arising/action	Update	Owner	Complete (Y/N)
447	09/01/23	Further information on missing children to be received at a future meeting		TF	
448	09/01/23	The PCC to receive an overview of the Regional Scientific Support Service		TF	
449	09/01/23	The IEP's ethical framework and checklist for new technology is to be re-circulated to SYP	10/01/23 - Complete. Discharged	SB	Y
450	09/01/23	The IEP be involved in SYP's work around Drones		TF	
451	09/01/23	Analysis of collisions data is to be shared at the next Road Safety Partnership meeting		FT	

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

TITLE	Doncaster District Performance Report
MEETING DATE	2 February 2023
REPORT OF	Deputy Chief Constable Forber

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will outline activity that is ongoing to meet the Police and Crime plan and will address six key areas:-

1) Demand and Resources.

The district has seen relatively consistent volumes of incident demand during this quarter compared to previous quarters. There has been an 11.8% reduction in demand in December compared to the same month in 2021. It performs consistently against emergency response demand and is implementing improvements to its response to priority-graded demand. The district aspires to reinstate a fourth response base to improve performance in this important area.

2) Tackling Crime & ASB

Doncaster has seen a modest reduction in recorded crime in the most recent quarter compared to the previous quarter with 15% reductions in burglary dwelling and an 11% reduction in commercial and business burglary. Some focussed work has seen a 44.8% reduction in commercial burglary offences in the Town Ward compared to the previous period. Doncaster has a reduction in the number of robberies compared to the previous quarter, with a 14.1 per cent reduction. A summary of the joint work between prison establishments and police in the prison estates highlights that there were relevant 114 investigations in this quarter including 25 DA offences perpetrated from prison, and 16 assaults on prison staff.

3) Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse remains a priority and the leadership team ensure that officers take a proactive approach to domestic abuse and that arrests are made in the majority of cases. The arrest of suspects for domestic abuse offences continues to remain a district priority. High risk suspects are arrested in around 91% of investigations.

4) Most Serious Violence

The reporting period October to December 2022 saw a decline in the reporting of MSV offences, with a 26% fall in this compared to the previous three months. The last quarter of 2022 saw the lowest reporting of MSV for the year. Partnership working is driven through the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) violence reduction theme group, which has delivered a number of initiatives. Funding has been extended until the end of the current financial year to allow the use of taxi marshals in hot spot areas and high football events. Following the success of the multiagency licensing event earlier in the year, a further event is being planned for the spring.

5) VAWG

VAWG is an important part of the work of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP). The Protecting Vulnerable People and Reducing Violence and Violent Crime sub groups are engaged in pieces of work to both raise awareness and reduce the number of incidents. In the last six months the SSDP has commissioned and completed a violence against women and girls survey, and the findings have been shared across the partnership. Much of this work has supported the planned roll out of additional CCTV and lighting in public spaces and helped the police identify hotspot locations that are built into the NTE patrol plans.

6) Safeguarding

Doncaster district now has dedicated resources allocated to missing people investigations under the leadership of a police inspector in the District Support Hub. This missing from home team has recently been expanded and now consists of a police sergeant, nine police constables and two investigating officers. As well as conducting enquiries to locate missing people, the main objective of the team is problem solving to reduce demand. Overall numbers of young people going missing is reducing and the length of time before they are found is also reducing.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to reassure the people of Doncaster that the police are working to deliver the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan and are working to improve the service we deliver the communities within the borough.

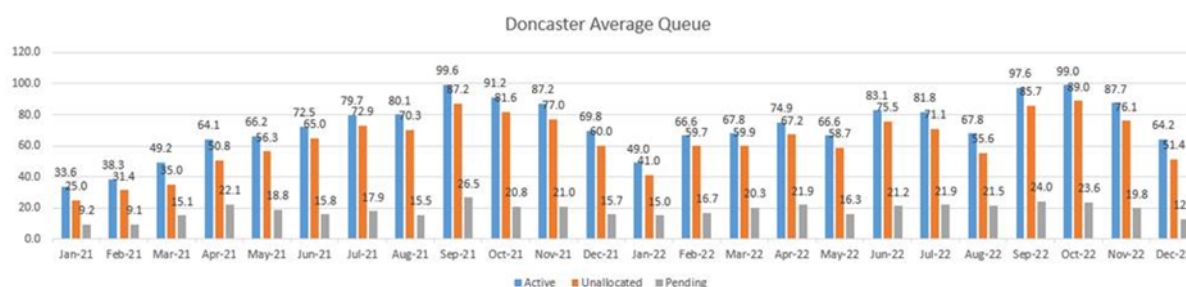
RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) considers the content of this report on behalf of the public in Doncaster and across South Yorkshire.

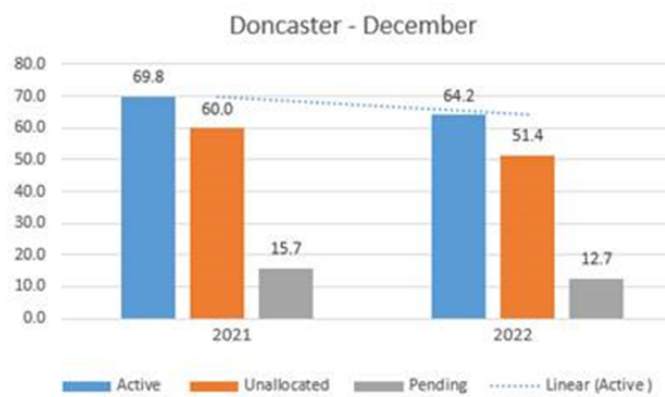
1. DEMAND AND RESOURCES

Overall Incident Demand

- 1.1 In the last quarter incident demand has remained relatively high in Doncaster, however trends over December and early January show a small reduction. Demand peaked in September and October in line with expectations with the St Leger Festival and Dark Nights period revealing demand comparable to 2021.
- 1.2 Over the period 1st September to 31st December the district had 4389 incidents graded as requiring an emergency response with a further 4823 requiring a Priority response. This is a reduction in emergency and priority incidents compared to the last quarter. The Doncaster Average Incident Queue is illustrated below.



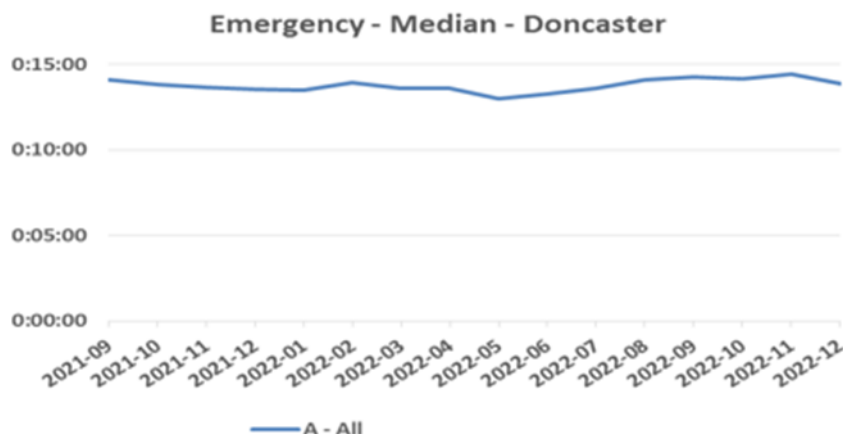
- 1.3 Comparisons between December 2021 and December 2022 show an overall incident demand reduction of 11.8%.
- 1.4 The average number of “active” and “unallocated” incidents decreased in December 2022 compared to December 2021. The table below illustrates this.



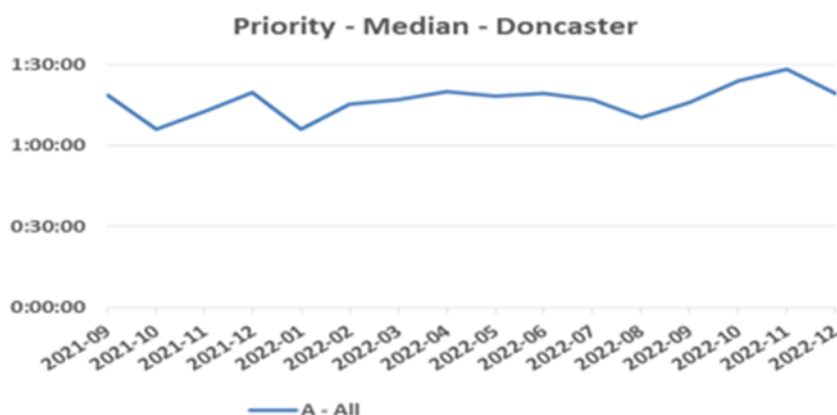
- 1.5 There has been a general reduction in the number of active unallocated incidents over the past year. In August 2021, for example, the average number of unallocated incidents was 70.3. In August 2022 this was 55.6, and in December 2022, this was 51.4. This reflects a greater cooperation between Force Control Room and district staff. Response supervisors meet with the Doncaster Operations and Force Control Room Chief Inspectors on a weekly basis to review the incident queue and build cooperation.

Incident Response Performance

- 1.6 The charts below show that attendance at emergency incidents within the 15 minutes target remains relatively stable and has improved towards the end of the year as demand reduced.



- 1.7 Response times for priorities also remain stable and between October and December averaged 1 hour and 5 minutes.



- 1.8. In company with the Force Control Room leadership team, the district's response chief inspector has completed a review of response times across the borough. The analysis allows the command team to understand the key wards, locations and times of the day where meeting response target times is a challenge. The data supports the plan to relocate a proportion of response officers to a fourth response base at Adwick Police Station. Relocation of resources will complement the creation of a fourth neighbourhood team, known as the North Neighbourhood team, which now work from Davies House Police Station in Roman Ridge Ward. The district aspires to progress this in the next financial year. Once this is in place it will reduce the travelling distances to a number of the affected areas.
- 1.9. The district's ability to meet demand is likely to improve as vacancies are filled by student officers. Between October 2022 and October 2023 Doncaster will see 81 student officers signed off as operationally competent, as they complete their first two years of training. In the main they will join the response teams. Further student officers will support the district teams as they work through their first two years in the organisation. This steady increase in numbers will also provide an opportunity to populate current vacancies on other teams such as the Neighbourhood and Domestic Abuse investigation teams. The district's capacity to meet target times and reduce demand through problem solving will improve as the new officers gain experience.

2. **TACKLING CRIME AND ASB**

- 2.1. Doncaster has seen a reduction in recorded crime in the most recent quarter compared to the previous quarter.

	Jul-Sep 22	Oct-Dec 22	% Change
Doncaster Crime	10,947	10,561	3.5 per cent

Residential Burglary

- 2.2. In December, Doncaster experienced a 15 per cent decrease in residential burglary compared to the previous quarter. This is 23 per cent lower than in the same period in 2021.

- 2.3. The twelve months to May 2022 saw consistently high volumes of burglary, and in the spring the district improved its response to burglary. The DCI crime manager continues to chair a weekly meeting focussing on Neighbourhood Crime. This is attended by each Neighbourhood Team, CID, Intelligence, Offender Management and DOCO (Designing Out Crime Officer). The meeting uses analytical data to identify current patterns and sets priority patrol areas for the forthcoming week. The activity in these areas is monitored daily using GPS tracking with its quality assured each day in the Daily Management Meeting.

What is working well:

- 2.4. The dedicated Burglary Scene Attender and Investigator play an important role in ensuring that reports of residential burglary are attended in a timely manner and that evidence is gathered effectively and is readily available to promptly identify offenders. Funding for these roles has been secured until 2023 and a business plan produced for consideration to making these posts permanent.
- 2.5. The weekly THRIVE process chaired by the operations superintendent ensures that neighbourhood crime suspects are arrested as quickly as possible, and there is effective governance to ensure that the neighbourhood policing teams are working to patrol priority areas, and have effective problem solving plans in place to reduce the number of offences.

What we are worried about:

- 2.6. The cost of living crisis has the potential to increase incidents of acquisitive crime. The Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership has a subgroup dedicated to reducing crime and re-offending and works effectively with partners. They are considering the impact of the current financial situation.

Commercial Burglary

- 2.7. In the most recent quarter Doncaster recorded similar commercial burglary volumes compared to the previous quarter. More recently, December saw an 11 per cent reduction in commercial burglary volumes across the borough. There have been some notable arrests, including within the Town Centre Ward. This is a result of some consistent work from the neighbourhood team, effective responses to calls for service and effective investigations. This has seen a 44.8% reduction in commercial burglary offences in the Town Ward compared to the previous period.
- 2.8. Naturally the highest volume commercial burglaries are committed within the commercial centre of the city. During this period, 19.3 per cent of the borough's business and community burglaries occurred in the Town Centre ward.

What we are doing:

- 2.9. The district's Central Neighbourhood Team have developed a successful problem solving plan to address town centre commercial burglary. The DOCO has completed visits to repeat locations and town centre PCSO's continue follow up on the incidents, providing target hardening and crime prevention advice. A number of resources are dedicated to the city centre through a daily tasking process and they are working to build effective relationships with business owners. The command team continue to monitor officer visibility using trackers which record their activities.

Personal Robbery

- 2.10. Doncaster has a reduction in the number of robberies compared to the previous quarter, with a 14.1 per cent reduction. Through the monthly Tasking Meetings and the weekly crime management process the district monitors trends including those related to personal robbery. This allows the team to identify crime series or patterns, link offences to serial offenders and use targeted patrol plans.

What we are worried about:

- 2.11. The Town Centre ward continues to be the area with the highest volume of offences. In this period 26.6 per cent of offences took place in this ward. Many of these are committed by young people and children on other similar aged victims.

What we are doing:

- 2.12. Town Ward remains a priority patrol area for the response and neighbourhood teams, and the district is supported by OSU colleagues through increased patrols which are secured through the Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (TT&CG) bidding process. This visibility work is supported by the GRIP patrols which see officers conduct pulse patrols in hotspot locations where violent crime is prevalent. Processes are also in place to identify trends and review monthly analysis of crime patterns. These are managed via existing Crime Management and Thrive meetings and any identified suspects are prioritised for arrest through the daily management meetings (DMM).

Vehicle Crime

- 2.13. Vehicle Crime consists of Theft of Motor Vehicle, Theft from Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Interference. Overall, Doncaster has seen static vehicle crime numbers in the most recent quarter compared to the previous quarter.
- 2.14. In December, Doncaster experienced a 33.8 per cent decrease in Theft *from* a Motor Vehicle and 24.3 per cent decrease in Theft of a Motor Vehicle offences compared to November.

What we are worried about:

- 2.15. Theft of motor vehicles, specifically Transit Vans and some types of Land Rover vehicles, stolen via keyless theft or by relay attack, continue to be an area of concern.

What we are doing:

- 2.16. The district response to this increase in vehicle crime is managed by the Fortify Team. There are daily dedicated patrols which focus on hotspot areas and there has been significant support from force resources secured through bids into the monthly force Tactical Tasking & Co-ordination Group (TT&CG) to ensure Doncaster benefits from additional capability and visibility. The district is working close with regional and national colleagues to understand the trends and emerging modus operandi (MO's) and circulates crime prevention advice promptly to ensure our communities can safeguard their property.

- 2.17. Initiatives funded by the Safer, Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) complement this work, and crime prevention advice and crime prevention products have been developed and disseminated by the SSDP Reducing Crime and Re-offending sub group.
- 2.18. The key neighbourhood crime wards, Town, Wheatley and Hexthorpe, all have Neighbourhood Team led Problem Solving Plans that are overseen by the District Crime Manager. More focussed work has been carried out around hotel car-parks where a series of offences were seen where trade vans were being targeted. These are helping to drive some of the reductions in these crime types.

Visibility and Engagement

- 2.19. Over the Christmas period the Central Neighbourhood Team maximised visibility in the city centre through the provision of a stall as part of the Christmas markets. Each ward area has a pop up police station or partnership drop event planned every month and these are advertised through newsletters and online.
- 2.20. Recent work has been focused on the implementation of the new North Neighbourhood team. This involved a media awareness campaign through SYP channels and specific engagement events in the area during Operation Duxford on Wednesday 11th January. The Neighbourhood teams now mirror the DMBC localities model which improves attendance at Community Engagement Meetings and partnership events.
- 2.21. As well as enabling the district to launch the fourth neighbourhood team, Operation Duxford saw the new Doncaster North NPT joined by other officers and specialist teams from across the force for the day of engagement and enforcement activity. Key partner agencies involved included Doncaster Council, St Leger homes, Stronger communities, SYFR, BT Openreach, British Transport Police, Northern Power grid and VOSA. Almost 120 community surveys, used to help us identify the key issues in specific areas, were completed with residents in Woodlands. The activity resulted in 16 arrests and a number of vehicle and drugs seizures. Eight stolen motor vehicles were also found and recovered from various areas in the North, alongside two off-road bikes recovered in Woodlands. A further five vehicles were seized for no insurance. Four dogs, suspected to be a banned breed or dangerous, were also seized.
- 2.22. A number of challenges regarding use of police social media platforms has now been resolved and each of the Neighbourhood teams have renewed access to Facebook and Twitter accounts. Further training has been provided to improve content.
- 2.23. The Neighbourhood teams have been utilising QR based surveys to identify local priorities. These can be accessed through engagement events, leafleting, SYP alerts and online platforms.
- 2.24. Each primary school in the district has a nominated police neighbourhood team SPOC who plans visits and relevant engagement activity, such as parking awareness sessions with parents. Officers also work with Doncaster City Council and SYP Community Safety to present specific topics at school assemblies such as dangers at bonfire night, knife crime and the mini police initiative. PCSOs will engage with hundreds of local pupils during the 'crucial crew' programme in the coming months.

- 2.25. In 2023 there will be a renewed focus on communicating with harder to reach groups. This will utilise online platforms and updated census data, in collaboration with Doncaster City Council. The intention is to improve access to services and more effective communication with under-represented groups in the community. The first stage of this process has been the successful re-introduction of the Doncaster Independent Advisory Group.

Prisons and the Police Prison Crime Unit

- 2.26. The Prison Crime Unit consists of two investigation teams each led by a detective sergeant. They specialise in offences committed within the prison establishment.
- 2.27. Working from Adwick and Thorne Police Stations, the team work closely with the security teams in prison to tackle any offending within prisons and also any corruption issues with prison staff
- 2.28. The Prison Crime Team tackle criminality and violence within the prisons. During this period, the Prison Crime Unit have undertaken 114 investigations in total. 25 were Domestic Abuse incidents perpetrated from within Prisons. 16 were assaults on prison officers assaults with a particular increase in spitting. Nine weapons have been recovered including a flick knife. There are a number of ongoing investigations in relation to conveying illicit substances into prison by various means, including the postal system, passing over at visits and using drones. 19 Phones and 26 SIM cards have been recovered as part of proactive search operations. This work reflects the determination that prison establishments and police have to deal with crime in the prison estates.
- 2.29. The following paragraphs describe the different prison establishments in the borough and serve to illustrate the scale of the prison population, and underlines the requirement to dedicate police teams to support the prison staff.

HMP Doncaster (Marshgate)

- 2.30. HMP Doncaster is a Category B local resettlement prison operated by privately-owned company Serco. This establishment is for offenders serving sentences of up to 12 months. The establishment houses a male population of up to 1,145 individuals aged 18 years and above, with a high proportion of prisoners having reception addresses recorded in South Yorkshire. Sentences largely relate to the committal of either acquisitive crime or sexual offences. This institution houses a high proportion of OCG nominals, holding the primary threat of drug supply, however these individuals also have links to County Lines, exploitation, firearms and violence.

HMP Moorland

- 2.31. HMP Moorland was built in 1990 and opened in 1991 as a Young Offender Remand Institution and later a male adult Category C prison in 1995. In 2011 the site was selected as a National Resource for men convicted of sexual offences (MCOSO's) and is currently a male Category C prison for Resettlement Prisoners from Yorkshire, a resettlement and trainer prison for MCOSO's, a Young Offender Institute and a Foreign National Prison Hub. The operational capacity is 1006 and is due to rise to 1058. The key ethos at Moorland is to replicate the opportunities people would have in the community, but also to enable the people in prison to gain skills for release. Much of this centres around access to workshops and education, where skills are learnt that will enable people to gain employment on release. Most notable is Forklift Truck licencing, DHL workshop, Construction and they are currently working with Keepmoat to open a bricklaying workshop with links to employability being key. HMP Moorland have recently

launched the Resettlement Hub which includes many partnerships such as, DWP, Jobcentreplus, Nacro, Ingeus, Pact, Novus works. The prison also has an integrated substance free living unit (ISFLU), and an Intermediate Care and Re-enablement unit (ICRU).

ISFLU

- 2.32. The Incentivised substance-free living unit (ISFLU) at HMP Moorland is a 60-bed unit which offers a supportive and community ethos where the environment will support safety, reduced violence and engagement into purposeful activity offering enhanced accommodation with incentives and additional support to all wishing to remain drug free and ones addressing their drug and alcohol dependence issues while progressing through their sentence and beyond. Substance misuse team are fully established on the unit to enable access to support which will be tailored to the needs of everyone, with the following services offering integrated supportive interventions, wing officers, SMS staff, Healthcare, peer mentors.

ICRU

- 2.33. The Intermediate Care and Re-enablement unit (ICRU) is a 9 bed unit which is a regional resource housing those with clinical need for up to 6 weeks. This avoids the need for un-necessary stays at hospital.

HMP Hatfield

- 2.34. HMP Hatfield is an open prison and currently holds 334 category D prisoners. The establishment is across two sites located 3 miles apart. All new receptions to HMP Hatfield will arrive at the Lakes site (112 bed unit located at the side of Lindholme Prison) where they are located for a period of assessment and adjustment to open conditions. Following a period of approximately 12 weeks prisoners move to the main site, based 3 miles away in Hatfield, where they can access Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) to maintain family ties and employment. Following induction and the conclusion of risk assessments, prisoners progress to the Hatfield main site and access further training, work and college placements and very importantly Stage 2 paid work out in the community. Hatfield has approximately 100 prisoners employed in full time paid employment in workplaces in community with the key aim of maintaining that job on release as it is proven to have a significant positive effect on reducing re-offending. Hatfield and other open prisons provide a unique opportunity to test prisoners in conditions more like those that they will face in the community. Hatfield works hard to support prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties (spending time at home with their families etc during periods of release), desist from substance misuse and ensuring housing needs are met so they successfully reintegrate into the community. These are all known factors that help to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Hatfield also has a responsibility to consider the safety and needs of the public as successful reintegration means less likelihood of reoffending, which benefits society. As such, Hatfield has established effective and robust risk management strategies with all of its prisoners having an individual risk management plan.
- 2.35. HMP Hatfield is currently undergoing a major multi-million pound investment. This includes a comprehensive Fire Safety Improvement programme that has recently completed which has future proofed fire safety at HMP Hatfield. The prison is also benefiting from a HMPPS new build investment programme which will provide additional new accommodation consisting of 2 x 60 bed units, the first of which is due to open in

June 2023, the second due to open in 2024. Alongside this HMP Hatfield are also opening a new dental suite and multi faith building.

- 2.36. Partnership working is key to Hatfield's continued success and they work with all agencies to ensure that they protect the public and minimise risks. Over the last 12 months the site has employed a Prisoner Employment Lead who drives the sites employment strategy. Key to this is developing partnership working with major employers to get prisoners into employment during their sentence with the aim of securing employment on release which is a key factor in preventing re-offending. The establishment currently works with 21 companies who provide employment to up to 100 prisoners at any one time. One of HMP Hatfield main strengths is the rates of employment on release. Since April 2022, the establishment has achieved on average 63% of prisoners going in to paid employment within the first 6 weeks post release. This is the best outcome in the prison service. HMP Hatfield also has an excellent track record of getting prisoners housed on their first night of custody with a YTD average of 97.3%. Both of these significantly cut down the likelihood of re-offending and as such protect the public.

HMP Lindholme

- 2.37. HMP Lindholme is a Category C prison housing males aged 21 and over serving a minimum of a four year sentence. Recent technological advances within HMPPS has allowed HMP Lindholme to become the first WIFI utilised laptop deployment site, meaning each prisoner has access to a laptop and restricted network designed to help navigate them through a successful period of custody. Due to length of sentence, as many as 25% of the prisoners accommodated at HMP Lindholme have been involved in Organised Crime. These can be from within Yorkshire or wider with approximately 50% of the prisoner population having an address in Yorkshire and just 20% having a home addresses within the South Yorkshire region. HMP Lindholme looks to support a culture of positive change, be that through creation of regimes designed to encourage time well spent, reinforcement of family contact or initiatives to drive down substance demand and therefore supply. Partnership working is a fundamental aspect of how we achieve at Lindholme, be that with Health, Education or Police colleagues.

Probation

- 2.38. The Prison based Community Integration Team (CIT) based in HMP Doncaster work with all cases on reception providing advice and guidance on a number of immediate resettlement needs. In addition, the team ensure that referrals are completed to relevant rehabilitative services both within and outside of the prison. The team provide a primary link between Prison Offender Managers and Probation Community based Probation Practitioners to ensure information is shared accordingly to address rehabilitation needs.
- 2.39. All people received into HMP Doncaster, whether sentenced or being held on remand, will have a screening which identifies needs to support resettlement into the community. These needs are then addressed by referrals to the in-prison services or to the Commissioned Rehabilitative Service (CRS). Currently CRS provision in custody is for Accommodation, Finance Benefit and Debt and Social Inclusion. These activities will commence prior to the individual being released from custody. The highest need identified (58%) within the cohort is Finance, Benefit and Debt. Activity around this includes:
- Bank account opened

- Bank contact
- Court fines
- Other – (cancelling mobile phone contracts etc)
- Debt support

2.40. The Probation Services Finance, Benefit and Debt commissioned rehabilitation service went live on the 3rd October 2022 and is fully embedded as of the 16th January 2023.

2.41. In addition to the work on immediate needs, Probation also work with people being released from HMP Moorland to ensure their needs are assessed. This includes working with people 12 weeks prior to release stage. This work ensures all needs are met and links are made with the Community Probation Practitioners in order to build effective working relationships prior to release.

2.42. The team are currently developing a session to be delivered pre-release to support prisoners in preparing for their release. The design has been influenced from feedback undertaken by our Engaging People on Probation (EPOP) team who actively sought feedback from people who had experienced short term custodial sentences.

Drug Offences

2.43. An operation was set up in Doncaster district in September 2022 to tackle drug dealing and violent crime in Doncaster.

2.44. The operation has combined the efforts of the Doncaster district resources and force wide departments from the Operational Support Unit and Crime Services. A large number of teams have been involved including Doncaster Fortify, CID and the local NPTs and they have been supported by Roads Policing Group and both the Tactical and Firearms Support Groups. They have provided dedicated patrols and operational support for the enforcement phase. Additional investigative support has been provided by the force Armed Crime Team. There is a Gold, Silver, and Bronze structure which manages the operation, led by the ACC for the crime portfolio.

2.45. The majority of the activity under the Train Alpha operation has consisted of warrants and proactive patrols (see below). Other activity has included:

- Stop search operations in the town centre.
- Open land searches by specialist search officers. As part of these searches two firearms were recovered.
- Days of action centred around traffic units
- Days of action around outstanding suspects or those wanted on warrant.

2.46. Since September officers have executed 51 warrants. Of these, 38 led to the recovery of controlled drugs, and resulted in the arrest of 40 individuals. Proactive patrols have also led to the 443 vehicle stop-checks, 127 stop searches, and the arrest of 27 further individuals. Significantly, since the launch of Train Alpha, six illegally held viable firearms have been recovered by officers. This include three handguns. These recoveries will have a significant impact on organised criminals in Doncaster.

2.47. In November 2022 the Armed Crime Team (ACT) was aligned to Doncaster and now has responsibility for the reactive and proactive investigation of gun crime. ACT is a

team of detectives specialising in the investigation of firearms discharges and other serious firearms offences. Since their launch they have taken on a number of investigations in the Doncaster area including the recovered firearms above. The ACT team is a valuable and much needed resource for the Doncaster district.

Focus on Edlington

- 2.48. Disruption work has continued in the Edlington area. The work has had an impact on the two OCGs that effect the communities in this area. The police interventions have seen a significant reduction in the risk posed by these groups since June 2022.
- 2.49. In late September Fortify officers investigating drug supply in Edlington executed 3 warrants, arrested 6 suspects, and recovered 750g of Class A and 600g of cannabis. This investigation is ongoing. Additionally Kian Thorpe, a principle member of one of the relevant OCG's, was recently sentenced to 10 years in prison for a shooting in Edlington in May 2022.
- 2.50. The Royal Estate in Edlington has been selected as an area for the piloting of the Home Office 'Clear, Hold, Build' initiative. This pilot project will involve the implementation of various interventions from police and partners in a small geographic area.
- 2.51. The project has three phases
- 'Clear' - to disrupt and remove from that area as many key nominals as possible. By its nature, this is predominantly police led, relying on recognised tactics such as arrest and remand, the imposition of bail conditions and orders, the execution of search warrants, and coordinated stop and search activity.
 - 'Hold' – this element of the plan centres around a partnership approach, demonstrating a sustained presence within the community. It uses utilises high visibility policing, as well as a visible partnership presence as well as community engagement events.
 - 'Build' – this phase is led by partners and aims to deal with the root cause of how criminality has become embedded within the community. It provides solutions intended to make the community more resilient and less vulnerable to further criminality.
- 2.52. The project is in its initially planning stages, and further information will be shared in due course.

Drugs interventions

- 2.53. Work to disrupt drug supply continues across Doncaster, with the majority of proactive work undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams and the district Fortify team. Drug possession recorded fell slightly from 162 to 152 offences in the most recent period. However, trafficking of drugs offences, which encompasses more serious offences such as possession with intent to supply, increased from 101 offences to 133 offences (32%). This is a significant increase, and an indicator of the positive work by officers to identify those who intend to supply controlled substances.
- 2.54. The district has refined some of the intelligence processes since the return of local intelligence cells to district management. A weekly intelligence and warrants meeting is now chaired by the Fortify Detective Inspector and attended by Fortify and NPT supervisors. This is complemented with a daily intelligence meeting between Fortify and

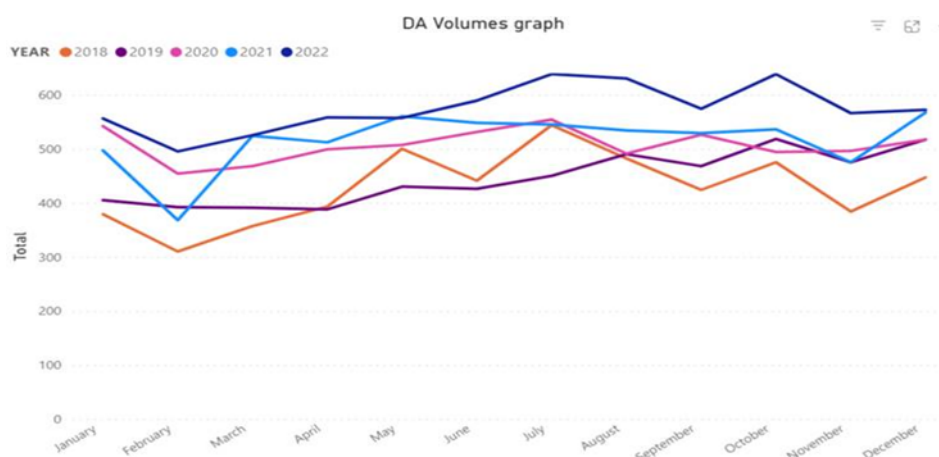
the Intelligence team to ensure that opportunities to intervene are identified and acted upon as soon as possible.

- 2.55. A determined effort over a number of years to tackle a Consibrough based OCG known as the PSB has led to significant disruption. In April 2022, two of the most significant members of this group were sentenced to 8 and 7 years in prison respectively. SYP successfully applied for gang injunctions, which have been in place for nearly two years. A concerted effort from the West Neighbourhood Team has also had a significant impact. There are a small number of criminals within the area who have tried to impose themselves within the Mexborough/Denaby/Conisbrough corridor. Work is ongoing by West NPT and Fortify, as well as force resource under Train Alpha to disrupt these individuals.

3. DOMESTIC ABUSE

- 3.1 Domestic Abuse (DA) demand continued to rise as we moved into the Christmas period with an increase in active investigations throughout the district. In Doncaster district, there were 574 crime investigations recorded in September, 638 in October, 566 in November, and 572 in December. Reducing outstanding suspects for domestic abuse remains a priority to ensure we make the timely arrests of those who pose a risk to the vulnerable. In order to achieve this, the district resources are complemented by additional central specialist resources on days of action. Domestic abuse perpetrators are discussed daily, and resources are specifically tasked with targeting and arresting offenders at the earliest possible opportunity to maximise evidence collection and to support the engagement of the victim. Doncaster's incident rate per head of population remains high in comparison to the rest of the force. The year to date volumes have consistently remained higher than in previous years however we did not see the sharp increase over the Christmas period as we did last year.

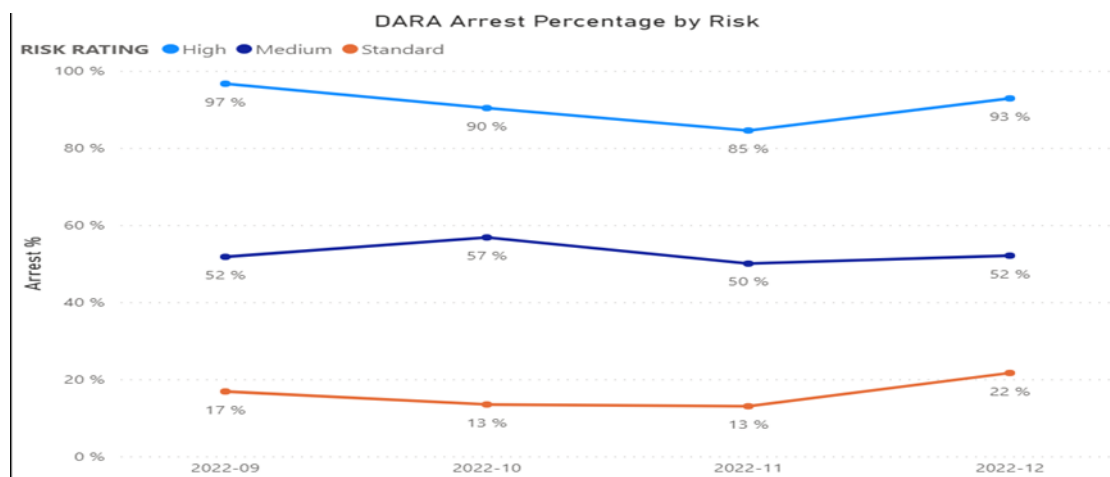
Volumes of Domestic Abuse Crimes in Doncaster



- 3.2 The table above illustrates the increase in Domestic Abuse demand over the past five years in Doncaster. As a result, Domestic Abuse remains a priority and the leadership team ensure that officers take a proactive approach to domestic abuse and that arrests are made in the majority of cases. The current arrest rate is 41%, which is comparative to the rest of the force. There has been a decrease in arrest rates across the force due to a number of factors; not least the introduction of non-intimate familial relationships into the

definition. Often this can be sibling on sibling reports and arrest is not often the most appropriate way to deal with these reports.

- 3.3 The arrest of suspects for domestic abuse offences continues to remain a district priority. High risk suspects are arrested in around 91% of investigations and, whilst there are some slight fluctuations month by month, this remains consistent demonstrating the district commitment to pursuing the highest risk suspects causing the most harm to vulnerable victims. The arrest rate of medium risk suspects is an area that requires further focus with the rate for the last quarter sitting at 52%. (see below)



- 3.4 All high risk and the majority of medium risk investigations are assigned to the dedicated specialist Domestic Abuse Investigation Team. The Integrated Offender Management team support this team by working proactively to locate and arrest these perpetrators.

- 3.5 All high and medium risk investigations are reviewed by dedicated Evidence Review Officers; providing bespoke investigation plans which give direction and support to the investigation. This allows for increased quality of investigation, improved victim engagement and robust suspect management.

- 3.6 In order to improve victim support and engagement, Doncaster safeguarding partnership has recently trialled a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator pilot scheme to support the victim and offer partnership support. The trial ran for 12 weeks and during this time there was a significant improvement in partnership working to support victim engagement. The co-ordinator was able to co-ordinate police and partnership resources to enhance the service victims received. An example of the success of this multi-agency response is displayed explicitly in an incident whereby a non-engaging female victim agreed to meet the domestic abuse co-ordinator following a period of increased and bespoke victim engagement and support. At the meeting the co-ordinator identified she was being stalked by the perpetrator and he was subsequently arrested. This perpetrator was subsequently charged with stalking and domestic assault offences.

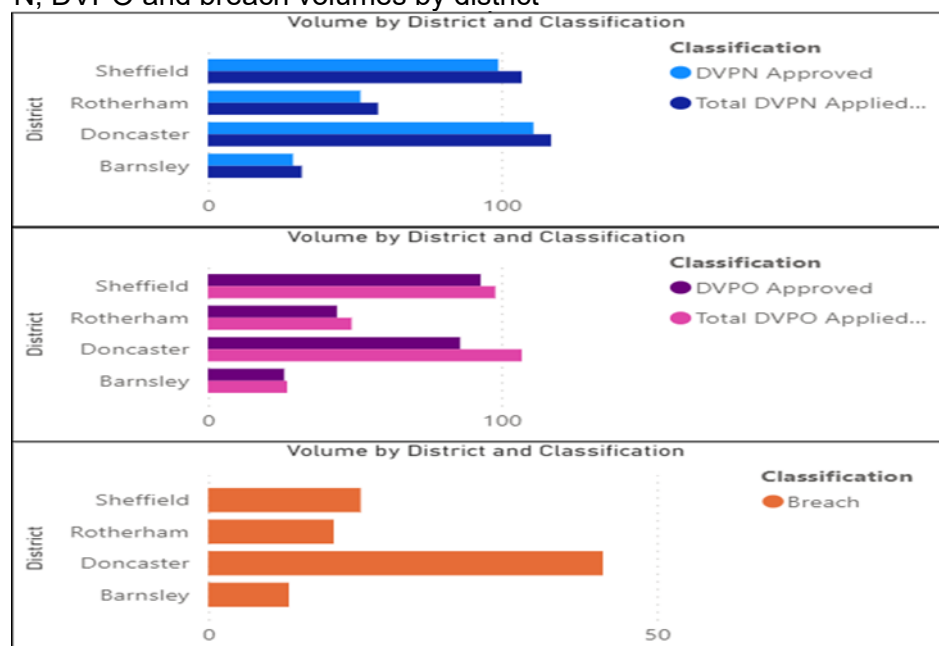
- 3.7 A problem-solving approach is applied to domestic abuse investigations in Doncaster with a focus on reducing harm, changing behaviours and disrupting perpetrators. This is achieved by taking a whole system approach to domestic abuse through efficient and effective use of problem-solving methods. The problem solving plans are based around engagement and enforcement and demonstrates a targeted approach to both the perpetrator and to identified victims. Success is measured through several indicators, which include increased engagement of victims, reduction of harm to victims through reduction in offending, engagement with perpetrator intervention programmes, successful

prosecutions and a reduction in demand for services. There are currently three active problem solving plans targeting the most harmful repeat perpetrators in Doncaster

3.8 Doncaster Council Domestic abuse Hub provides advice and support to victims of domestic abuse. Officers in Doncaster can signpost non-engaging victims to the domestic abuse hub using a referral pathway embedded in the risk assessment tool completed in every domestic abuse case. The hub provides practical and emotional support for victims in relation to housing and financial issues and with any drug or alcohol issues they may experience.

3.9 South Yorkshire Police is a national leader in the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) which are used to manage domestic abuse perpetrators and protect victim. These orders are often an effective tool in breaking the cycle of domestic abuse. Doncaster district continues to issue the highest number of DVPN's and DVPO's of all four districts; 107 DVPO's were obtained in the last quarter. In Doncaster, the Integrated Offender Management Team holds the responsibility for governance of the orders issued and have identified 37 breaches in the last quarter. The breaches provide a power of arrest to put the perpetrator before court within 24 hours.

Q3 DVPN, DVPO and breach volumes by district



Domestic Abuse Key Points

What is working well:

- 3.12. Our domestic abuse teams are working well at tackling the highest risk offenders and have seen some successful prosecutions with robust sentences of imprisonment at court. The team have become proficient in identifying risk, supporting victims and arresting and processing high-risk offenders in a timely manner to improve outcomes and increase victim engagement.
- 3.13. Doncaster has the lowest number of outstanding domestic abuse suspects in comparison to the number of active investigations. The district continues to have a

strong performance in the number of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders issued. The continued management of these order is key to disrupting these perpetrators and preventing further offending.

What are we worried about:

- 3.14. Domestic abuse investigations where the victim is non- engaging are a concern for the district. For many reasons, domestic abuse victims often do not wish to support the prosecution which increases the challenge to successfully prosecute perpetrators. Evidence led prosecutions are those brought to court without victim evidence. The threshold for CPS to agree charges, however, is often not met. Over the last 12 months, 53% of victims in Doncaster have not supported prosecutions. This rate is slightly higher than the force rate which is 51%.
- 3.15. Along with both the Domestic Abuse Coordinator scheme and the use of problem solving methodology, which aim to increase victim engagement, officers from Doncaster district have been supporting a force-led pilot utilising 'Rapid Video Response' (RVR) which allows officers to respond to low-risk DA incidents via a recorded video call. RVR officers are able to take statements, complete risk assessments and record offences via video call. This pilot also hopes to improve the prosecution of perpetrators of domestic abuse where the victim is not supporting a prosecution as the initial disclosure made by the victim is captured on video. This can be used to support an evidence led prosecution.
- 3.16. There has been a small decrease in the outcome rates for domestic abuse in Q3 to 11% action taken. This is a reduction from 13% in the previous quarter. In response to this reduction, an improvement plan has been adopted to focus specifically on timely attendance at incidents, as the speed of police attendance and interaction is key to maximising arrests, increasing safeguarding opportunities and ensuring a prompt and effective investigation, improved investigation quality and management and the reduction of no further action outcomes through non engagement of victims. The drive around the improvement plan will continue through a domestic abuse planning and performance meeting on a weekly basis

4 MOST SERIOUS VIOLENCE

- 4.1 The reporting period October to December 2022 saw a decline in the reporting of MSV offences, with a 26% fall in this compared to the previous 3-months. The last quarter saw the lowest reporting of MSV for the year 2022. This is particularly positive given the period coincided with the football world cup and the festive period and gives further credence to the well organised policing operation, and night time economy plans. These gained positive feedback from local partners concerned in the city's night time economy.
- 4.2 The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) violence reduction theme group has delivered a number of initiatives which were supported through the use of VRU funding. These were subject to some detail in the last Doncaster PAB report. In addition to that update, funding has been extended until the end of the current financial year to allow the use of taxi marshals in hot spot areas and high footfall events. Following the success of the multiagency licensing event earlier in the year, a further event is being planned

for the spring. The purchase of ID scanners for use at hotspot NTE locations is being explored, utilising GRIP funding.

4.3 The future plans of the violence reduction theme group will look at the three key areas;

- Deliver a meaningful multiagency data set to better understand reporting issues and inform preventative action. This will include the collation of street safe data and the use of accident and emergency data to allow more in depth profiling and nuanced preventative work.
- To continue to focus on the reduction of the prevalence of violence in the night time economy as we know that 22% of all violent offences occur within the city centre and often linked to the intoxication of the suspect and or victim.
- To improve the service given to victims of violence through adopting public health approaches and initiatives with a focus on a trauma informed approach across the partnership. This is important as we know around a third of all violence remains linked to domestic abuse or sees a high rate of repeat offenders and victims.

4.4 One area of concern remains the changing landscape in relation to the Night Time Economy (NTE). The traditional patterns of high footfall contained in city centre areas late into the night is changing, with fewer people engaging in this pattern and a move to higher footfall in licensed premises earlier in the evening and across more dispersed locations. As the broader social and economic pressures continue, the policing requirement may become more challenging as a result. On a positive note, the force is incorporating new NTE problem solving officers that are being funded by GRIP. A dedicated police constable starts this work in late January and will support the Doncaster and Rotherham in exploring ways to reduce the violence linked to our highest harm volume licensed premises. As a result a licensing continued professional development (CPD) day is planned for district chief Inspectors and NPT inspectors on 27th January.

5 **VAWG**

5.1 Doncaster successfully implemented a policing operation for the World Cup Football in November and December. This included patrol plans, engagement and awareness around VAWG. Key to this was the use of a pop-up police station by the Central Neighbourhood Team. Naturally there is a link between Domestic Abuse, Alcohol use, NTE events and VAWG in public spaces and the weekly “streetsafe” meeting allows the NTE partners to take cognisance of recent incidents and new trends and hotspot locations.

5.2 VAWG is an important part of the work of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP), and the Protecting Vulnerable People and Reducing Violence and Violent Crime sub groups are engaged in pieces of work to either raise awareness or reduce the number of incidents. For example, work is underway to develop and implement a borough wide, partnership sexual abuse strategy and the reducing crime and re-offending sub group currently has two main areas of focus for the next six months;

- Violence linked to the evening and night-time economy
- Violence against women and girls

5.3 In the last six months the SSDP has commissioned and completed a violence against women and girls survey, and the findings have been shared across the partnership.

Much of this work has supported the planned roll out of additional CCTV and lighting in public spaces and helped the police identify hotspot locations that are built into the NTE patrol plans. The sub groups have also established a community led VAWG group and has supported the dissemination of the SYP 'No More' campaign. Through the local authority's community safety department, the safer streets fund has awarded significant funding to improve parks and other open spaces. Work carried out to date has seen a combination of solar lighting with CCTV, and is intended to reduce the fear of women and girls in public spaces during the evening.

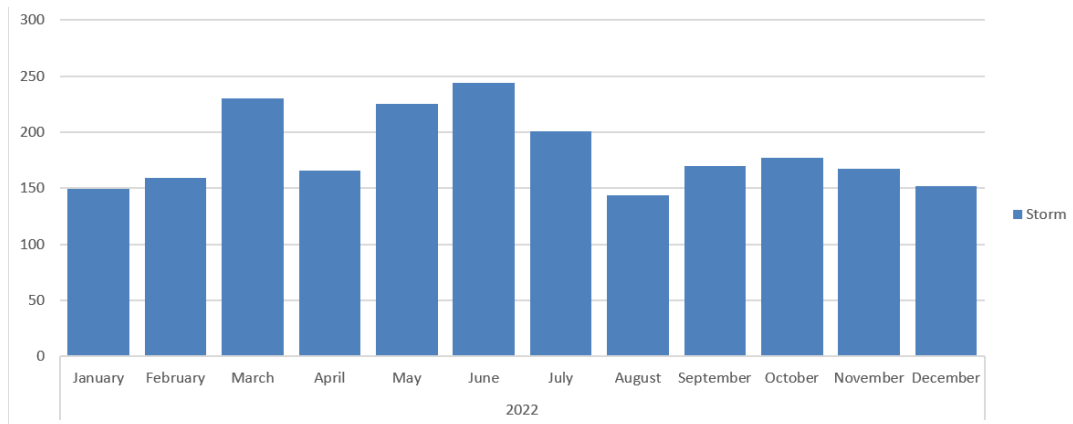
- 5.4 The district is also hosting an open day with the Doncaster Muslims Women's network in early February. The agenda includes presentations on the role of different policing teams, a presentation on the work the police is doing to tackle VAWG, honour based abuse and hate crime. There will also be a presentation from a female Muslim officer about life as a police officer. The aim of the day is to build that relationship with the group, break down barriers and encourage an increase in reporting and confidence.

6 SAFEGUARDING

Missing from Home, Child Sexual Exploitation and Child County Lines

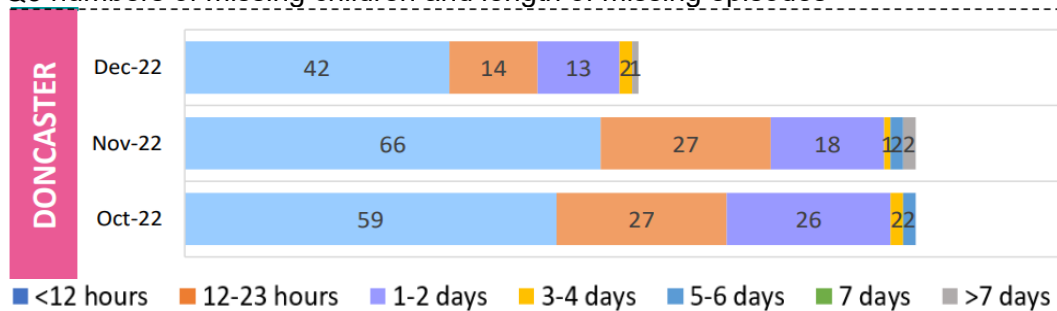
- 6.1 Doncaster district now has dedicated resources allocated to missing investigations under the leadership of a police inspector in the District Support Hub. This missing from home team has recently been expanded and now consists of a police sergeant, nine police constables and two investigating officers. As well as conducting enquiries to locate missing people, the main objective of the team is problem solving to reduce demand. Two specialist Detective Constables are also integrated in the team who work with children linked to CSE & CCE with an aim to safeguard these children from this offending and ensure that we disrupt and pursue perpetrators who may pose a risk to these children.
- 6.2 The top frequently reported missing individuals are reviewed every two weeks and plans are developed and managed under the THRIVE (threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability, engagement) model. A partnership approach is taken when reviewing each case to maximise opportunities to reduce missing episodes. Top frequent locations are regularly reviewed and do correlate with the most frequent missing persons and therefore plans are victim and location focused.
- 6.3 During Q3 there have been 494 missing reports taken relating to 297 individuals; 165 of which were children, 49 of which reside in local authority care homes and 15 reside in foster care placements. The majority of reported missing people are located in less than 12 hours. These 165 children accounted for 329 (66.5%) of the 494 reports. The below table illustrates the number of missing from home reports during 2022.

Missing from home reports 2022



- 6.4 The below table illustrates the number of children missing and the length of time they have been missing from home; clearly showing a reduction over the months of Q3 since the expansion of the team.

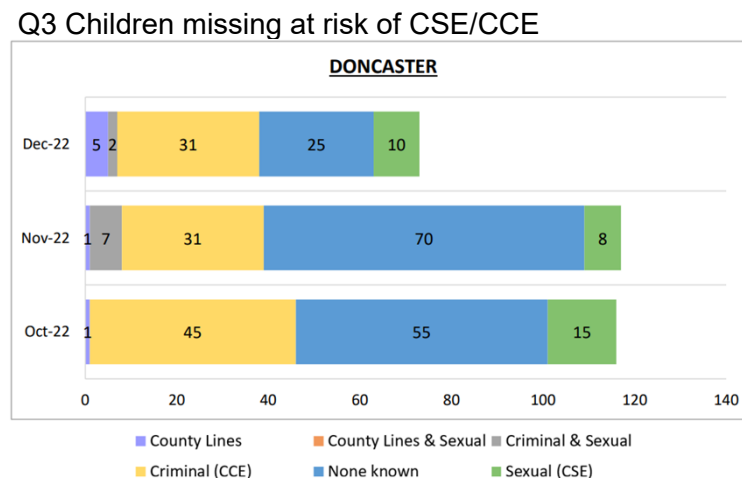
Q3 numbers of missing children and length of missing episodes



- 6.5 The Missing from home team work in partnership with 15 DMBC children's homes and each care home now has a single point of contact missing from home officer. They attend the home on a weekly basis to improve engagement, and increase the intelligence flow from the homes to the police. This leads to more effective responses to missing episodes.
- 6.6 Much partnership work goes into reducing the factors which contribute to looked after children going missing. Child abduction warning notices are used to break associations where this may be a contributing factor to the missing episode. The force is engaging in research around problem solving to reduce missing demand cause by looked after children. This is with Leeds Beckett University and officers from the missing team will be involved in this. The force has developed a truancy policy to address missing reports which in fact are truancy episodes. This is currently being rolled out and will be reviewed to ascertain the impact on missing reports.
- 6.7 As part of this force wide effort to provide better quality intervention and investigation around missing children, Doncaster has adopted the Philomena Protocol. This protocol provides care homes and carers with a process to prepare relevant information about their children which will assist Police investigators if they go missing. For example, a children's home may be able to provide immediate information about a child's favourite place or who they most like to be with which may help an investigator safely locate a child quickly. This team takes a multi-agency problem solving approach to the investigation of missing people in Doncaster to reduce the incidents of missing and

provide an improved quality of investigation from the outset. The team hold a daily meeting with Doncaster Council Social Care discussing all CSE & CCE cases, these meetings have enhanced information sharing, which has resulted in children being located in a timelier manner.

- 6.8 The below table illustrates the number of children in Doncaster with links to CSE & CCE; with clear reductions over the last quarter through early problem solving and information sharing with the Missing from home team and partners.



- 6.9 SYP utilise a dedicated database called COMPACT designed specifically to manage missing episodes. The system ensures regular and thorough reviews by supervisors and senior management dependent on the risk to the individual and prevailing circumstances.

What is working well:

- 6.10 The investment of resources into the missing from home team has directly impacted service delivery in this area. There has been a decrease in the time it takes to locate a missing person. In the case of one missing child, records show that they were regularly missing for over 72 hours. In their most recent episode they were located quickly and less than 24 hours after report.
- 6.11 Q3 has seen increased governance in relation to completion of tasks on COMPACT in a more efficient and timely manner when a child is found. This includes vulnerable children referrals to Social Care, submission of intelligence reports and recording of any relevant criminal investigations.
- 6.12 A bi-weekly Child Exploitation Tasking Group (CETG) meeting is held within Doncaster and chaired by the PVP Detective Chief Inspector. This is a multi-agency meeting and considers all intelligence and incidents relating to victims, offenders and locations. There has been continued emphasis on partners submitting third party intelligence, but it is too early at this stage to interpret the impact upon outcomes. The CETG meetings are currently being reviewed by the police to consider how they can be more effective to

ensure all attendees are tasked appropriately to provide a multi-agency response to those children involved in CSE/CCE.

What we are worried about:

- 6.13 Gathering partnership intelligence has been an area of particular focus over the last year; in particular intelligence from partner agencies around CSE & CCE risks to children. Without a dedicated CSE/CCE team in Doncaster, there is the potential to impact upon the capability to proactively and robustly investigate CSE/CCE/County Lines. An ongoing force wide PVP review is focused on this area amongst others and will consider if a dedicated CSE/CCE team similar to those seen in Sheffield and Rotherham would be of benefit to Doncaster and enable the district to more readily identify risk and safeguard current and future victims of CSE/CCE.

Report Author:	Chief Superintendent Ian Proffitt. Doncaster District Commander
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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 2023

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

THEME: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE (PVP)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) around progress against the Protecting Vulnerable People priority of the Police and Crime Plan Safer Streets More Police 2022-2025, to support the PCC's overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn, work and travel.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S) AND / OR DECISION(S) REQUIRED

- 2.1 The force recommends that the PCC considers and discusses the contents of this report and considers whether further assurance is required in relation to the progress made to meet the police and crime plan priority.

3 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 This report will present a brief summary of some of the work undertaken in Protecting Vulnerable People, in delivering the Police and Crime Plan during the current period. This report will provide evidence of approach and delivery within a number of PVP areas:
- Working in partnership to Protect Vulnerable People
 - Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Tackling the Exploitation of Adults and Children
 - Cyber Crime
- 3.2 In 2019, HMICFRS rated the force as 'good' at protecting vulnerable people (PVP) and working well with partners. It stated that the force has a good understanding of vulnerability and supporting staff in identifying vulnerability, and is good at working with partners to manage and prevent the demand from mental health.
- 3.3 There were also areas identified for improvement, and the force has focussed effort on specific recommendations made in the inspection report:
- Crime Data Accuracy (CDA) and investigation supervision
 - More effective partnership data sharing

- A need to better recognise less obvious vulnerabilities
- 3.4 The force is currently in the finalisation stages of the current PEEL Assessment inspection process, whereby HMICFRS scrutinise all areas of force delivery and will deliver an up to date judgement of the force's overall performance. The end-to-end process takes approximately 18 months, the force expects a positive report which is due to be published in early 2023.
 - 3.5 The force has outlined for HMICFRS in our most recent Force Management Statement the challenges in this area of delivery. Detective vacancies and increasing digital footprint within investigations are both recognised as a concern for the wider policing service provision.
 - 3.6 It is acknowledged that the Officer Uplift programme will bring long-term benefits with specialist resources allocated to the PVP areas of work, but this will take time to deliver. Demands for PVP services are high, and in some areas, increases are anticipated. Supporting the effective use of existing resources and ensuring the force works to deliver a whole system approach across the wider partnership in the protection of vulnerable people is a focus for the force in 2022/23.

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- 3.7 Specific VAWG Operation Duxfords have taken place at each district, all of which were positive and supported by Crime Services and the Operational Support Unit (OSU). This involved dedicated enforcement and engagement activity and patrols carried out in areas and specific locations that women and girls have previously told us they do not feel safe, either through surveys or by speaking to local officers.

3.8 Doncaster

10 arrests made for VAWG offences (majority DA related), two of which have already been charged.

Alongside numerous arrest warrants, local officers also carried out patrols in areas and specific locations that women and girls have previously told us they do not feel safe.

Barnsley

Barnsley officers focused on the night time economy and ran a taxi licensing operation as well as deploying officers into the night time economy in line with existing night time economy operations. This operation entails the use of uniformed and plain-clothed officers, in conjunction with street pastors. Their purpose is to safeguard vulnerable women and to intervene with potential perpetrators. Various police powers and legal avenues are used in order to disrupt and deter potential perpetrators.

This approach has been firmly embedded into our policing operation within the night time economy and has been recognised by partners, such as the Street Pastors, who have given feedback that officers are proactively intervening in matters that they would have previously dealt with.

Rotherham

As part of the 16 days of action, Rotherham officers carried out activity such as additional licensing checks as part of the response to the night time economy and pulse patrols of areas identified by the StreetSafe application.

Eight engagement stalls were held in various locations in Rotherham throughout the 16 days focussed on encouraging sign up to the StreetSafe application and providing crime prevention handouts, including personal attack alarms.

Rotherham also held dedicated days of action targeting offenders that were outstanding for offences relating to violence against women and girls and conducted targeted Domestic Violence Prevention Order (DVPO) checks to offer reassurance and engagement to some of our most vulnerable victims.

Sheffield

Some of the results from the 16 days of activism in Sheffield were as follows;

- 18 arrests for VAWG related offences or VAWG related offenders wanted for other matters
- 18 visits to registered sex offenders
- 64 safeguarding visits
- 9 Domestic Violence Prevention Order Visits (DVPO)
- 11 engagement stalls
- 12 people or property searches
- Enhanced community patrols within locations identified by the Streetsafe app as areas females reported feeling unsafe
- Brothel and Licensed Premises visits to engage with workers
- Pop-up Police Stations in key areas as highlighted by the VAWG IAG as police activity they would like to see.

- 3.9 A VAWG survey was released at the commencement of the 16 days of activism and has now closed; once results are available, the force intends to report to the OPCC on this.
- 3.10 At the end of the 16 days of activism, the Men's Forum and Women's Network joined to explore ways in which men could provide positive impact on tackling VAWG issues. The head of Corporate Communications presented the 'Upstander not Bystander' campaign and discussed ways in which this could be progressed further internally.
- 3.11 Discussions were held about what being an 'upstander' looks like, using a real life case study of a WhatsApp chat. This has led to a group of men volunteering to work on the internal element of the campaign, which is to be launched in the coming months.

- 3.12 The head of Corporate Communications also presented this campaign to the Senior Leadership Group and has been invited to support each district in tackling VAWG issues locally. This will utilise the 'listening circles' approach and detail real life examples of VAWG behaviours within the force, in a bid to address the view that this is a 'Met issue'.
- 3.13 As phase one of the campaign looked at behaviours we wanted to say 'No More' to, phase two will focus on the positive behaviours of allies, showing exactly what allyship looks like and exploring ways in which we can all play a role. This will be complimented by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) campaign, which looks at positive male role models.
- 3.14 The trauma training has now been procured and the force lead for VAWG is working with People and Organisational Development (POD) and the service provider with an aim to start the full days input in the first few months of 2023.
- 3.15 There has been a social media drive on using the StreetSafe tool, which is hoped will contribute toward changing attitudes toward VAWG externally. The force has also continued to push the 'No More' campaign externally throughout the 16 days, as well as throughout World Cup and the Christmas period.
- 3.16 The force thematic lead for VAWG has been working with partners and victims of VAWG offences with an ambition of capturing the 'youth voice' and has been invited to attend the regional CrimeStoppers Youth IAG this month to discuss VAWG and the concerns of younger people. The next phase will be work around capturing the voice of the older victim. Sheffield Local Authority are recruiting an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) for this specific purpose and once appointed the force lead will be working with them to progress this.
- 3.17 A number of key changes introduced over the past 6-12 months are now contributing to a positive and continued improvement in performance on Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO).
- 3.18 A RASSO specific problem profile has been created and tactical tasking and co-ordination group (TTCG) RASSO inputs have been revised. In addition to this, the force has created a comprehensive RASSO 4P improvement plan.
- 3.19 Weekly scrutiny takes place of all Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) rejected cases and identification of all cases for mandatory or discretionary Early Investigative Advice Cases.
- 3.20 The force has created dedicated RASSO champions across all districts who can be spoken to in confidence for advice and guidance. In addition to this the force has recently trained 65 specialist trained front line officers (STO's) in order to ensure that they, as our first responders are equipped to deal with that extremely important initial call for help, whether that be within our community or our organisation. Monthly drop-in sessions are being held and a training refresh will take place in January 2023.

- 3.21 Across all district PVP teams, RASSO surgeries have been taking place in order to improve investigative standards and reduce time delays.
- 3.22 A RASSO specific Quality Assurance Thematic Testing (QATT) has been implemented within force to quality assure all filed and live RASSO investigations in order to drive further improvements and ensure a high level of victim service.
- 3.23 A RASSO partnership scrutiny panel has recently been established to quality assure RASSO files – both live investigations and those that have been filed as No Further Action (NFA). The panel meets on a quarterly basis and is attended by SYP RASSO District Champions, ISVA service representatives, Criminal Justice Unit (CJU), CPS and OPCC.
- 3.24 The RASSO district champions are each given four files to review each quarter following a RASSO specific QATT. Findings are then discussed at the meeting, considering areas for improvement and good practice. This ensures that the force can learn and develop through CPD to ensure that we are providing the best possible service to victims of rape and serious sexual offences.
- 3.25 The force continues to work closely with partner agencies and regular meetings have been established with the independent sexual violence advisor service (ISVA), CJU, CPS and University safeguarding leads.
Inputs from partners such as sexual assault referral centres (SARC), ISVA and survivors have been included in training events at all levels.
- 3.26 Partners have also been trained by SYP in obtaining anonymous intelligence from victims who self-refer.
- 3.27 The force RASSO lead has reached out to survivor groups to incorporate their experiences and voices in to our learning.
- 3.28 A RASSO specific victim booklet has been created which is specifically designed for victims of rape and serious sexual offences. It contains sections on the different phases of an investigation, a section of support services and a FAQ section. The purpose of the booklet is to provide victims with the relevant information and access to support that they would not necessarily receive through the normal victim booklet. A number of partner agencies, together with victim/survivor groups have contributed to the formulation of the booklet and this will be available mid-January 2023.
- 3.29 The force has also volunteered to be part of the Home Office case file review for the RASSO area, which is due to commence in January 2023.
- 3.30 The force recognises the complex nature of sex work and prostitution and have appointed a dedicated thematic lead for this area. It is believed that many of those involved in sex work do so due to issues around finance, either through dependency issues, reductions in benefits or to assist others / dependents. As such, the force adopts an engagement style approach with regards to those persons involved directly in sex work, more specifically on street sex work.

- 3.31 Much of this takes place via engagement with third party agencies, for example the Amber project in Doncaster and SWWOP in Sheffield. These agencies engage with women (as these are gender specific agencies) concerning issues such as housing and benefits, along with establishing reasons for behaviours and providing them with valuable skills to leave the arena of sex work to develop themselves, through training and/or education.
- 3.32 These project groups are a great asset to the links between sex workers and the police and provide an invaluable service to those persons that want to engage. Their continued involvement, along with the forces investments in these groups is paramount to the continued multi agency working to provide appropriate safeguarding, help, reassurance and guidance.
- 3.33 Regular engagement through high visibility police patrols within areas with visible sex workers enables officers to have up to date information, signpost to the associated 'project', and submission of vulnerable adult forms where appropriate. This helps to ensure the force provides the best multi-agency service possible.
- 3.34 The key concerns within this area of policing are around 'off street sex workers', those who work from their home address or 'pop up' brothels, as the force rarely receives information that facilitates agencies visiting these addresses and providing the necessary support.

Domestic Abuse

- 3.35 The GoodSAM platform has five main uses for Police services at present. These are the uses recently trialled within SYP:
1. Requesting a live video feed from the caller's phone
 2. Requesting a live location feed from the caller's phone
 3. Allowing the caller to send attachments direct to the call handler (photos etc.)
 4. The ability to conduct a 'Webchat' with a caller in a different language
 5. Recorded video calls, allowing officers to virtually 'attend' low risk DA incidents
- 3.36 The GoodSAM platform has been piloted for both wider call handling and DA and has worked so well that the pilot has been extended. Some work around Rapid Video Response (RVR) using the GoodSAM facility to take statements and record domestic abuse, stalking and harassment (DASH) risk assessments has been completed and proved valuable.
- 3.37 During the trial, the recorded video call function of the GoodSAM platform was used to allow officers to virtually 'attend' low risk DA incidents. Officers were able to complete DASH risk assessments, take statements and complete investigations (including creating investigation plans). The RVR officers also submitted referrals to other agencies (e.g. Social Services) if necessary.

- 3.38 Between 14 November 2022 and 10 December 2022, the RVR officers conducted over 65 video calls with victims of (standard risk) Domestic Abuse. Of these engagements, 95% were successful and the officers were able to create investigations, and the incidents closed.
- 3.39 Of the incidents/investigations dealt with via RVR, 29% were filed at source (i.e. no further action was required by a Police Officer) allowing officers to continue to deal with the higher risk DA incidents. These were all non-crime DA investigations
- 3.40 The feedback from users was overwhelmingly positive and the operational benefits were immediate.
- 3.41 The force continues to use GoodSAM however; further work is required to establish the best way to resource the permanent implementation for DA.
- 3.42 The DA problem-solving pilot is now established in Sheffield, this looks at the highest risk DA perpetrators supported by independent domestic abuse services (IDAS) complex case IDVAS. Although it is too early to comment on its effectiveness, there has already been some positive work done and VRU funding has been promised to take the pilot into the next year.
- 3.43 The Repeat Victim Index (RVI) has been rolled out across the force and the DA section prompts work at district level. It is hoped that the work on the problem-solving pilot coupled with the roll out of DA conditional cautions later this year will add to the tactical toolkit for the management of repeat DA couples.
- 3.44 The force continues to perform well in terms of DA victim satisfaction achieving 79% in the 12 months to December 2022, and the force links in with IDVAS and third sector agencies to seek out feedback and act on areas for improvement.
- 3.45 The VAWG independent advisory group (IAG) and the DA scrutiny panel are notable forums for this work and the professional standards department (PSD) will be engaging with SafeLives and local partners to run training and awareness sessions around how the force deals with police perpetrated DA. This will improve victim confidence in the light of the Centre for Women's Justice Super Complaint on police perpetrated DA.
- 3.46 The DA matters training and subsequent training around the 'voice of the child' rolled out by PVP P&G (Protecting Vulnerable People Performance and Governance) has underlined the importance of capturing the voice of the victim and the voice of the child.
- 3.47 The new domestic abuse risk assessment (DARA) that replaces the domestic abuse stalking and harassment (DASH) assessment will be rolled out in force this year and this will be supported with face-to-face training for frontline officers and staff. Work continues to refine the referral process to children's social care for children exposed to DA and for Operation Encompass.
- 3.48 Rotherham district are currently piloting an early intervention programme with children's social care to reduce parental conflict.

MISPERS

- 3.49 The force changed the system used to record missing persons investigations in November 2021 and this has allowed investigators and supervisors to have greater oversight and understanding into the volumes of missing people and why individuals may go missing or be reported as missing.
- 3.50 Each district has a slightly different structure around its 'missing from home' team, which is reflective of the nature of the demand and the staffing/skills profile within the district to respond to that demand.
- 3.51 The system and district structures support the district MISPER single point of contacts (SPOCs) who each have a district and force wide view in embedding and supporting a problem solving approach to those people who are frequently reported as missing.
- 3.52 One area the force aims to improve upon is crime data accuracy (CDA) within missing person's investigations; notably recording crimes that appear immaterial to the missing person episode itself. Absence of this appears to be a mind-set matter where officers are investigating a missing person and are solely focussed on locating them, and do not always recognise the need to record a 'hidden' crime identified within the content of the investigation enquiries.
- 3.53 Going forward, a focus for the force will be to improve the quality of recording missing persons investigations, understanding the requirements around CDA and a more embedded problem solving approach with police and partners – this will come from the retention and ongoing work of the district missing from home teams.

Workforce Focus

- 3.54 Now that the majority of the workforce have been trained, the force continues to keep the recent DA Matters and Child Matters training relevant and updated. DA Matters is now delivered through training school to transferees and new recruits.
- 3.55 PVP P&G have established a cohort of over 100 DA Matters Champions across the force and bi-annual training events have been planned to update these officers and staff, who in turn cascade the training and support their colleagues.
- 3.56 Further DA training has been delivered to Sergeant Evidential Review Officers (EROs) via the Investigations Improvements Unit and a DA investigators guide has been rolled out across the force. The Home Office earmarked funds for additional DA matters training and whilst SYP applied for some of this funding, the Home Office decided to prioritise forces who had yet to roll out any DA Matters training.
- 3.57 With regards to the PVP re-structure, engagement and SIPOC sessions (suppliers, inputs, processes, outputs and customers) with districts are taking place with support from managers and sergeants for engagement sessions with the four districts.

- 3.58 The phase 2 strategy will split work into a number of priorities in order to make the review more manageable.
- 3.59 Wellbeing initiatives continue to take place throughout this process to support the staff impacted by the re-structure. Communications have been circulated and monthly wellbeing sessions are taking place at each district as well as a dedicated intranet communications page.
- 3.60 Monthly meetings with the people and organisational development (POD) team are in place in order to understand staff qualifications, skills requirements, postings and processes.
- 3.61 The force is aware that limited budgets are available for the changes in relation to uplifts and wellbeing activities and investment may be required.
- 3.62 Moving forward, continuous support from stakeholders of the PVP teams is required as well as support from the senior command team in relation to decision-making and direction.

Vulnerability

- 3.63 Early intervention work takes place across the force in order to reduce vulnerability before it becomes higher risk and requires more police resources to manage.
- 3.64 Each district holds a THRIVE (threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement) meeting which discusses a range of issues centred on vulnerability. These meetings allow the districts to identify emerging areas of vulnerability, such as repeat hate crime victims or locations, repeat vulnerable victims and repeat missing people. Each district can then implement a local management plan to prevent or reduce the risk of escalation, and to help problem solve.
- 3.65 The challenge remains that whilst all these meetings have a similar structure, each one differs according to the district. Presently work is ongoing to standardise the meeting structures across the force.
- 3.66 The identification of vulnerability continues to be a priority for the force and training covers elements of this as a core deliverable, especially for new recruits when joining the organisation.
- 3.67 A range of toolkits exist which officers can access such as the mental health toolkit which provides police with clear guidance for example where to refer vulnerable people.
- 3.68 Neighbourhood policing teams across the force work regularly with partners, both internally and externally to identify vulnerable people, these are often identified following low-level reports of ASB or related matters. The teams work with partners to engage with the vulnerable person and ensure that appropriate interventions are in place to prevent exploitation or harm.

- 3.69 Child safeguarding teams across the force attend multi-agency child exploitation (MACE) meetings where young people vulnerable to exploitation are discussed. Together with partners, intervention plans are discussed and implemented. The force is working with other partners as part of the 'Supporting Families Programme'. This work is designed to share data across partner agencies about families in order to assist in identifying those who would benefit from support.
- 3.70 The force has changed the crime recording process on the CONNECT system so that officers are required to identify the specific vulnerability that a person has. This has improved the overall understanding of the types of vulnerability that both offenders and victims may have.
- 3.71 This is a relatively new process, however, it is anticipated that this will allow a more comprehensive analysis of the relationship between specific vulnerabilities and specific crime types.
- 3.72 The force recognises that offenders can also be vulnerable, or victims in their own right. Within SYP, each offender is subject to an assessment by the officer dealing initially. This basic assessment ensures that any immediate needs or vulnerabilities are identified and recorded and appropriate support is offered.
- 3.73 Those who are required to be interviewed are specifically asked about any needs they have and where appropriate will have access to appropriate adults or other support whilst being processed by the police. When in custody, this assessment may involve medical professionals to ensure all needs are met where appropriate.
- 3.74 Across all four districts, linked to the Safeguarding children's and adult's boards, the force has multi-agency scrutiny panels (often named working groups) who hold the responsibility for auditing and quality checking decisions and the response from each agency via the multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH).
- 3.75 Dedicated question sets for the analysis are developed under the guidance of the local independent scrutineer. Learning and development opportunities derived from this process are fed back into the boards for the creation of appropriate action plans.
- 3.76 The force has dedicated scrutiny panels for both RASSO and DA, which involves partner agencies, third sector professionals and the CPS. These forums are utilised to review decision-making and agency response independently of the districts that carried out the original investigations. The QA and audit work is thematic in nature with different areas scheduled for review throughout the year. Learning derived from these panels is then fed directly back to force leads.

Cyber Crime

- 3.77 The internet sexual offences team (ISOT) was created following the crime review in 2018 and further expanded in 2019/20. The objective of the team is to deal with the offending by individuals who collect and share indecent and sexually abusive images of children.

- 3.78 The team work with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other law enforcement agencies to identify the victims within any images seized. In addition to this, a dedicated research team identify safeguarding risks and make early contact with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in order to ensure the risk is managed and mitigated.
- 3.79 In recent months, there has been a rise in the demand placed on the team, due in part to the effects of COVID and people being confined to their homes, and/or working from home. In addition, the NCA, which one of the main work streams has increased its resourcing and as such, the number of referrals has increased.
- 3.80 The team conduct on average four search warrants per working week and invariably there is an arrest made. The forensic examination of electronic devices is integral to the identification and prosecution of these offenders. This avenue allows for the requirement for sexual harm prevention orders (SHPO) and requirements under the Sex Offenders Act (1997) that provides safeguarding agencies the power to properly enforce and ensure that wider safeguarding is achieved.

4 FUTURE DIRECTION/DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 SYP will focus on areas of delivery from this report, and will continue to report in the future on:
- The progress of internal training and delivery
 - The progress of reviews of structures and processes across PVP
 - The delivery in respect of RASSO, DA and the wider programme for Violence against Women and Girls
 - The support given to vulnerable persons in contact with the policing service.

5 COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

6 EXCEPTION REPORTING

NONE

Chief Officer Lead: Deputy Chief Constable Tim Forber

Report Author: Keeley Moore – Performance Review Officer

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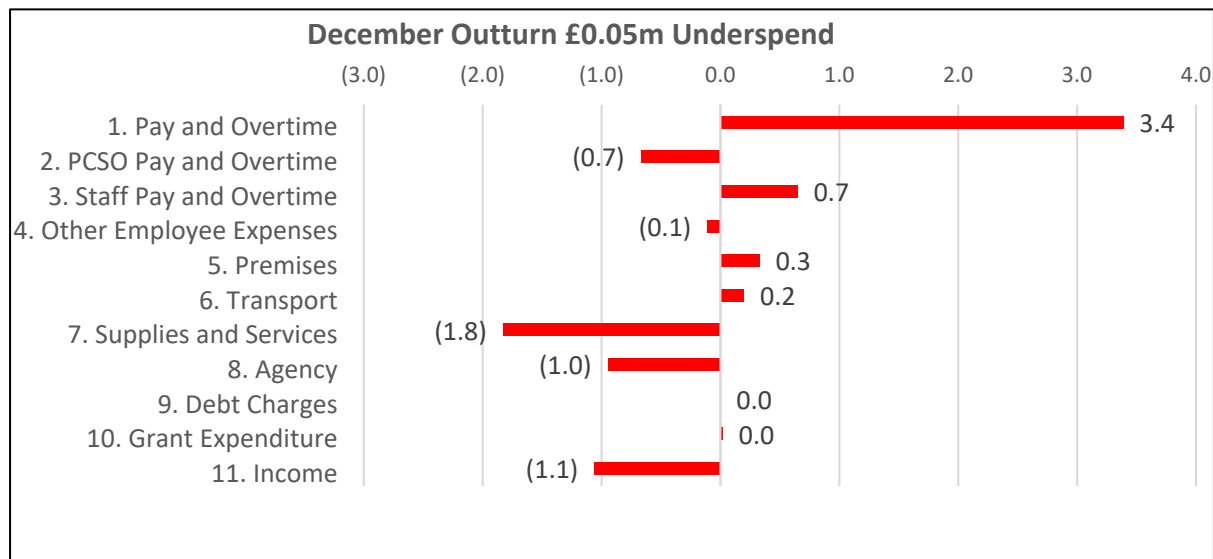
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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**2nd FEBRUARY 2023****BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – DECEMBER 2022****REPORT OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE****1. Purpose of the Report**

This report is to inform the Public Accountability Board of the Force's projected outturn on its revenue and capital budgets as at 31st March 2023. It is based on an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 before accounting adjustments. This report covers the Force financial position only and should be read in conjunction with the report by the PCC Chief Finance Officer.

2. Recommendations

The PCC is recommended to consider the content of this report.

3. Background Information**OVERVIEW FOR MONTH****3.1 Key points**

- The £0.05m projected underspend is 0.02% of the total budget before legacy costs.
- In year, the Force has direct revenue financed £1.80m of officer uplift capital costs and £1.2m to the Oracle Cloud project. In addition, it has also had the flexibility to invest in the Detective Now Programme, Summer Surge activity and to contain additional overtime for Her Majesty the Queen's State Funeral and to cover vacancies and absences.

- The projected overspend includes the reopened staff pay award and the reduction of 1.25% National Insurance contribution from November.
- There have been significant changes to the officer workforce plan and staff/PCSO vacancies due to the continuing recruitment challenges:
 - The officer workforce plan has changed significantly since budget setting to address the lower attraction to the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) pipeline and an increase in the leaver population. The workforce plan is projected to bring officer numbers back in line in 2023/24.
 - Underspends of £1.58m on staff pay are due to current and expected vacancies within existing and growth roles. This is an area of focus for the Force, linked to the Savings Programme. This underspend is offset by the staff lump sum pension prepayment (£1.2m) that was not included in the budget. In addition there is an overspend on overtime to backfill vacancies and meet demand.
 - Underspends of £0.70m are projected on PCSOs due to vacancies and shift and weekend working changes not yet implemented. Numbers are expected to be brought back in line when the PCSO apprenticeship is introduced early next year.

3.2 Revenue Summary

	Approved Budget £000	Projected Outturn £000	(Under) / Overspend £000	% of budget
Police Pay and Overtime	162,451	165,837	3,386	2.1%
PCSO Pay and Overtime	4,852	4,179	(674)	-13.9%
Staff Pay and Overtime	85,087	85,737	651	0.8%
Other Employee Expenses	7,275	7,164	(112)	-1.5%
Premises	10,971	11,297	326	3.0%
Transport	5,147	5,345	198	3.8%
Supplies and Services	25,309	23,478	(1,830)	-7.2%
Agency	18,822	17,871	(950)	-5.0%
Income	(17,393)	(18,933)	(1,540)	8.9%
Specific Grant Funding	(8,243)	(7,764)	479	-5.8%
Capital Adjustments	3,146	3,146	0	0.0%
Grant Expenditure	2	20	18	1035.6%
Net Expenditure Before Legacy	297,425	297,377	(48)	-0.02%

POLICE OFFICERS PAY & OVERTIME

- Total projected outturn of £3.38m overspend, (£1.55m overspend on pay and £1.83m overspend on overtime).
- Police pay is projecting to overspend by £1.55m. Earlier in the year, an underspend was projected and £0.9m was utilised to fund Detective Now and Summer Surge activity. Since then, changes in projections, including additional NI pressure on overtime have seen this move into a more balanced position.
- As at December, the projected year-end officer strength is 2,948.53.
- Overtime is projecting to overspend by £1.83m. The main areas contributing to the overspend are Districts £1.33m due to Investigative Teams, Response Teams and special operations, Crime Services £0.15m relating to Force Crime Bureau and PVP teams and PAG £0.18m due to sickness, temporary backfill and preventing violence

operation. A total of £0.29m of the £1.83m total overspend relates to the cost of Queens State Funeral.

PCSO PAY & OVERTIME

- Total projected underspend of £0.67m (£0.70m underspend in pay offset by £0.03m overspend on overtime).
- £0.41m underspend due to the revised student recruitment plan. This is a temporary underspend due to slippage in recruitment as the PCSO apprenticeship is developed ready for the first intake in April 2023.
- A £0.36m underspend is projected in shift and weekend working allowances due to an expected change that has not yet been implemented. This has been reviewed and removed from the 23/24 budget as a saving.
- PSCO FTE's are currently projected to end at 104.84, which is 21.16 under the budget of 126.00.

POLICE STAFF PAY & OVERTIME

- Total projected overspend of £0.65m (£0.41m underspend in pay offset by £1.06m overspend on overtime).
- The staff pay projected underspend is £1.64m, partially offset by the payment of the staff pension lump sum of £1.23m which was unbudgeted.
- The more significant areas are: Crime Services, which includes underspends relating to the DFU review, delays in the recruitment of Investigative Officers, PVP and FCB roles due to vacancies currently being offset by overtime costs, PNC and Intel. Projected underspends on BC&I relate to the Tech Enabled team and IT is due to the unapproved target operating model as the service is under review.
- Overtime is projected to overspend by £1.05m. The main variances are within Crime Services £0.29m, FCR £0.27m and CJU £0.10m.
- Staff AFP strength is 2,184.25 which is below budget by 194.78, however there are 183.32 externally, income and temporary funded posts bringing us to 11.46 below budget in line with the workforce plan. This does not however include the growth posts that have not as yet been created.

OTHER EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

- Total projected underspend of £0.11m.
- £0.26m underspend on ill health retirements due to fewer retirees than expected (4 v 9), this was captured as a saving in June.
- £0.09m overspend on the apprenticeship levy to reflect historic trends, this has been reviewed for the 23/24 budget setting process.

PREMISES

- Total projected overspend of £0.33m.
- £0.50m underspend due to rates rebates spanning back to 2017.

- £0.39m projected overspend in Utilities based on the latest information provided by the energy team.
- £0.31m overspent on Pioneer Close rent liability back to 2017.
- £0.18m overspend due to change in projections in relation to accommodation for ISOT growth.
- £0.12m overspend due to unachieved savings for rent due to the purchase of Pioneer Close now not expected to happen.
- £0.11m underspend due to revised projections relating to Uplift.

TRANSPORT

- Total projected overspend of £0.20m.
- £0.34m overspend on fuel due to the increase in prices above budgeted.
- £0.16m projected underspend on vehicle insurance.
- £0.12m projected underspend on casual users mileage based on historic trend and a reduction of travel.
- £0.08m overspend due to vehicle maintenance spares, tyres etc, due to increase costs of spares.
- £0.06m overspend on hire of cars due to additional costs from summer surge.
- £0.05m projected underspend on vehicle running costs.

SUPPLIES & SERVICES

- Total projected underspend of £1.83m.
- £1.15m projected underspend in Software Licences and Support on DAMS project £0.24m, Oracle technical services £0.22m and includes a saving against Enterprise Agreement that has been given up in year of £0.68m.
- £0.27m projected underspend on staff clothing and uniforms in line with current spending.
- £0.13m underspend on office equipment costs due to SWW.
- £0.12m projected underspend on vehicle recovery costs.

AGENCY

- The projected underspend of £0.95m.
- £0.28m underspend on Insurance due to premiums renewing at a lower level than anticipated.
- £0.28m underspend on recharges from WYP due to the penalty for the 6 FTE's within ROCU now not expected and changes in other posts.
- £0.28m underspend on External Forensics now reflecting current trends.
- £0.23m overspend on Mutual Aid to cover football fixtures for unplanned Euros and league finals.
- £0.18m underspend in Home Office ICT costs, this underspend relates to recharges not received for ICT Subs & Cloud Gateway.
- £0.13m underspend on NPAS. At the time of budget setting, there were various options and the budget was set at the highest contribution value. The contribution amount has now been agreed and is lower than the budget.

INCOME

- There is a projected over achievement of £1.53m.
- £0.39m over recovery from mutual aid offset by additional costs.
- £0.35m from over recovery of Vehicle Recovery Income, this is offset with additional costs.
- £0.34m over recovery in POCA income, due to being awarded more from Home Office compared to the budget.
- £0.30m over recovery in uplift officer funding from the Home Office for 15 additional officers.
- £0.27m over achievement on National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS) income due to an increase in activity.
- £0.10m over recovery from Highways Agency.

SPECIFIC GRANT FUNDING

- Total approved Home Office grant funding is £8.24m with a projected under recovery of £0.48m due to the final grant position being confirmed after the 22/23 budget was set.

LEGACY

- Hillsborough, the Stovewood Enquiry and CSE civil claims are projecting full year outturn of £2.54m, which is an underspend of £2.87m. This will be a contribution into earmarked legacy reserves for future legacy costs.
- This reflects information received from the oPCC.

3.3 MTRS Savings

- The 2022/23 savings are £1.76m of which £1.30m has been achieved and captured on the savings plan. There is £0.46m remaining for the 2023/24 full year effect to achieve.
- Further savings have been identified in year and total £1.56m, bringing our achieved savings to £2.86m, an overachievement of £1.10m in year. The combined full year effect including these additional savings is £0.55m recurrently.
- The savings that have not as yet been achieved relate to CJU File Build (£0.34m) and Rent & Service charge savings from purchase of Pioneer Close (£0.12m). The CJU savings have been slipped to next year and the Pioneer Close saving will not happen as the Force has entered into a new rental agreement.

3.4 Growth

- The total amount approved for growth in 2022/23 was £14.66m, this is split between MTRS growth of £2.86m, Business Plan growth of £3.17m and Prior Year Growth of £5.67m. Further growth has been approved post budget setting of £2.95m, of which £1.68m is non-recurrent and funded from in year underspends/new savings identified.

- Full Year outturn, including additional supported growth, post budget setting, is projected to be £9.41m, an underspend of £5.25m.
- The largest projected underspends are within IT for the target operating model £0.79m and within Crime Services for Comms Data Review £0.31m.
- These underspends have provided us the opportunity to finance the Oracle and Uplift projects.
- Growth challenge meetings have been carried out by the Assistant Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer to review progress with budget holders resulting in some revised projections.

3.5 Capital

- The PCC has approved a revised 2022/23 capital programme of £17.77m (£26.84m reduced by £9.07m to reflect past trends in spending).
- Year to Date expenditure against this programme is £8.78m, this reflects 49% of the full year budget.
- The Accountancy team are working closely with the Project Managers to improve the accuracy of projections and have provided training to the majority.
- The significant projects which have slipped to future years are:

Capital Project	Comment	£
Doncaster Police Station & Custody Suite	Moved to 2023/24 due to ongoing issues with the land purchase.	£1,576,991
Oracle – MTD & EBS	Original project ceased. Remaining budget required to fund the new project, which is underway.	£1,056,017
Airwave Replacement 22-23	Supplier not expected to meet delivery date, now expected June 23.	£933,597
Compartmentation Survey & Remedial Works	Project is underway due to complete in 23/24.	£839,536
Body Armour	With BlueLight Commercial, supplier will be appointed in Jan and order placed in Mar 23.	£400,000
Connect Express	Project requires data deletion before project can begin.	£369,174
Smart Contact Implementation Team 2021	This is a combined slippage on projects T15090, T15700, T15270 & T15890.	£364,148
Wombwell Remodelling & Refurbishment	CSB approved and slippage detailed.	£325,615
Data Migration	CSB is approved, but not started.	£316,140
ESN (Gwent Model)	Project not started due to national issues.	£300,000
Digital Fund	This is an emerging project adapting to a changing technological landscape. Plans are being developed and delivered in the right place at the right time.	£294,332
Corporate WiFi	Project is underway	£181,762
22/23 Joint Data Centre	Project is currently being scoped	£167,679

Replacement of AFO/ARVO Body Armour	With BlueLight Commercial, supplier will be appointed in Jan and order placed in Mar 23.	£120,000
Total		£7,226,818

The significant projects which have underspends during the year are:

Capital Project	Comment	£
PSU Kit Operation Uplift Officers	Project T65150 – money will be spent in revenue. Capital project removed in future	£180,000
Total		£575,921

- The capital tracker is presented at Strategic Resourcing Board for monitoring in detail. This shows progress against each scheme and overall Force position.
- There are currently 27 projects awaiting capital scheme briefs with a total value of £1.39m.

Officer Responsible: Debbie Carrington, Chief Finance Officer

Contact Officer: Sheryl Hawley, Chief Accountant

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

DATE 25/1/23

REPORT OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

TITLE OF REPORT : Firearms Licensing Review

AUTHOR OF REPORT / CHIEF OFFICER LEAD: David MacLeod (Warrants and Firearms Manager)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

In November 2022, Rt Hon Chris Philp MP Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire wrote to PCCs asking them to provide oversight of the Firearms Licensing system within their force areas.

The letter requested a review on a bi-annual basis of Firearms Licensing to uphold accountability and to satisfy that caseloads were well managed. Each review should include:

1. How many people with expired certificates are still in possession of their firearms?
2. How many of these have applied for renewal whose cases have yet to be decided?
3. How many of those who have applied for renewal have been issued with a temporary permit and continue to have firearms in their possession?

The purpose of this report is to provide an update following the review.

2 BACKGROUND

There are currently 8033 individuals holding 7755 Shotgun certificates and 2242 Firearms certificates with the South Yorkshire area. The Firearms Act 1968 as amended places the responsibility on the Chief Constable to ensure all certificate holders possess firearms without being a danger to public safety or the peace. Guidance is provided in the following documents:

- Firearms Licensing: Statutory Guidance for Chief Officers of Police
- Guide on Firearms Licensing Law

The statutory guidance was implemented in November 2021 following the Plymouth shootings in August 2021 where a shotgun certificate holder killed five people before committing suicide. This incident has led to increased scrutiny of the Firearms Licensing system. Immediately following the shooting incident all Chief Constables were asked to review any investigations where shotguns or firearms had been returned to a certificate holder following a police incident.

Nationally there have been significant delays in Firearms Licensing which were further exacerbated by the Covid19 pandemic. Many forces paused applications for grants of new certificates with others refusing to accept any applications other than renewals during this period. In South Yorkshire grants continued to be processed throughout the Covid period. During the pandemic staff absence and restrictions resulted in a backlog. This was offset somewhat in a reduced amount of new applications. In order to address this backlog, two new posts were created and have now been filled.

In August 2022, there were reports of some firearm owners in other force areas being permitted to keep weapons post permit expiration. Therefore, the Home Secretary wrote to all Chief Constables asking for a further review in relation to Firearms Licensing practices and specifically in relation to any expired certificates.

1. How many people with expired certificates are still in possession of their firearms?

At the time of writing there are no expired certificate holders in South Yorkshire who are shown in possession of firearms.

In order to negate unlawful possession, all certificate holders are given a minimum of four months' notice to renew and are given details of how to apply including being provided with a blank medical proforma for completion by their GP. A further reminder is provided at least one month before the expiry. The most common delay in submitting the renewal application is difficulty in providing the medical report as many GPs do not engage in the process. There are independent companies that can complete this on behalf of the applicant.

When a certificate expires an investigation is created and contact is made to ensure the firearms are removed. This will usually be done by communicating with the certificate holder and arranging them to surrender the firearms to a dealer, another certificate holder or to a Firearms Enquiry Officer. If there is non-compliance, officers will remove the firearms, and this will of course impact any future applications. There are also cases where the certificate holder has died since the last renewal, where in limited instances the deaths are not subject to a coroner's investigation and family members do not understand the licensing process. In these cases expeditious enquiries are made with to locate and recover the firearms.

2. How many of these have applied for renewal whose cases have yet to be decided?

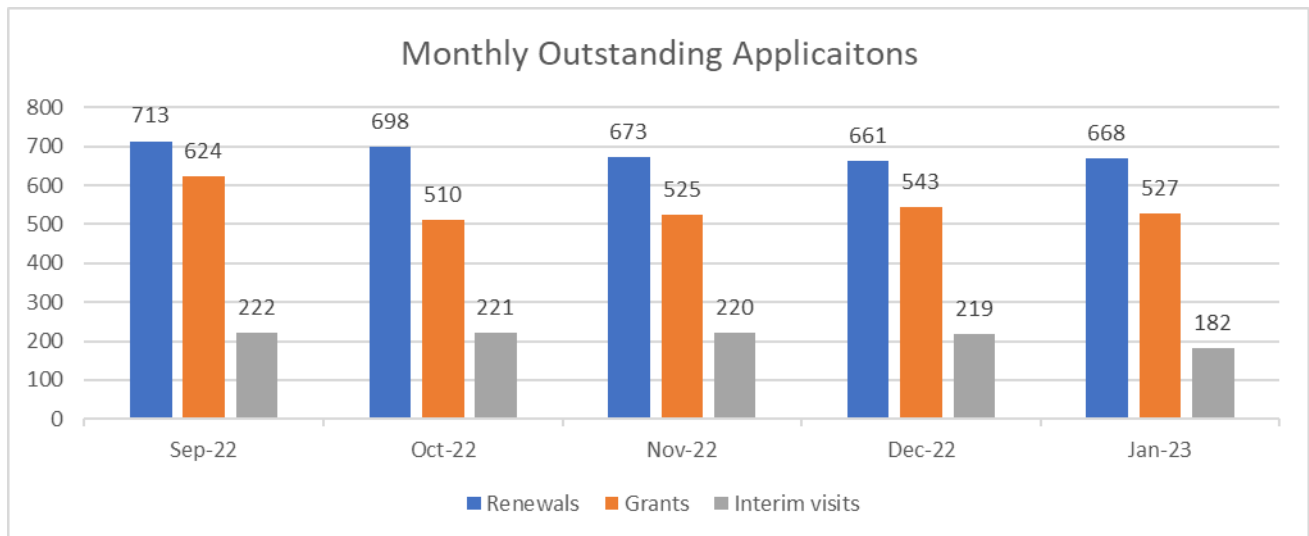
There are no outstanding renewal applications which are awaiting a decision. Once the completed application (including GP report) is submitted, an extension of 8 weeks can be added to the existing certificate. This provides sufficient time to conduct the home visit and submit a report that can be reviewed by the unit manager and a decision made. If there are any issues which may lead to refusal the firearms will be removed at the visit stage.

3. How many of those who have applied for renewal have been issued with a temporary permit and continue to have firearms in their possession?

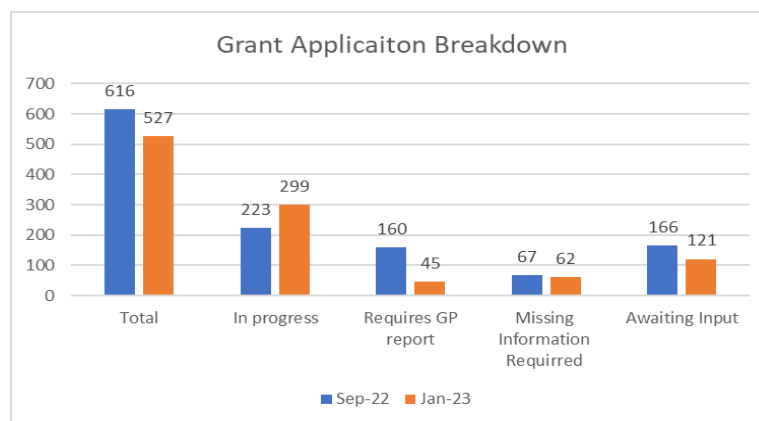
There is currently one shotgun certificate holder on temporary permit. This was a certificate holder who moved from Staffordshire whilst already on a temporary certificate. This is due to expire on 31st January 2023. It is not the policy of SYP to issue temporary certificates except in extraordinary circumstances.

Current backlog situation

The backlog created during the pandemic has now significantly decreased. This has been achieved through an increase in Firearms Enquiry Officer posts and through the secondment of an additional officer. Currently the new staff are still receiving training, but once upskilled it is likely the backlog will reduce further. The data below shows a reduction in renewals, grants and interim visits over the last five months.



The current number of renewal applications outstanding is reflective of the number of renewals that expire within a 3–4 month period and can be considered maintenance levels. Grant applications continue to be an area of concern however the number outstanding is decreasing.



The total number of grants has dropped since September 2022 from 616 to 527 in January 2023. More importantly the number of applications that are in progress has increased to 299. Of the remaining applications, 121 are ready to enter the system and 107 have been submitted with incomplete information and require action from the applicant.

Members of the team have also provided training to other forces through a Firearms Enquiry Officer Course. The income generated by these courses is used to provide an additional overtime budget to aid in the post COVID recovery of service.

Continual monitoring of certificate holders

Public safety is the primary focus Firearms Licensing Unit. All certificate holders are subject to regular monitoring for incidents at their home address. This includes reviews of any arrests, intelligence and investigation reports. Whenever a certificate holder suitability is called into question this is reviewed and officers will attend and remove the firearms and certificate whilst a detailed review is conducted. The results of that investigation are presented to the OSU Superintendent for a decision on continued certification or revocation. In 2022, SYP revoked seventy certificates and refused fifty six applications. Appeals against these decisions were lodged in twelve cases, six of which have been heard at Sheffield Crown Court and were dismissed in the favour of the decision of SYP. The remaining cases are awaiting hearing dates.

Chief Officer oversight

The Firearms Licensing Unit are overseen by a manager who reports into the Chief Inspector. The Manager reviews caseloads daily and on a monthly basis a governance meeting takes place between the OSU Superintendent and the Manager. The Superintendent and Firearms Licensing Manager review performance, key cases, changes in policy/guidance and emerging issues. Performance data is also presented and scrutinised at the OSU QPR meeting.

3 PROPOSAL

It is recommended that in line with the ministers request a Firearms Licensing Unit report is submitted to the PCC twice yearly from January 2023. This will provide updates on caseloads including the areas highlighted in this report such as expired certificates, renewals and any temporary permits.

4 AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The performance of the Firearms Licensing Unit remains a priority to ensure public safety. The recent incident in Portsmouth highlights the risks when records are not maintained to the highest standards.

This report aims to provide assurances that significant work has been undertaken to ensure backlogs are reduced and that performance is monitored closely.

A further report will be provided in June 2023 which will include a full update on caseload.

5 RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION REQUIRED

It is recommended that the PCC concludes that effective governance and management is in place to manage Firearms Licensing within South Yorkshire. Whilst backlogs were in place during the pandemic, these have now reduced and there is a plan in place to ensure caseloads continue to be well managed.

6 'DUE DILIGENCE' CHECKS SIGNED OFF BY ACCOUNTABLE PERSON

Due diligence has been given to contents of this report by the Head of the OSU Chief Superintendent Cherie Buttle.

7 DATE SUPPORTED BY SLG AND DEEMED READY FOR PCC DECISION

Submitted to DCC Forber on 25th January 2023

8 COMMUNICATION PLANS / CONSIDERATIONS

A communications plan is not deemed necessary for this workstream at this time.

END

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

2 FEBRUARY 2023

REPORT BY THE PCC'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SOLICITOR

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISIONS

1 Report Objectives

- 1.1 This Report is to provide the Public Accountability Board (PAB) with a record of key decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the contents of the report and to comment upon any issues arising.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the functions and responsibilities of the PCC.
- 3.2 The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 sets out the requirements of the PCC to publish information about decision-making.
- 3.3 The PCC has a Framework for decision-making by both the PCC and those exercising delegated authority on behalf of the PCC. It details the arrangements put in place to enable the PCC to make robust, well-informed and transparent decisions, and hold the Chief Constable to account.
- 3.4 Decisions taken by the PCC will primarily arise from discharging his statutory functions and are likely to include, but not be limited to, the following areas:
- Collaboration/partnerships
 - Strategic Direction
 - Governance, including policy
 - Budget setting
 - Commissioning
 - Capital programme spend
 - Asset requisition/disposal

4 DECISIONS

- 4.1 The PCC has made 43 decisions in 2022/23.

4.2 For the period 25 October 2022 (the date of the last report) to 23 January 2023 the PCC has made the following decisions to draw to the attention of the Public Accountability Board.

4.2.1 IT Asset Refresh 22/23

The PCC authorised the expenditure of £283,000 for the procurement of IT Equipment for the IT asset refresh.

4.2.2 Commissioner's Proceeds of Crime Act Community Grant Scheme 2020/21 – Panel Recommendations January 2022

The Commissioner's Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Community Grant Scheme for 2020/21 enables non-profit organisations to apply for funding of up to £10,000.

Proposed activities must address one or more of the PCC's strategic priorities as set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Funded organisations have to show compliance with terms and conditions including the submission of monitoring information at agreed milestones.

In October 2022, officers considered and assessed 99 applications for funding with a total value of £868,164.99 and recommended 23 applications be approved.

The PCC considered the panel recommendations on 17 November 2022 and agreed to fund the following 20 bids with a total value of £187,405.50.

Organisation	Project Name	District	Amount
De Paul	Reconnect	South Yorkshire	£10,000.00
Brendan Ingle Foundation	Brendan Ingle Foundation Life Skills Project	Sheffield	£9,152
Oakwell Rise Primary Academy	Out of hours	Barnsley	£9,830.00
Snowdrop Project	Helping survivors of human trafficking in South Yorkshire rebuild their lives	South Yorkshire	£10,000.00
Crossroads (Barnsley) Ltd	Online safety for older people	Barnsley	£7,748.40
Emmaus Sheffield	Emmaus Sheffield	Sheffield	£10,000.00
Nomad Opening Doors	Early Intervention for Vulnerable Adults	Sheffield	£8,184
Sheffield United Community Foundation	Lower Manor Kicks	Sheffield	£9,568.00
Edlington Hill Top Centre Associates	POCA Therapy Support	Doncaster	£10,000.00
Sheffield Futures	Girls' Club in Page Hall	Sheffield	£7,788.64
JADE Youth and Community	JADE Youth and Community	Rotherham	£9,902.00
Remedi Restorative Services	CEASE - Creating Empowerment and Self Efficacy	Sheffield	£9,257.60

Angling For All	Angling For All	Barnsley	£9,990.00
Onboard Skatepark Sheffield limited	Building Trust	Sheffield	£8,782.00
Mums In Need	Service Delivery, Administration	Sheffield	£10,000.00
SAYiT	Break The Hate	Sheffield	£9,359.90
Sheffield Working Women's Opportunities Project	Sex Worker Outreach Project	Sheffield	£9,867.68
Doncaster Changing Lives	Changing Lives Community Hub	Doncaster	£7,975.28
Active Regen Community Foundation Ltd	Positive Activities for young people in Dinnington and Kimberworth	Rotherham	£10,000.00
YMCA Doncaster	YSC Project 2023	Doncaster	£10,000.00

4.2.3 Miners' Strike Archive Publication Project

The PCC agreed to fund the short-term resource uplift of £340,500 to undertake the Miners' Strike Archive Publication Project.

- 4.3 A log of PCC decisions can be found on the PCC's website at <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/openness/publications/?search=&publication-type=decision-record&start-date=&end-date=>. There are a number of PCC decisions which we are unable to publish for reasons such as, being commercially sensitive, operationally sensitive or, they involve ongoing criminal proceedings (this is not an exhaustive list).

Report Author: Sally Parkin
Designation: Governance and Compliance Manager, OPCC
Contact: sparkin@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB)

WORK PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 2023 TO MARCH 2023

SPECIAL MEETING DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 1300 HOURS

	OPCC	SYP	Purpose
Final precept recommendations and budget 2023/2024.			PCC to formally agree the budget and council tax precept.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB)

WORK PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 2023 TO MARCH 2023

MEETING DATE: 8 MARCH 2023 AT 1500 HOURS - **ROTHERHAM**

	OPCC	SYP	Purpose
Force Performance Reporting – (District Report to be First on Agenda)			
Force Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan (2022 - 2025) – Treating People Fairly		✓	Provide update to PCC re Force progress towards the priority Protecting Vulnerable People in the Police and Crime Plan.
Force Performance – Rotherham District Summary Update		✓	Provide the PCC with an update on Rotherham District's performance against Police and Crime Plan priorities. Action from 07/11/22 - An update on the joint response plan with police and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to address perpetrators of domestic abuse be provided in the next Rotherham performance report
CSE Update		✓	
Sustainability Update		✓	Update on the Sustainability Strategy
HMICFRS		✓	To include SYP's readiness for inspections and where inspections have taken place
Chief Executive Reporting			
PCC's Strategic Planning Timetable	✓		Commissioning Activity
PCC Decisions	✓		To seek PCC approval / agreement to proposals as requested (to be notified 10 working days before date of meeting)
Assurance Panel Reporting			



Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

Exception Report	Report Author
Joint Independent Audit Committee	Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee
	Date of the Report
	23 January 2023 (for PAB on 2 February 2023)

Urgent: No

Where "Yes", the **Chair** of the **Joint Independent Audit Committee** should **immediately notify** the **Commissioner** of the matter considered urgent and set out in this section the reason(s) for such urgency.

Restricted: No

The Chair of the **Joint Independent Audit Committee** should indicate which, if any, aspects of the report should be restricted, along with the associated rationale.

Level of assurance

A narrative summarising the level of overall assurance from the Chair should be provided in this section. The content of the following table should guide the report author in offering a level of assurance:

Level of Assurance	Assessment
1	Significant gaps / weaknesses exist or controls non-effective (generally non compliant)
2	Some gaps / weaknesses exist or controls only partly effective (partial compliance)
3	Some minor gaps / weaknesses exist but generally strengths outweigh weaknesses and controls are generally effective (generally compliant)
4	Very few or no gaps / weaknesses exist and controls are effective (fully compliant)

Updates and Exceptions

The Committee assists the PCC in discharging his statutory responsibilities around holding the Force to account which contributes towards enhancing public trust and confidence in the governance of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

The Joint Independent Audit Committee met on the 8 December 2022.

Exceptions for noting:-

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

1 PCC UPDATE

The Commissioner informed the Committee that the focus is on setting the budget. The funding settlement had not yet been received. There is still a commitment to the CSR and a flat cash settlement is expected. Savings will be required to ensure there is a balanced budget.

The Government remains committed to the officer uplift which will put pressure on some forces. A new funding formula is expected before the next General Election.

The Commissioner confirmed there is still a backlog in the courts, but South Yorkshire has done as well as they could have to address this.

2 FORCE UPDATE

Deputy Chief Constable Forber highlighted the fast-changing financial position and confirmed that SYP's Executive Team is working hard with the OPCC to put forward a credible financial position following the announcement of the Autumn statement.

Officer recruitment continues; however, this is becoming more difficult, partly because of pay and partly because of other job opportunities that are available.

HMICFRS is undertaking an inspection relating to vetting in April 2023. SYP is one of eight forces taking part in a HMICFRS inspection on homicide prevention. HMICFRS is interested in the Navigator work in custody in response to domestic violence and civil orders where SYP has had success and is seeing fewer domestic homicides.

3 DATA OFFICE, DATA ASSURANCE, DATA CAPABILITY AND QUALITY AND DATA PROTECTION OFFICER REPORT - SYP

The Committee received a report on how SYP complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

A significant review has been undertaken into Information Governance/Data Management and a revised staffing structure put in place.

The Data Office is made up of three strands: balancing privacy, security and compliance with business transformation.

A new independent Data Protection Officer has implemented revised processes and will be developing awareness training for SYP staff and officers.

4 SAVINGS UPDATE

The Committee was provided a verbal update on SYP's savings programme.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

£2.8m savings have been made this year through robust budget management.

The savings programme of work is in line with SYP's change programme.

Instability around energy costs and pay has meant that SYP will need to bring forward its savings plan. Priority Based Budgeting (PBB), which is evidence based will be utilised to inform this plan.

5 IT GOVERNANCE UPDATE

D Breeds gave a presentation on the IT activity that had taken place since the last meeting, including the following key areas:

- IT Target Operating Model
- Internal Audit Update
- IT Performance Update

The Committee acknowledged the work that had been undertaken but confirmed this should remain on the work programme,

6 ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation on the work of the Counter Corruption Unit. The presentation showed SYP's top issues and how they were being addressed.

Emerging threats were also discussed and the Committee was assured that SYP is dealing with these appropriately.

The national issues around vetting were discussed and the Committee was told that all officers are vetted. Vetting in South Yorkshire is robust with an embedded process in place.

7 OPCC ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive and Solicitor was presented to the Committee to provide Members with an overview of the PCC's Assurance Framework for risk, governance and internal control and how this is being utilised by the PCC's

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to generate discussion and inform decision-making.

8 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The report on the Internal Audit work completed and in progress, from 24 September 2022 to 20 November 2022, along with the position regarding the implementation of agreed management actions and planned audit work was presented.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

The Committee heard that work is progressing and resources are available to deliver the Plan but this will depend on the smooth running of the jobs.

9 EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

A report of the Key Audit Partner was presented to the Committee to provide the JIAC on the progress in delivering Grant Thornton's responsibilities as SYP and PCC's external auditors.

The Committee was informed that the Audit is not yet complete but so far there are no changes to the draft opinion.

All the key issues that had been identified last time have been addressed.

Grant Thornton commented on the quality of the accounts and informed the Committee that these are a credit to the Chief Finance Officers and their staff. There are very few issues to address.

It was also confirmed that the work on value for money had begun and should be available at March JIAC meeting.

10 SYP ORGANISATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE, INCLUDING STRATEGIC CONCERNS AND ASSURANCE PLANS

A brief report on the Force's Organisational Infrastructure (OI) governance arrangements was presented.

Members concluded that the report gave positive assurance that SYP's organisational infrastructure arrangements, i.e. its corporate risk management strategy and framework for assessing and managing strategic concerns (key risks), remains adequate and effective.

11 PCC'S STRATEGIC RISKS UPDATE

An overview of the PCC's Strategic Risks was provided to the Committee.

Members were assured on the adequacy and effectiveness of the PCC's risk management arrangements.

12 SYP ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

An update on the progress being made in relation to the actions set out within SYP's Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2022/23 was presented.

Members were assured that progress is being made against those areas for improvement identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

13 OPCC ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

JIAC received and scrutinised the report giving an update to the PCCs Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2022/23

Members were assured that progress is being made against those areas for improvement identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

14 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW

The Committee received a report providing information on treasury management activity and prudential indicators, as required under the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice and the CIPFA Prudential Code.

No new long-term borrowing had been undertaken during the period. The PCC's borrowing strategy has always been to borrow if there is a sharp rise in interest rates, but only if this is required.

Members noted the report and were able to provide assurance to the PCC that treasury management activities are being properly managed.

15 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The OPCC Chief Finance Officer provided an update on the financial position based on the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

Members noted the report and were able to provide assurance to the PCC that they had scrutinised and asked questions around the report.

Recommendations

The Commissioner is recommended to consider and comment on the exceptions and overall level of assurance provided by the Joint Independent Audit Committee.

Report author details

Name: Steve Wragg, Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee

Signed: S Wragg

Date: 23.1.23

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