

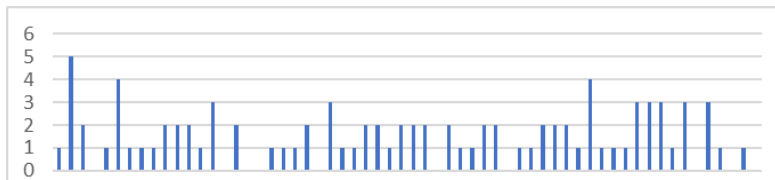
**Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide**

**Home Office crime codes and description:**

<b>0010</b>	<b>Murder</b>
<b>0041</b>	<b>Manslaughter</b>
<b>0042</b>	<b>Infanticide</b>
<b>00410</b>	<b>Corporate Manslaughter</b>

Recorded crime levels

The monthly volume of homicides from April 2018 to March 2023 is shown below.



The volume of Homicides in South Yorkshire has increased since 2019/20, albeit a reduction on volumes in 2018/19. In 2022/23, 19 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire, with a rate of 13.4 homicides per million population, above that of the national average.

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

The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs.

Force response to homicides

The force’s Major Crime Unit deals with all homicide offences with resourcing prioritised for homicides. Investigations can be lengthy and involve the support of many officers and staff across the force. The force Homicide Prevention Problem Profile identifies four factors commonly influencing homicide, these are.

- Domestic abuse
- Drugs markets
- Revenge and retribution
- Spontaneous altercation

In addition to the above the force has identified that the night time economy (NTE) and Knife Crime are also common contributing factors.

Homicide offences are often linked to either Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) activity or domestic-related offending; these areas constitute the focus of our homicide prevention activity.

**OCG links** - Information on the work being undertaken to address armed criminality and OCG delivery (which links to the homicide volumes) is reported under **Reduce Serious Violence**.

**Domestic homicides** - The force Serious Case Review team identify cases fitting the criteria for a Domestic Homicide Review, bringing them to the attention of the Local Authority. A report covering police activity is circulated, ensuring learning is disseminated to staff, supporting future prevention.

With a positive action approach to Domestic Abuse (DA), the force arrest rate remains high nationally. Training (DA Matters) was provided to over 1600 front line officers/staff in 2020/21 - it included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability, supporting intervention. The force Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment team review all medium and high risk DA incidents, providing a specialist secondary risk assessment. They conduct research to identify any high-risk behaviours such as coercive control, stalking/harassment or recent separation, which are sometimes seen as precursors to DA homicides.

High-risk domestic incidents are referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which delivers information-sharing, safety planning for victims and their children, and manages

	<p>behaviour of perpetrators. The force-wide Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meeting focusses on repeat perpetrator behaviour through engagement or enforcement.</p> <p>Prevention solutions are available to protect DA victims including Tecso phones, SmartWater forensic marking, and Buddi Tags, which can be monitored via GPS. Civil Orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Stalking Protection Orders are used to good effect to protect victims, supported by a dedicated DVPO team. District-based DA teams provide consistency of quality investigations for all high-risk DA crimes.</p>
--	---

**Ongoing focus – August 2023:**

Supt Dave Cowley (Domestic Abuse, Serious Violent Crime)

The HMICFRS Homicide Prevention Inspection report has been published and although it does not grade forces, South Yorkshire Police received some favourable feedback on a number of areas following the inspection team visit in January 2023.

Homicide Prevention work continues with highlights including the extension of the ‘hospital navigators’ project into Sheffield Children’s hospital and continued success from the GRIP team both with the hot spot patrolling and problem-solving initiatives within the night-time economy.

According to the recent Home Office evaluation, GRIP patrols have exceeded their target of a seven per cent reduction in Most Serious Violence in the hot spots and have achieved an 8.2 per cent reduction in Most Serious Violence (MSV) in the 12 months to September 2022 (which are the most recent figures available). The compliance rate of the tactic is a very high at 99.7 per cent for the year to date; and the force have conducted 4,248 hours of hot spot patrolling in the four districts so far this financial year. The Home Office visited both the Grip Team and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) in July and both visits attracted positive feedback from the inspection teams.

South Yorkshire Police are in the process of recruiting a member of staff to conduct a review into homicides and ‘near-miss’ incidents to quickly identify learning and prevention opportunities. This officer will sit within the Serious Case Review Team within the Protecting Vulnerable People Performance and Governance department (PVP P&G); and will work with key statutory agencies in line with the Serious Violence duty.

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NHS hospital admissions data for under 25-year-olds for assault with a sharp object; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Police recorded crime data on offences involving the discharge of a lethal barrelled firearm</b></li> </ul>	
Recorded levels	<p>Reductions have been seen in the last 12 months for Under 25-year-old admissions to hospitals for assault with sharp object, aligned with a national reduction.</p> <p>Data to August 2023 are the lowest year to date figures of any of the previous six years, and 19.05% lower than in 2022. This is as a result of a ‘good’ August 2023 in comparison to August 2022.</p> <p>Internally, Knife Crime and Most Serious Violence (MSV) datasets are also reviewed to support understanding and focus activity. The force is working with the National Data Quality Improvement Service to support the data capture against the HO definition of Knife Crime.</p>
Force response to reducing serious violence	<p>The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception. Clear interdependencies exist with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grip funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis)</li> <li>• Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity)</li> <li>• Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)</li> </ul> <p>The Grip team undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality and reduce knife-crime offending. Local policing teams and specialist teams such as licensing also operate in response to violent offences, and proactively work to reduce night-time economy offending. Profiles have been delivered to understand the impact of Covid on demand and resourcing needs and profiles delivering against thematic areas are delivered throughout the year. Taking learning from analytical products, the GRIP team work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective.</p>

- **NHS hospital admissions data for under 25-year-olds for assault with a sharp object; and**
- **Police recorded crime data on offences involving the discharge of a lethal barrelled firearm**

Recorded levels

Reductions have been seen in the last 12 months for Under 25-year-old admissions to hospitals for assault with sharp object, aligned with a national reduction.

Data to August 2023 are the lowest year to date figures of any of the previous six years, and 19.05% lower than in 2022. This is as a result of a ‘good’ August 2023 in comparison to August 2022.

Internally, Knife Crime and Most Serious Violence (MSV) datasets are also reviewed to support understanding and focus activity. The force is working with the National Data Quality Improvement Service to support the data capture against the HO definition of Knife Crime.

Force response to reducing serious violence

The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception. Clear interdependencies exist with the following:

- Grip funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis)
- Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity)
- Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)

The Grip team undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality and reduce knife-crime offending. Local policing teams and specialist teams such as licensing also operate in response to violent offences, and proactively work to reduce night-time economy offending. Profiles have been delivered to understand the impact of Covid on demand and resourcing needs and profiles delivering against thematic areas are delivered throughout the year. Taking learning from analytical products, the GRIP team work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective.

The [National Problem Solving and Crime Prevention Programme](#) is based in South Yorkshire Police, with a focus of events around tackling serious violence, supporting a repository, in which the force engages fully to learn from this beneficial insight.

The force has an established brand for tackling organised crime, this operation brings together the four districts and Crime Services in a stand against Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and routine sharing of content externally and internally which builds on the four Ps:

- Pursue – prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality
- Prevent – preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality
- Protect – increasing protection against organised crime
- Prepare – reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place.

OCG threats are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force has undertaken mapping to establish the level of firearms capabilities across the OCGs residing in South Yorkshire.

**Ongoing focus – August 2023:**

D/Supt Jamie Henderson (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)

South Yorkshire continues to be identified as one of the forces of interest in relation to firearms due to the volume of discharges. Since the last report, the forces processes have continued to evolve in response to these challenges and we have now embedded daily information sharing and governance around firearms intelligence to ensure that we are maximising every opportunity to disrupt armed criminality.

Attendance at joint briefings is now commonplace between the Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO) and Investigation teams, which feeds into the Force Governance Group, the Regional Thematic Threat Coordination Group and the national Criminal Use of Firearms groups. As a result of sharing ‘what works’ in these national meetings, the force has taken learning from Merseyside Police and adopted ‘cease and desist notices’.

Twenty individuals who have been identified as key gun crime nominals are overtly visited by firearms officers and signposted away from crime. The force has also recently introduced a new approach to tackling gun-enabled crime offences. This dedicated operation intends to make South Yorkshire a hostile place for those committing armed crime and demonstrate that the force will not tolerate gun crime in our communities.

As part of this, the Operational Support Unit (OSU) resources flood an area following a discharge in a bid to increase intelligence gathering. In addition, each viable discharge is initially declared a critical incident with a gold meeting structure in place. This reactive operational work is complemented by ongoing proactive activity.

A further risk in the fight against armed crime is the relative ease with which blank firer weapons can be converted into viable firearms. Blank firing pistols are being sourced from legitimate and legal dealers and other retailers but they are being illegally converted before being misused by criminals. There are no current restrictions or regulations around their purchase in the UK, however, we are seeing a rise in the number of converted blank firing weapons recovered.

These pistols can be converted with relatively basic knowledge and made into a lethal-barrelled weapon using converted ammunition. There are people intent on converting them and making ammunition for a live firing weapon and they are finding their way into the hands of organised crime groups. Here in South Yorkshire we have uncovered several factories, and other forces are reporting the same kind of findings. This is an emerging trend and Police and UK law enforcement are constantly looking at new powers and legislation that might support in this fight against gun crime. The force are holding discussions with manufacturers to make the pistols harder to convert, and pushing for a change in legislation to make possession illegal or placed under tighter controls. The National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for the Criminal Use of Firearms, Assistant Chief Constable Tim Metcalfe (Thames Valley Police) is driving for this change with policy makers through the National CUF Group, of which South Yorkshire Police are a member of.

Work is ongoing at a local level to crack down on this through a dedicated operation, which has seen almost 90 suspected converted blank firers recovered in a three-week period alone, and numerous suspects arrested and on remand pending trial. The force continues to be aware of the risks arising from the theft of lawfully held firearms

and has robust policies and procedures around firearms licensing. This includes the requirement for their storage to meet specific security standards; focusing on working with licence holders to prevent firearms being stolen in burglaries.

This work continues to be successful and so far, there have been no reported stolen viable firearms in burglaries in 2023.

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

- **Homicide in England and Wales (ONS) data on drug related homicides.**
- **Substance misuse treatment for adults (PHE) data on new presentations to treatment by referral type.**

Recorded crime levels	<p>ONS dataset shows the proportion of homicide victims and suspects that were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the homicide. The force submits all homicide reports to the Home Office, and the reports include notification of those identified to be drug related. This is captured by the officer in the case with the information known at the point of submission. The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs – drug related homicides accounting for 58% of the homicides in the county in 2022, a higher proportion than seen nationally (49%).</p> <p>Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces.</p>
-----------------------	--

Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines	<p>The force focus continues in the disruption of drugs supply and county lines. The force has worked to significantly increase drug expert witness capability, providing greater support to drug-related prosecutions, and assisting the process through the criminal justice system. Operational activity links to the work of the Armed Crime Team and district Fortify Teams with a high proportion of mapped OCGs primarily linked to drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines are monitored (<i>Reduce Serious Violence section</i>).</p> <p>The Force employs a SOC Co-ordinator who attends the monthly regional SOC Co-ordinator’s forum – this is chaired by a Home Office representative and regional county lines leads, facilitating wide sharing of intelligence, emerging threats, and notable practice.</p> <p>The force’s Fortify Management Group scrutinises and tasks against the top SOC threats for each of the four districts in turn informing the Multi Agency Regional Tactical Operational Meeting (MARTOM) where the top SOC threats across the region are discussed. Level 2 activity around force SOC threats is necessarily governed through covert Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TT&amp;CG) chaired by the SOC thematic lead. The SOC-IT team is responsible for undertaking SOC System Tasking process for OCG Management, reviewing the threats and geographic impact of each OCG with the relevant LRO to inform future demand scanning.</p> <p>MoRiLE scores for OCGs are used during various TT&amp;CG meetings to aid decision making in terms of resources, including whole force and covert meetings. In addition, the districts/departments receive a summary of their OCG’s in risk order after each full round of SOC System Tasking to aid local meetings and to allow districts to make informed decisions around resourcing and response to the risks.</p> <p>Each district has proactive Fortify teams varying in numbers commensurate with the size, demographic and SOC threat within the district, equipped with the appropriate tools with which to undertake their roles.</p> <p>The force Serious and Organised Crime Strategy sets out the direction for the force. The purpose of the strategy is to outline the vision for tackling and reducing SOC, set the objectives the force is trying to achieve over the period and the steps that will be taken to deliver this. The strategy has six specific objectives aligned to the 4Ps Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent, these being reducing vulnerabilities; developing our capabilities; improving problem solving; developing</p>
---	--

strategic partnerships; promoting communications and engagement; and demonstrating effective governance and compliance.

A key challenge in tackling the criminality associated with County Lines activity (often linked to drugs), is understanding the nature and scale of activity. As a result, the force works with partners to raise awareness across the communities; proactively engage with young people who may be vulnerable for targeting by offenders; supporting those who have been victims of exploitation; and investigating and charging offenders with their criminal acts.

A quarterly county-wide Child Exploitation Group (incorporating County Lines activity) continues to evolve to improve partnership working and information sharing, along with highlighting best practice and addressing any operational issues. The National Police Chief's Council Vulnerability Tracker is fully embedded across the force and utilised within MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meetings. This supports the identification of victims for both CSE and CCE, providing a risk score and profile. District PVP teams locally conduct regular MACE meetings, and all Districts have either have a dedicated child exploitation team based within a multi-agency setting or dedicated local lead who works closely with partnership counterparts.

In addition to submitting safeguarding referrals, partners also play a key role in prevention work, for example through drug awareness education or through deferring children from youth violence. The work of the Violence Reduction Unit supports the delivery of some commissioned interventions, and the force works with to refer individuals for substance misuse programmes, under schemes such as the Custody Navigator programme, and Liaison and Diversion.

Additionally, the force and OPCC are working with Local Authority substance misuse commissioners to develop a conditional caution referral pathway for offenders.

**Ongoing focus – August 2023:**

D/Supt Jamie Henderson (SOC), CI Leanne Dean (CCE and County Lines), DCI Mark Oughton (Drugs Markets)

There are currently 70 mapped organised crime groups (OCG's) within South Yorkshire, 60 with a primary threat of drugs. The force has a robust and recognised OCG management structure, with an effective partnership response to tackling organised crime and the associated serious violence that inevitably comes with it.

All four districts have recently been supported with the investment of child exploitation teams which will bring focus to county lines and drug supply investigations that exploit vulnerable people. Our Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), Fortify, and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) continue to enforce and disrupt drugs lines and OCG's with a primary threat of controlled drugs. During June, the force participated in a period of national intensification activity targeting cannabis cultivation, which saw officers from South Yorkshire Police execute over 40 drug warrants targeting cannabis factories controlled or operated by Western Balkan (WB) crime groups with the aim of building an understanding of WB criminality whilst creating significant nationwide disruption and deterrence.

The force continues to benefit from the introduction of a Detective Inspector within the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (Y&H ROCU SOC). The features of this role, which is a Home Office funded position, is to be an ambassador on 'Clear, Hold, Build' (CHB) Projects of which South Yorkshire currently has two (Hoyland and Edlington). The CHB concept provides a structured way to achieve a whole systems approach to tackling Serious Organised Crime (SOC), ensuring that partnership resources are coordinated and applied collectively to increase community resilience to SOC activity.

South Yorkshire Police, in conjunction with Dr Matthew Bacon and Dr Xavier L'Hoiry (University of Sheffield) are continuing the collaborative research into conceptualising and evaluating the impact of policing drugs markets. The research governance, under the N8PRP partnership is a collaboration between eight universities and 12 police forces in the north of England. The partnership brings together the skills, structures and independence of academia and the knowledge, experience, and data of police forces, providing a network to champion, enable and support the best in policing research. The N8PRP has previously delivered on numerous national projects and has a proven track record of influencing and introducing national notable best practice in a range of policing settings.

March 2023 saw the force county lines exploitation campaign launch, chaired by ACC Poolman and delivered to partners (education, local authorities, NHS, social care etc).

In June 2023, the force was part of a multi-agency national operation, targeting exploitation linked to cannabis cultivations, with intelligence collection plans and a focus on safeguarding resulting in increased activity and investigations.

Planning is now taking place for a further week of intensification in line with national guidance, which is focusing on continued intelligence building to drive further activity with partners. County Lines week of intensification is a national operation that brings together multi agencies working with police to tackle exploitation – this is an opportunity to share analytical products and intelligence gaps to target offending, identify and safeguard children whilst pursuing offenders and increasing the intelligence reporting force wide as well as regionally.

Specialist training has been scheduled for September 2023, to upskill partners and subject matter experts regarding county lines and joined-up working.

The Drugs Death Coordinator has now been in post several weeks and is working with all four local authorities highlighting drugs deaths in their areas. ‘Drug and alcohol related death panels’ now have current information to assist in understanding the reasons behind a drug or alcohol related death (DARD) and make improvements.

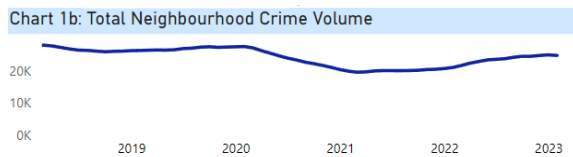
Both DARD and LDIS (Local Drugs Information Service) are due to be launched in September for the entire force area.

Further work is ongoing to deal with near-miss situations and to understand as quickly as possible the substances involved to minimise the risk of further harm.

### Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime

- **Combined measure of Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data on domestic burglary, robbery, theft of a vehicle, theft from a vehicle, attempts of and from vehicles and theft from the person offences.**

<p>Recorded crime levels</p>	<p>The CSEW data to December 2022 reported that the <i>percentage of adults in South Yorkshire who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime are 1.9 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively</i> – this was aligned with the national picture.</p> <p>In the 12 months to December 2019 (baseline) there were 27,309 Neighbourhood Crimes recorded in South Yorkshire. Since December 2019, reductions in recorded crime volumes have been seen in Residential Burglary, Theft from Person and Theft of/from Vehicle, whereas Personal Robbery has seen an increase.</p> <p>Some reductions had pre-dated reductions recorded in neighbourhood crime during lockdown. As restrictions have eased there have been increases in volumes of crime, although not to pre-pandemic levels, with an overall reduction in the twelve months to February 2023 of nine per cent in comparison with the baseline period.</p> <p>Whilst reductions are largely maintained, Theft of Vehicle is an increasing challenge, and the force currently records a higher rate of Residential Burglary, Robbery and Theft from / of Vehicle than peer forces, and a similar rate of Theft from Person offences.</p>
<p>Force response to reducing neighbourhood crime</p>	<p>Prevention activity undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) is the backbone for long-term delivery of crime reductions. The force analysts have identified wards with the highest rates of neighbourhood crime. The NPTs apply an evidence-based policing approach to develop local problem-solving plans for these areas. Bespoke neighbourhood policing training has been</p>



developed for NPT officers; the first force to achieve officer accreditation by Skills 4 Justice. This work is supported by effective communications with the public and the force continues to deliver media campaigns for emerging neighbourhood crime types to ensure the public is alert to any local themes of criminality, and where possible undertaking preventative action.

Intelligence Analysts produce bi-weekly patrol plans for each district, using crime and incident records, incoming intelligence, and analytical profiling to review the modus operandi of the latest burglary reports, support local officer awareness, investigative consideration, target-hardening activity and public-facing crime prevention messaging. Prior neighbourhood crime offenders under imminent prison release are also notified to local officers. This is further supported by a monthly vehicle crime and robbery analysis document.

District investigation teams are responsible for the investigation of these offences, management of suspects and offenders. All teams are dedicated to improving the quality of initial scene attendance, evidence capture and investigation to improve action taken outcomes and reduce offending.

Local neighbourhood crime structures are embedded within each district, with clear processes for securing support to tackle immediate and emerging issues, drive performance around cross border forensic hits, maximise the effectiveness of custody processes (TreadMatch/Drug Testing/House Search) and ensure active management of the identified offender management cohort.

Resulting from the development of NPT structures and investigative focus, the force is in a strong position to focus on the continued delivery of reductions in neighbourhood crime.

### **Ongoing Focus - August 2023**

Supt Pete Thorp (Serious Acquisitive Crime), Insp Matt Wood (Neighbourhood Policing)

The May 2023 National Measures update referenced the development of a Neighbourhood Crime Improvement Plan, this is now in place and governed through the existing monthly governance meeting. The force neighbourhood crime strategy has been refreshed for the period 2023 to 2025.

The strategy has three objectives:

1. To reduce the volumes of neighbourhood crime offences committed across South Yorkshire
2. Improve outcomes for the public
3. Ensure a proactive and relentless approach to tackling offenders.

The improvement plan is designed to deliver to these three objectives and is driving activity across several workstreams. A new communication strategy is in draft which will support targeted activity including crime prevention advice and campaigns from this autumn across the force.

Key pieces of work include adopting innovative solutions for the public to access crime safety advice, report suspicious activity, easily share digital evidence, and provide better support to victims in scene preservation.

Work is ongoing in the force control room in relation to ensuring that victims are given the right advice in a timely manner at first point of contact and that our assessment of risk, repeat victimisation and scene preservation is to a high standard. The Investigations Improvement Unit is heavily involved in relation to improving the quality of neighbourhood crime investigations, ensuring that forensic opportunities are maximised; and offences that remain unsolved are assessed when suspects come into custody.

The local Doncaster response to home burglary has seen both an increase in action taken rates and a reduction in reported incidents. This operation is being reviewed to identify the good practice and potential learning that could be adopted across the force area through investigation teams.

The force is working closely with the national working group relating to vehicle crime to understand any additional tactical opportunities or good practice identified in other forces.



In August 2023 a new bespoke operational self-briefing system utilising Power BI has been introduced, this is designed for the type of crimes that our neighbourhood teams deal with or need to be aware of occurring within their geographical areas.

The system utilises live crime data that is presented in an easy to use, visual system. Date ranges can be set from one day to months/years and can be filtered down to specific crime types and then viewed either on ward maps, live maps or hot-spot maps that automatically highlight repeat locations. There is also a temporal analysis tool built in to highlight days and times of offences as well as providing comparisons to the previous seven days, the previous year, and the force average.

Neighbourhood team areas are pre-loaded so teams can be easily selected so that the data and mapping configure to that team's specific area, making the process as easy and interactive as possible for teams to brief on crimes in their area, or to utilise in problem solving plans.

This innovative use of new technology ensures frontline officers have the tools at their disposal to identify crime trends quickly and efficiently in order to take targeted action against the offenders and ensure that support and crime prevention work is targeted proactively to the right locations.

Further additions to this system are being considered and developed following the successful rollout and utilisation of this system to our neighbourhood teams.

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

- Satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse (CSEW)
- Victim satisfaction with the police (CSEW)

Recorded satisfaction levels	<p>There is no local comparison available against a national measure, but the force has locally invested to undertake victim feedback surveys to support an understanding of service delivery. Since June 2016, the Home Office has required forces (as part of annual data return requirements) to survey victims of Domestic Abuse. Victim feedback is important to the force to understand where improvements in service can be made.</p> <p>In the 12 months to April 2023, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is 72 per cent for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 82 per cent for local victims of Domestic Abuse.</p>
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	<p>South Yorkshire Police works alongside OPCC to deliver the victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. The force seeks the views of members of the public across South Yorkshire who have been recent victims of domestic burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking, vulnerable victims and anti-social behaviour victims.</p> <p>The Victim Satisfaction Strategy 2021-2024 refers to several factors which aim to improve victim satisfaction across the force. Whilst the force usually receives positive feedback for the initial response to incidents, and treatment of victims by officers, the main areas for improvement are in the updating of victims by the officer and keeping victims informed of the investigation progress. Two other areas which can result in negative feedback are satisfaction levels where an officer did not attend, and those instances where the victim was not provided with the victims' booklet (or a link to the online version).</p> <p>Compliance against the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP), including an assessment of the force's delivery of enhanced service where appropriate, and delivery of the communications plan is coordinated through the strategic group. It is difficult to understand compliance without a manual review of the investigation, to ensure that the correct people have been identified as being entitled to an enhanced service and whether they receive this service or not. As a result</p>

of review, changes were made to the referrals process to better support the identification of victim vulnerability.

DA Matters training was provided to over 1600 front line officers and staff in 2020/21. This included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability to support intervention, supporting the victim service. A network of DA champions continues to operate across the force to support ongoing local delivery and looking for ways to improve the service provided.

**Ongoing focus – August 2023:**

T/Ch Insp John Crapper (Victim Satisfaction), Det Supt Dave Cowley (Domestic Abuse)

The use of the Initial Victim’s Needs Assessment (INVA) is currently being delivered to all response and neighbourhood officers, through a street skills continuous professional development (CPD) session. This is being delivered by the investigations improvement unit (IIU).

The force lead for victim satisfaction has been in contact with initial police training to discuss the delivery of the IVNA as part of initial police training. The leads will consider whether this is best provided as part of initial police training or whether it is something to be delivered by tutors and practice educators to coach new student officers in.

The force is working towards implementing a change from the DASH risk assessment to the DARA risk assessment tool. This is part of a national change coordinated by the NPCC lead ACC Louise Rolfe and the College of Policing. The DARA risk assessment has undergone rigorous evaluation in a number of pilot forces and is considered to be an effective risk assessment for frontline officers. Once the risk assessment is set up on our IT systems, the roll out will be supported by a training package. All key stakeholders have been consulted and are aware of the impending change which will take place in late autumn.

**Domestic Abuse Satisfaction**

**DA Victim Satisfaction Summary:** May to July 2023 (crimes reported in March to May 2023)

Overall Satisfaction: remained stable at 79% (139 victims)

- All aspects of service remained stable.
  - First response (88%, 97 victims),
  - Initial actions (83%, 132 victims)
  - Investigation (69%, 116 victims)
  - Treatment (89%, 138 victims),
  
- **Follow up** continued to be the aspect of service with the lowest satisfaction, however, this has remained stable at 58% (120 victims).
  
- Key indicators include:
  - 89% of victims reported they would feel confident contacting police again.
  - 45% of victims reported having been dealt with by three or more different officers throughout the course of the investigation.
  - 31% reported that formal action was taken against the perpetrator, 41% said they wanted formal action to be taken.

The force is planning to introduce the ‘Good Sam’ Rapid Video Response (RVR) for selected DA cases in autumn. Experience in Kent and other forces has shown that RVR has the potential to improve victim satisfaction, confidence and engagement with the Criminal Justice process. The force continues to engage with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other key partner agencies in line with the DA National Joint Justice plan. In addition to this, on the back of the success of the dedicated DA court in Sheffield, there are plans for a similar model to be rolled out in Barnsley in the coming year. The evaluation of the dedicated DA court in Sheffield has shown that this initiative has led to an increase in guilty pleas at first hearing and a reduction in court wait times for victims.

The force has committed to implementing the Single Online Home (SOH) national website and this will incorporate online reporting of DA and an online Clare’s Law Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application process. Whilst the force is already using its own online reporting tool and is processing DVDS applications via the Police.co.uk website, the new SOH will improve accessibility for the public and will conform to a national template.

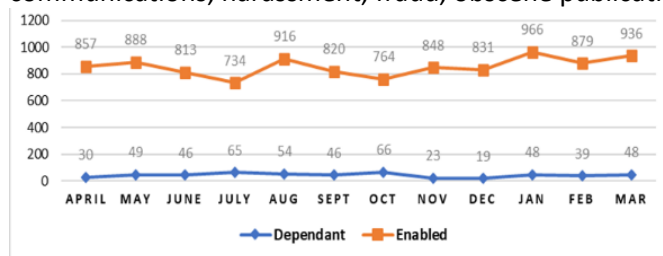
**Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime**

- **Public confidence in the law enforcement response to cybercrime (Cyber Aware Tracker)**
- **Proportion of businesses experiencing a cyber breach or attack (Cyber Security Breaches Survey)**

Recorded

The datasets nationally identified are not currently available at a local level. On a quarterly basis, the force provides data returns to the region which feeds a national performance report to the NPCC Cybercrime Programme Board.

Recorded cybercrime offences have continued to increase in recent years, with over 10,000 offences recorded in 2022/23. The largest cybercrime categories are malicious communications, harassment, fraud, obscene publications and blackmail.



Tackling this criminality is widespread across a number of operational areas.

Force response to reducing cyber crime

There is an increasing digital footprint within criminality and the force has taken steps to support officers in undertaking cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled investigations. Despite this, keeping pace with the rate of technological advancement adopted by offenders is a challenge. Cybercrime is a cross cutting theme within the force Control Strategy, and the approach to cybercrime mirrors the 4P strands of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.

The force has a dedicated Cyber Protect Officer who is responsible for supporting the delivery of the Protect strand in relation to cybercrime. This officer works extensively with local businesses and public groups to support prevention messaging and circulate emerging issues across media platforms. Key to this work is the early intervention in place to deliver ‘cyber choices’ input for children considered to be at risk of cyber offending.

The force has invested in a Digital Forensics Unit, digital evidence kiosks (available to officers across the organisation) and a Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit (specialises in the investigation of complex cyber-dependent offences). The Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit also works to support the wider Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU), the National Crime Agency, and other force Cyber Crime Units as required.

Digital Media Investigators across the force work to support local officer knowledge and capability. Street Skills training, reaching all frontline response and NPT officers, includes cyber-crime input. The force has an internal intranet page dedicated to cybercrime to provide an information support for all officers. This includes the force’s Little Book of Cyber Scams, and links to the Met Police mini videos on various cyber scam topics.

ISO 17025 is the international standard applicable for all laboratories performing calibrations and/or tests. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national body with responsibility for assessing organisations that provide these services. In 2019, the force gained accreditation in the physical capture and preservation of data from computer related devices and in Autumn 2020 completed an extension to scope the capture and processing of data from

mobile devices. The force recognises the need to continually improve the resources and training to respond to and prevent cybercrime and is committed to continued investment in digitally capability.

**Ongoing focus –August 2023:**

DCI Claire Mayfield (Digital Investigations and Cyber)

The local delivery of the investigation of cybercrime continues to be cemented in the economic crime portfolio, with the embedding of reinvigorated regional management by the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU). Within the last update the local delivery team had moved governance to sit under local management in the Economic Crime portfolio. This local structure is new in place therefore the management and implementation structure remains in its infancy.

The wider digital investigations working group has re-commenced, with a considered attendee list. The working group encompasses cybercrime and links in with the wider digital investigation portfolio, enabling trends, learning and governance to be shared within the wider team and with district crime managers.

The trend of social media hacking continues to be prominent in South Yorkshire as well as other areas in the region and nationally. The prevent and protect work is a continuing tool used to mitigate the risk to the public. With regular contact and awareness raising at business and educational establishments.

The regional 'cyber switch up' event has taken place and the team from South Yorkshire were involved in the promotion and facilitation of this.

The school summer break is coming to an end and the focus for the next quarter will be to educate and collaborate with new school starters.