

16 August 2023

Ref: AB/KW/VLR

To: The Home Secretary
His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
and Fire and Rescue Services

Dear Home Secretary and HMICFRS

Response from Dr Alan Billings, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire to the HMICFRS Report: Homicide prevention: An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.

I welcome the report and findings of this National Thematic Inspection focussing on the prevention of a crime that the public are acutely aware of through mainstream media focus and through social media, but thankfully one where the risk of becoming a victim is very low.

I closely monitor the level of homicide in South Yorkshire through the measures aligned to the national policing priorities. I also publish on my website a quarterly update from South Yorkshire Police to let the public know about the work the force is doing towards homicide prevention and reduction. In addition, South Yorkshire has a Violence Reduction Unit aimed at reducing serious violence in the medium to longer term, and so the focus on prevention in this inspection is welcome.

The report provides some re-assurance locally in South Yorkshire, one of eight forces visited as part of this inspection, with three references to positive prevention practice by South Yorkshire Police highlighting particularly:

- The use of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, allowing the police to disclose information about someone's previous history of domestic abuse and/or violence.
- Using tactics within the national Homicide Prevention Framework to a greater degree than some other forces.
- Using the framework for managing Potentially Dangerous People to manage risk locally.

The report also provides some positive re-assurance in terms of forces being able to identify the patterns and causes of homicides accurately and being able to allocate the right resources to tackle homicide.

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Carbrook House, Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S9 2EH
Tel: 0114 2964150
Email: thepcc@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk
www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk



There is always room for improvement and the report highlights these for all forces including a need to increase analytical capability to better link less serious crimes to prevent them escalating and to identify learning more quickly when homicides do take place to prevent crimes occurring in the future. I have received assurance from my Chief Constable, as a result of this report, that the recommendations will be captured within South Yorkshire Police's development and governance plans. I will ensure that these are monitored as part of my holding to account role.

As PCC I have clear oversight of the implementation of these recommendations by South Yorkshire Police and I am able to review updates from lead police officers to whom each of the recommendations have been allocated for progression.

All good wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Billings".

Dr Alan Billings
South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner