

# **SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD**

**MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2022**

PRESENT: Dr A Billings (Chair)  
M Buttery (Chief Executive & Solicitor, OPCC)  
E Eruero (Deputy 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)  
J Bland (Assistance Chief Officer, Resources, SYP)  
L Butterfield (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable, SYP)  
D Carrington (Chief Finance Officer, SYP)  
D Mahmood (Detective Chief Inspector, PVP, SYP)  
L Kosciwicz. (Chief Superintendent, Rotherham, SYP)  
A Fletcher (Office Manager, SYP)  
J Humphries (Violence Reduction Unit)  
R Fletcher (Violence Reduction Unit)  
S Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)  
M Lewis (Interim Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel)

APOLOGIES: S Abbott, E Redfearn, K Wright, T Forber, D, Hartley, R Alton, C Goodwin and G Jones.

### 1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner welcomed those who had attended the meeting, including Councillor Moyes, a member of the Police and Crime Panel.

He informed the Board that there were two Force performance reports on the agenda this time, reporting against the Police and Crime Plan 2022-25. This was because the September meeting had been cancelled because of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

### 2 **FILMING NOTIFICATION**

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/](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/)) where it can be viewed at a later date.

### 3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### 4 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

5 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

6 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no items to be considered in the absence of the public and press.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

9 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

439	SYP would consider the age group of representatives on the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) <b>07/11/22 – L Butterfield provided the following update. There are women with lived experience and women who support women with lived experience of VAWG on the IAG. However, we don't necessarily engage with girls. Therefore, N Shaw, SYP's VAWG Strategic Lead is building relationships with schools, Youth IAGs and Youth councils across SYP to capture their concerns and understand how best they would like to engage with the Police. This is a work in progress. Discharged</b>
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10 ROTHERHAM DISTRICT SUMMARY UPDATE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide a brief update in relation to local operationally based delivery of the Police and Crime Plan in Rotherham, in line with the Commissioner's reporting requirements.

The Commissioner thanked L Kosciwicz for the report and made a general point about avoiding the use of acronyms, or explaining them, for the public.

The Commissioner highlighted an email from a Rotherham Councillor in relation to theft from a foodbank which he had just sent to L Kosciwicz. L Kosciwicz agreed to look out for this.

The Commissioner enquired whether the joint response plan with police and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to address perpetrators of domestic abuse is in place across South Yorkshire. L Kosciwicz reported that this is a Rotherham initiative, funded by the Rotherham Partnership. The pilot is for six months. An update would be provided in the next report. L Butterfield

assured the Board that the pilot would be evaluated and, if appropriate, consideration would be given to this being rolled out in the other three districts.

The Commissioner highlighted the medium risk arrest rate, which had decreased to 70% in Quarter 1 (1 April to 30 June) from 76% in Quarter 4 (1 January to 31 March). He enquired how this is being addressed. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that the arrest rate for high-risk cases remained good, but Rotherham recognises that this needs a new focus. Arrests and actions are tracked through Daily Management Meetings (DMMs).

The Commissioner highlighted that, of the 47 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) granted by the court, 10 breaches had been identified in Quarter 1. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that breaches are dealt with robustly. These are tracked through DMMs, and engagement with victims is undertaken through the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

The steady increase in victims requesting information about their partner's history was highlighted. The Commissioner enquired how this had been achieved. L Koscikiewicz informed the Board that the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) requests (also known as Clare's Law) allow disclosures to be made to victims in relation to the previous offending of a partner. Investment has been made with partners to promote and raise awareness of what is available.

The Commissioner highlighted the downward trend in vulnerable child referrals, and the increase in adult referrals. He commented that he would have expected this to be the other way around and enquired about the reasons. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that there had been a national increase in referrals during the Covid 19 pandemic and there had also been a national drop. SYP has robust processes in place and has invested in Child Matters training which focuses on recognising signs of vulnerability.

The Commissioner enquired how big an issue 'cuckooing' is. L Koscikiewicz reported that cuckooing is a concern. Cuckooing is the name given to the practice where people take over another person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation, for example in storing drugs or for sex work. This targets vulnerable adults and is challenging. This is a partnership priority and systems are in place to identify signs early.

The Commissioner enquired how this is communicated to the public. L Koscikiewicz informed the Board that a number of mechanisms are in place, including raising awareness at forums and providing leaflets.

The Commissioner asked whether there were any hotspot areas. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that this is across Rotherham.

M Buttery referred to the annual consultation undertaken by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) as part of the strategic and financial planning cycle. Where appropriate, this enables specific issues to be built into the commissioned services.

A new child exploitation awareness campaign was raised. L Koscikiewicz reported to the Board that this is exploitation in its widest context and not just child sexual exploitation. SYP has already developed this and is working with partners to raise awareness. The Chief Constable confirmed that some survivors from Rotherham had taken part in the development, and she would ensure that

the Commissioner had sight of the campaign.

The Commissioner highlighted Operation Makesafe and acknowledged that SYP had actively contributed to the development of a new national training and support package. Operation Makesafe is a national initiative that originated in South Yorkshire. This focuses on raising awareness of child sexual exploitation within the hotel and leisure industry. SYP has extended this approach to taxis, takeaways and other locations where the community can assist police efforts.

The Commissioner enquired whether SYP is doing anything around unregulated accommodation, such as Airbnb's. L Kosciwicz reported that this is something the delivery group has been discussing, but it is difficult precisely because they are unregulated premises. If a particular landlord is identified, SYP will look to target those particular properties. L Kosciwicz reassured the Commissioner that there is no reason to see this as an issue.

The reduced numbers of qualified detectives were highlighted. The Commissioner enquired how big an issue this is. L Kosciwicz confirmed that plans are in place to address this. The change in the recruitment process has resulted in some delays which has exacerbated issues. There is a specific entry route through the Detective Now programme, and all new recruits are asked which area of policing they want to go into. Work is also taking place to understand the makeup of the investigation units, to ensure SYP gets the right mix of resources.

The Commissioner asked how long the Detective Now scheme takes. L Kosciwicz informed the Board that it takes two years. The shortfall in Detectives has been recognised nationally. SYP has maximised the recruitment process, and has taken positive steps, but it will take 18 months to two years to get fully staffed.

The Commissioner highlighted the increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). He commented that a number of councillors had mentioned that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams did not align with Local Authority boundaries which causes difficulty for councillors in obtaining information. L Kosciwicz acknowledged that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams are not fully aligned. Work is taking place to address this. To try and mitigate this, the Chief Inspector in Rotherham is engaging with local councillors.

The Commissioner mentioned a meeting about rural crime he had attended in Thorpe Salvin. This related to an issue that had been dealt with by the Off-Road Bike team. There was concern that the Off-Road Bike Team had been disbanded. The Chief Constable informed the Board that SYP has taken the decision that the Off-Road Bike Team will be working solely in Doncaster for the moment. This is not permanent, and it will return, and the Team will be deployed back to the other three districts during this time, if there is a need to deal with any specific incidents that may arise

The ASB call back scheme was highlighted. The Commissioner enquired whether this had been successful. L Kosciwicz confirmed that, following a report of ASB, a member of the public will receive a call back from a member of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team who will provide an update, obtain any additional information, identify any vulnerabilities, and make any additional referrals. The Commissioner asked whether victim satisfaction has increased. L Kosciwicz confirmed this is being looked at. L Butterfield reported that the

drivers for this scheme are being considered at the Force Performance Day.

The Commissioner highlighted the Tilley award for an operation looking at Cannabis grown through unexplained power-cuts. This has led to 122 warrants being executed, resulting in over 20,000 cannabis plants being recovered worth over £20.5m. This had led to 50 arrests and 120 prohibition notices served by partners under the Housing Act 2004.

Operation Duxford was highlighted. This is a force-wide initiative involving resources from all four districts being involved in a day of action in one district. Results for Operation Duxford in Rotherham included multiple arrests, engagement with the public and £10,000 worth of illegal Vapes being seized.

The Commissioner enquired about illegal Vapes. L Koscikiewicz informed the Board that there are only a small number of registered sellers. There is concern around unregulated products. The Commissioner asked whether there are any plans to raise awareness of this with school age children. L Koscikiewicz acknowledged that SYP could consider looking at this alongside Trading Standards. This would be raised with SYP's Corporate Communications team.

S Wragg informed the Board that this is also a concern for the NHS.

The Commissioner highlighted that crime now appeared to be returning to normal levels following the Covid-19 pandemic. He enquired why SYP is struggling, and whether this was due to staff vacancies. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that it was, but also highlighted that crime is also only a small part of what the police deal with. The Chief Constable said this was also a result of accurate crime recording.

The Commissioner enquired whether the Neighbourhood Crime Team is new, and whether this is replicated across all four districts. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that this had previously been known as the Serious Acquisitive Crime Team. She reported that most burglaries are committed by a small number of individuals. The Neighbourhood Crime Team is currently being reviewed, and will be working more proactively with the Integrated Offender Management Team and the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

The Commissioner highlighted the change in focus from target times towards delivering a quality response and investigation. He enquired what this meant. L Koscikiewicz said that when she had arrived at Rotherham, the focus had been around the timeliness of the response, rather than doing a good job. She highlighted the importance of doing a quality job when officers arrive. The Commissioner enquired whether there are any consequences to this. L Koscikiewicz confirmed that, initially, there had been a dip in response times, but this is starting to improve. This approach needs to be embedded in SYP's culture.

The Chief Constable confirmed that Response is challenging. New officers will not be starting at the same time, there will be 15 new officers per month. As SYP start to fill vacancies, they will be able to get to more jobs, more quickly, but they need to provide a quality response, or officers will have to return.

The Commissioner congratulated Detective Chief Inspector Aneela Khalil-Khan in obtaining the Fullbright Stephen Lawrence Award.

L Koscikiewicz highlighted that Rotherham is trying to change the culture of SYP by focusing on staff welfare. There is a challenge around resources, but

Rotherham is starting to see improvements in the outcomes.

**It was agreed that:**

- **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**
- **SYP would ensure that the Commissioner had sight of the new child exploitation awareness campaign**
- **A possible awareness campaign around illegal Vapes be considered by SYP's Corporate Communications team**

11 FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2022-2025 - PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress against the 'Protecting Vulnerable People' 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.

The Commissioner highlighted the 'Safe Spaces' survey, and enquired whether there are any plans to involve students from the universities. D Mahmood reported that SYP has spent a lot of time with the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to identify a wide range of groups to engage with, including people of different ages and from diverse groups. The Commissioner asked whether SYP would be involving the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). D Mahmood confirmed that they would.

The under-reporting of domestic abuse and sexual offences was highlighted. The Commissioner enquired what SYP is doing to address this. D Mahmood reported that SYP is raising awareness, and have a number of campaigns to promote key messages, including during the World Cup.

The Commissioner raised Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage and enquired how SYP compared with other forces. D Mahmood informed the Board that, as part of the work on VAWG, SYP now has a consistent approach to Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriages. There has been interest from other forces in relation to SYP's work around VAWG.

The Commissioner enquired whether Honour Based Abuse is something SYP do particularly well. D Mahmood confirmed that it is. SYP has invested a lot of time in training and raising awareness. There is now a mandatory training programme in place which involves partners.

Information on a pilot in Kent Police, where a victim can choose to speak to an officer over the phone or via video conference, was provided. This would only take place where the perpetrator is no longer at the home address. The Commissioner enquired how officers know that the perpetrator is not in the house. D Mahmood said that officers are specially trained to establish such information.

The Commissioner highlighted the Stalking Advocates to support victims of non-domestic abuse stalking and harassment. He enquired whether there is any support for victims of online stalking. D Mahmood agreed to find out.

The collaboration with trafficking charities' 'Snowdrop Project' and sex worker charities such as 'Sheffield Sex Workers Outreach Project' (SSWOP) was highlighted. The Commissioner commented that there are also other organisations, such as 'The Amber Project', which is the Sheffield Child Sexual Exploitation Service.

The work undertaken around the management of sex offenders was raised. SYP is now in a strong position, and this has been recognised by HMICFRS.

The Commissioner thanked D Mahmood for presenting the report.

**It was agreed that:**

- **D Mahmood to establish if there is any victim support for victims of stalking online**

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## FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2022-2025 – TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress against the 'Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)' 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.

The Commissioner enquired about the Interactive Voice Response (IVR). L Butterfield informed the Board that this has already started. This is an automated phone system feature that interacts with callers, and gives them choices via a menu; for example, press 1 for ... This will hopefully direct people to the right area without having to wait for the Force Control Room. The Commissioner asked whether there is any sense that this is working. L Butterfield confirmed that early indications are good, but it is quite early. This is being closely monitored.

The Commissioner highlighted the concern around the dispatching of officers. L Butterfield informed the Board that the team in the Force Control Room is working tirelessly to address this. A recruitment plan is now in place with new staff starting in January.

The Commissioner commented that he had attended the Force Control Room's annual award ceremony. SYP is in a positive position.

Retail crime was highlighted. The Commissioner mentioned a meeting he had attended with chain store retailers. Retailers had expressed concerns about the amount of shoplifting taking. He enquired how proactive SYP is in supporting small retailers. L Butterfield confirmed that SYP has both a strategic and thematic lead looking at retail crime. SYP has a good relationship with chain stores but there needs to be more focus on smaller retailers. Depending on the locality, the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams would deal with small retailers. The Commissioner commented that the Design Out Crime Officers (DOCOs) had been helpful.

A discussion took place on Integrated Offender Management (IOM). The Commissioner requested that a report on how the IOM is managed, the outcome rate and whether there are any concerns be brought to a future meeting.

M Buttery commented that, generally, the Force's performance reports provided plenty of detailed information on what activity is taking place, but not necessarily

what is being achieved.

**It was agreed that:**

- **A report on how Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is managed, the IOM outcome rate and whether there are any concerns by brought to a future meeting**

### 13 SYP'S QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING OVERVIEW

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to inform the Board of SYP's projected outturn on its revenue and capital budgets as at 31 March 2022. It is based on an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, before accounting adjustments.

D Carrington informed the Board that there is a £1.8m projected underspend. This has been reduced since the last report.

The two main areas are:

- Changes to the Officer Workforce Plan. This change has allowed SYP to fund the Detective Now Programme, summer surge activity and additional overtime to backfill vacancies. This projected underspend in pay is now offset by an overspend in overtime, and
- Premises. This main reason for this is the change to utilities' costs.

D Carrington highlighted that this is a moment in time.

The projected underspend does not include any adjustments that may be required for the reopened staff pay award or the reversal of the 1.25% National Insurance (NI) increase. For the NI adjustment, the additional underspend is expected to be in the region of £0.77m.

The Commissioner acknowledged that budget-setting this year is going to be difficult.

The 2022/23 savings are ahead of target and will contribute to the £7m savings target for future years set by the PCC.

There is no significant variance to the capital programme.

### 14 PCC'S STRATEGIC PLANNING TIMETABLE

M Buttery provided a verbal update to the Board. The purpose of the report was 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.

M Buttery reminded the Board of the strategic and financial planning timetable which had been presented at the last meeting.

There will be another Planning & Efficiency Group (PEG) later in the month to undertake due diligence on the Chief Constable's assessment of need.

The OPCC is working with Force colleagues on the requirement for capital funding.

November is the start of the real budget build work, which includes assumptions

and modelling around the precept.

The Commissioner has indicated that he would like to revise the Police and Crime Plan. The OPCC is looking at this. This will cover the last year of the PCC's term of office. There will be no change to the three strategic priorities, but there would be refinement of the areas of focus within each one, to reflect the current environment.

15 PCC DECISIONS

A report of the Chief Executive & Solicitor was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to provide the Board with a record of key decisions taken by the Commissioner outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting.

M Buttery highlighted the changes to the PCC's Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Community Grant Scheme for 2022/23. This will be a fairer application process and improve the administration.

16 WORK PROGRAMME

M Buttery confirmed that the work programme had now caught up following the cancellation of the September meeting.

The December meeting will focus on the Barnsley District Performance Report and the Force Performance Report on Treating People Fairly. A further update on strategic and financial planning will also be provided.

17 IEP ASSURANCE REPORT

M Lewis presented the Independent Ethics Panel's (IEP) assurance report.

On 7 October 2022, the IEP received a report from SYP on Juveniles and the use of Strip Search.

The report arose following a request to SYP from M Lewis in the wake of reports which attracted widespread negative commentary about the "Child Q" case, a girl who had been strip searched in her school in London.

M Lewis confirmed that the IEP is in a position to offer reassurance to the Commissioner that it has found that Strip Search in relation to juveniles is used sparingly.

SYP's response to the request for information was prompt. The IEP will continue to monitor this, and the Panel will receive information twice yearly.

M Lewis informed the Board that there are two categories; strip searches in custody and strip searches as a result of stop and search encounters. A total of four strip searches had been conducted on juveniles as a result of stop and search encounters in the period June 2021 to July 2022. There are more in custody and there is more work to do around custody.

18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - TO BE NOTIFIED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING

There was no other business.

19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 December at 2pm at Carbrook House.

PCC signed 12 December 2022