

SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: Dr A Billings (Police and Crime Commissioner) (PCC)
M Buttery (PCC's Chief Executive & Solicitor)
S Abbott (PCC's Chief Finance Officer)
F Topliss (PCC's Engagement and Communications Manager)
K Wright (PCC's Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer)
S Parkin (PCC's Governance and Compliance Manager)
E Parkinson (PCC's Performance and Assurance Officer)
J Humphries (Violence Reduction Unit)
R Fletcher (Violence Reduction Unit)
L Poultney (Chief Constable)
T Forber (Deputy Chief Constable)
S Poolman (Temporary Assistant Chief Constable)
D Carrington (SYP's Chief Finance Officer)
A Fletcher (SYP's Office Manager)
S Chapman (Chief Superintendent, Rotherham)
A Wright (Superintendent, Rotherham)
S Blakemore (Detective Inspector, Rotherham)
S Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)

APOLOGIES: D Thorpe, D Hartley, J Bland, C Goodwin and E Redfearn.

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Commissioner welcomed those who had joined the meeting, including Councillors Haleem and Baum-Dixon (members of the Police and Crime Panel) and one member of the press.

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/) where it can be viewed at a later date.

3 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Constable informed the Board that the Covid hub had now been stood down. She provided reassurance that officers would still be taking precautions when going into the homes of vulnerable members of the public, including wearing masks and undertaking social distancing.

M Buttery highlighted the Commissioner's press release on Part Two of the Government's Review on Police and Crime Commissioners in which the Commissioner welcomed the strengthening of his role within local partnerships including the wider criminal justice system.

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 7 FEBRUARY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

10 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS

427	D Thorpe would provide the Commissioner with a briefing on the work taking place in relation to suicide prevention 09/03/22 – A detailed response had been provided and is attached at Appendix A. Discharged
428	Members of the VRU would link into the staff working on the VAWG action plan 09/03/22 - Noted. Discharged

11 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 reporting requirements.

The Commissioner highlighted the increase in demand of organised crime, reduced staffing levels and significant changes in the Rotherham Command Team. He enquired how this had impacted on the policing of Rotherham. S Chapman acknowledged there had been some challenges, but confirmed that Rotherham had dealt with these appropriately. For example, the police response to the power outages and cannabis cultivation in Eastwood which had run in

parallel with the outbreak of the Covid Omicron variant had received positive feedback from members of the public, MPs and partners.

The Commissioner commented on the increase in Organised Crime Group (OCG) activity. S Chapman acknowledged this. He highlighted the increase in police officer numbers which will help to address this; although Rotherham will not see the full impact of this until September. The welfare of staff and making sure officers take time off alongside managing demand were also mentioned.

The Commissioner highlighted Rotherham's overall domestic abuse arrest rate of 53%. This is good compared with the national average of 33%. S Chapman confirmed domestic abuse is a district and force priority. If a domestic abuse victim requires a response, this gets prioritised to ensure officers respond quickly and effectively. The next stage is to safeguard the victim.

S Chapman commented that HMICFRS (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services) has highlighted that SYP has significantly fewer domestic abuse related homicides than other forces. This reflects SYP's proactiveness. The Commissioner confirmed that the policing minister is currently interested in homicide figures.

The Commissioner acknowledged that around 60% of Rotherham's domestic abuse arrests are made within one day of reporting, with most of these being within a few hours. He enquired if this could be maintained. S Chapman confirmed that they could.

T Forber confirmed that SYP does take domestic abuse seriously. SYP arrests more people and obtains more Domestic Abuse Prevention Notices (DVPNs) and Orders (DVPOs) than most other forces. However, this is not about chasing figures. SYP's focus is on separating the victim and perpetrator to try and give victims more space to get support, and to break the cycle of abuse.

T Forber highlighted that SYP is starting to look at the engagement offenders receive from support services when they are on bail, and track the effectiveness.

The Commissioner enquired about the circumstances when community resolutions are used in domestic abuse cases. S Chapman confirmed that this would be in non-intimate cases, such as a father and son argument in the home. This may result in an apology or a referral to an anger management course, for instance.

The Commissioner highlighted the use of DVPNs and DVPOs and enquired what happens when there is a breach and how is this policed. S Chapman confirmed that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams are key to managing and policing the DVPNs and DVPOs.

Operation Makesafe was highlighted. The Commissioner enquired as to what extent written notices to the owner, operator or manager of a hotel or similar establishment are used, and whether these be used in other areas, such as for taxi drivers. S Chapman confirmed that no notices have been issued. A lot of work has taken place, when Covid restrictions have allowed, to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within the hotel industry. However, some staff, when spoken to, did not identify some of the risks presented e.g. a child booking into a hotel with what appeared to be an older man. The Partnership is working with these premises to further improve knowledge/understanding.

The Commissioner highlighted the media interest in Operation Grow – a multi-agency response using police powers under the Misuse of Drugs Acts to execute multiple warrants. He enquired about the landlords. A Wright confirmed that Operation Grow is a really good example of partnership working. 77 warrants, 34 arrests and 9000 plants worth £8m had been seized so far. SYP is now working with landlords to gather more intelligence. S Chapman highlighted that this was good work but this is only just the start.

The Commissioner enquired if there are absentee landlords. A Wright confirmed that some are, and SYP are working closely with the management companies on this.

The Commissioner informed the Board that he had been to several meetings in Maltby and Dinnington. Most of the issues are around anti-social behaviour. There are diversionary activities taking place, but members of the Town Council are unaware. He enquired whether more needs to be done around communication. S Chapman acknowledged that a lot of work is taking place and this could be communicated better. This is being picked up.

The Commissioner highlighted the keyless thefts of high value Land Rover motor vehicles across South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. He enquired whether there are any preventative measures to help members of the public. S Chapman confirmed that Neighbourhood Policing Teams have provided advice on preventative measures in community newsletters, and the Rotherham Advertiser had also published information. Having the right lighting, Ring doorbells, CCTV, keeping keys away from letter boxes and using immobilizer devices such as steering locks are all good preventative measures.

The Commissioner enquired if S Chapman was confident that all victims receive the victim booklet and how effective the booklet is. S Chapman confirmed the booklet is not given out in 100% of occasions but is given out much more than it used to be. The booklet is effective and does improve victim satisfaction.

The vacancy rate was raised. The overall vacancy rate is 8.4% (26 posts). 14.8% (15 posts) are in CID / Protecting Vulnerable People. A Wright confirmed that conversations take place fortnightly to discuss any emerging resourcing issues and to ensure people are put in the right place.

The Commissioner highlighted that, through SYP's Women's Network, approximately 16 women - mainly from Rotherham's Domestic Abuse Team and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) staff - ran various distances at Rother Valley Park on Sunday gone (6th March) as part of International Women's Day events. A Just Giving page was set up and, so far, over £300 has been raised for the charity chosen - Sheffield Domestic Abuse charity 'Ashiana', who support Black, Asian, Minority and Refugee (BAMER) communities whose lives have been affected by violence and abuse to take control of their lives and move forward into healthy stable and safer futures.

S Chapman confirmed that Rotherham district were supportive of this.

report was to provide an update on the progress against the 'Treating People Fairly' priority in the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 in support of the Commissioner's overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn and work.

The Commissioner thanked T Forber for a good report.

The Commissioner acknowledged SYP's positive action strategy which enables officers from Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) to work with Recruitment to become active ambassadors for positive action. He enquired if, realistically, officers are given time to do this. T Forber highlighted that NPTs are the best vehicle to do this through their work with the wider community. They inform and build confidence amongst family members, educators, careers advisors and friends of those who are interested in a career with the police. He confirmed that officers do have time to do this.

The Commissioner highlighted the recruitment familiarisation events which provide information to individuals and their families and dispel myths. He enquired what the myths are. T Forber confirmed that some communities do not think they can have a career in policing. He highlighted that diverse communities are at the heart of policing by consent.

The combined People Strategy was highlighted. The Commissioner enquired whether this is available. T Forber confirmed that it is and agreed to provide the Commissioner with a copy.

The Commissioner highlighted the issue with police officer leavers from an Asian or Asian British heritage where the year-to-date leavers (4.3%) exceeds the joiners (1.7%), and he enquired why this is so. T Forber confirmed that the numbers are very small. SYP do conduct exit interviews and no trends have been identified, but this will continue to be monitored.

A discussion took place around exit interviews. The Commissioner enquired if there may be any benefit in using members of his Independent Ethics Panel (IEP), who are not part of the organisation, to conduct the exit interviews. T Forber commented that the people conducting the exit interviews are from HR and are not police officers. T Forber confirmed that he is open to members of the IEP being involved in the exit interview process and agreed to discuss this further.

The Commissioner enquired about the Free2B@SYP approach. T Forber informed the Board that this is about developing an inclusive culture to allow everyone to be who they want to be. He emphasised the importance of how people feel, and people feeling that they are valued by the organisation.

The Commissioner highlighted the fair allocation of resources. He enquired whether there was a new resource allocation formula. T Forber confirmed that the overarching resource allocation formula had not changed, but this is being considered in the context of the officer uplift. There will be a significant number of new officers, and well thought out decisions need to be made to meet the needs of the organisation. A new People Board has been established which looks at demand, population data and the challenges SYP will face in the future. For example, the increase in internet-based crime. This also needs to be balanced with the needs of the public.

The Commissioner highlighted the 'deep dive' into the data, to explore disproportionality in stop and search and use of force in South Yorkshire. He

enquired whether it would be useful for SYP to work alongside the IEP on this. T Forber confirmed that he would welcome the involvement of the IEP.

The Commissioner raised the development of Pronto system and the delays in updating the system. T Forber confirmed that Pronto was a mobile application which enables officers to record data, such as stop and search data, on their mobile devices. This application is used by many forces. It is not perfect, but improves officer productivity outside of the police station. There are integration issues between Pronto and the Smart Contact system and this is being considered as part of the work around the IT Target Operating Model.

It was agreed that:

- **SYP would provide the Commissioner with a copy of the People Strategy**
- **Further discussions would take place with members of the IEP in relation to the IEP's involvement in exit interviews and SYP's 'deep dive' into the disproportionality in stop and search and use of force**

13 CSE UPDATE

A report of the Chief Constable was presented to the Board. The purpose of the report was to answer a number of questions raised by the PCC, and to provide reassurance that the ongoing response by SYP supports the OPCC's Safer Streets Plan 2022 – 2025 and the PCC's overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn and work.

The Commissioner thanked S Poolman for a full and frank report.

S Poolman confirmed that SYP has learnt from a recent Times article around being bolder around the information that is published.

The Commissioner informed the Board that he had visited Rotherham's CSE Team the previous week with a member of the Police and Crime Panel.

The Commissioner highlighted the dedicated Internet Sex Offenders Team (ISOT). S Poolman confirmed that SYP had recognised the increase in online offending quite early on, and had put in place a dedicated team. ISOT conducts activity to identify and target offenders, working with other agencies in doing so. SYP is also represented in the regional Op Reveal Team, which uses covert tactics to identify and target offenders, gathering intelligence and evidence.

The Commissioner enquired about the vacancy factor. The team is 2-3 detectives short, which is low due to the investment made. Resources are a challenge but this is kept under constant review.

A discussion took place around online offending. This is a hidden crime, and SYP uses all available tactics to identify and prosecute offenders.

The Commissioner highlighted that online offenders can be anywhere in the world - does SYP know how many offenders are in South Yorkshire? S Poolman confirmed that she did not have this data to hand but, anecdotally, a fair proportion commit offences internationally. It was acknowledged that, in cases like this, an offender's ethnicity may never be identified.

The Commissioner referred to third party reporting. S Poolman confirmed that SYP has had this in place for quite some time. As a force, SYP needs to

emphasise this with partners and do more to advertise this.

The Commissioner mentioned that SYP does not have any mapped OCGs with a primary offending of CSE. He enquired about the children who get drawn into becoming offenders because they are victims of CSE. S Poolman confirmed that links between county lines, CSE and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) can be interchangeable. Training has been developed to raise awareness of CSE and CCE, and help officers spot the signs of exploitation. There is a small number of individuals who are mapped OCG nominals who have a risk marker for CSE. Most OCGs operate in numerous fields. This was referenced in the recent independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (ICSA) report.

The Commissioner enquired about Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN). S Poolman confirmed that CAWNs are intended as a disruption tool to prevent inappropriate contact by adults with children who may be at risk of harm because of their relationship. When used appropriately, these notices have been proven to be an effective measure to prevent further contact. These are used proactively.

The Commissioner highlighted the Vulnerability Awareness Campaign and confirmed that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is happy to help with this. S Poolman confirmed that quite a lot of work is being done around this. There will be an internal and an external element with the primary aim of continuing to raise awareness for all forms of exploitation, whilst providing the public and professionals with the right information for them to become more confident in identifying and reporting concerns or incidents to the police/partnership. Spotting the signs, using professional curiosity, and effectively responding to all reports of CSE will be the focus of the internal campaign, as well as promoting the submission of intelligence for the Police and partners.

The Commissioner highlighted the challenges and thanked S Poolman for being so open. He raised that Barnsley and Doncaster districts currently have no dedicated CSE or Child Exploitation team. S Poolman confirmed that there is a discrepancy. Whilst there is no dedicated team, there is a dedicated person in each district who works closely with partners. The ongoing PVP Review includes SYP's response to child exploitation and will include a detailed review of the structures and resources at each district.

S Poolman also highlighted that online offending continues to present challenges to SYP and partners. Due to the nature of offending - in that it mostly takes place behind closed bedroom doors and out of the sight of parents/carers – inevitably, this will be vastly under reported. Online offending is an intelligence gap for SYP and requires officers to be professionally curious when engaging with children. This is a national issue, and the Home Office is fully aware of the challenges. Legislation around tech companies is currently being reviewed to place a burden on them to reduce this occurring.

S Blakemore, a Detective Inspector in Rotherham's Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, gave a short presentation on SYP's response to CSE in Rotherham (slides attached at Appendix B).

The Commissioner thanked S Blakemore and the Evolve Team for their enthusiasm and commitment.

14 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 that the following three decisions had been made since the last meeting:

- Capital spend from the existing Digital Fund to facilitate improvements to the meeting room technology at Force Headquarters
- Additional funding to provide proactive services to staff in areas such as counselling, occupational therapy and reasonable adjustments all of which will contribute positively to the wellbeing and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion agendas
- An increase of revenue budget of £493,369 per year (2022/23 to 2024/25) associated with formalising a new structure for the Force Control Room. This includes an increase in staff and changes to shift patterns.

15 WORK PROGRAMME

M Buttery highlighted that the work programme was circulated with the papers each month. The focus next time will be Barnsley District performance, Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour and SYP's Performance Outturn report.

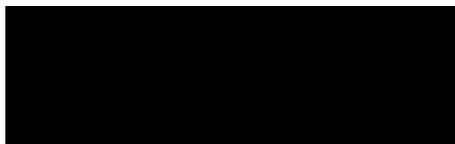
Delivery plans for the new Police and Crime Plan will be presented at the May Public Accountability Board.

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

None.

17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - 11 APRIL 2022 AT 2PM

PCC Signed



11 April 2022

APPENDIX A - PAB Update Suicide Prevention March 2022

Research illustrates that someone bereaved by a suicide is 60% at greater risk of taking their own life, perpetuating the cycle of vulnerability. The factors leading to someone taking their own life are complex, and no one organisation is able to directly influence them all. However, it is important that lessons are learned from each suspected suicide by reviewing the circumstances and the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and collectively to avoid future loss of life.

Since 2019 and with funding from SYB Integrated Care System (ICS) until September 2022, South Yorkshire Police working in partnership with the four local authorities, have employed a Suicide Prevention Officer. The partnership have developed and implemented a real time surveillance system that allows a review of a suspected suicide, often within hours of a death occurring. They have also produced a standard operating procedure, a memorandum of understanding and an information sharing agreement. We have co-commissioned an electronic recording and monitoring system to ensure that each area can produce timely and meaningful data and reporting. Partners include SYP, Public Health in each local authority area, BTP, Samaritans, Coroner's Offices, the commissioned bereavement support service Amparo, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Yorkshire Ambulance Service and Highways etc...

We now routinely inform SYP Domestic Abuse team at Case Review, of any suspected suicides where the victim of DA has died by suicide. We have consulted with staff involved with DHR's, recommending Zero Suicide Alliance Online training for staff.

The suspected suicide incidents are recorded on national and local systems, with the Public Health at each Local Authority being informed of any deaths that occurred in their area or of residents that have taken their lives elsewhere. Where children linked to an incident have been identified additional safeguard is put in place through the schools. Individuals and organisations that can be identified and linked to each death are contacted with an offer of support through Amparo and are provided with a hard copy of Help is at Hand. Support is also available to professionals dealing with a suspected suicide incident.

Two training videos have been filmed to raise awareness of suicide, suicide prevention and to break down the stigma of suicide and promote an understanding of anyone struggling with suicidal ideations have been created, one through Continuous Professional Development (CPD/Street Skill) and a bite size video. We have created a Suicide Prevention and Support Services Hub that sits under our Mental Health Portal for officers' reference.

We continue to work with partners in the Prison service, and suicide prevention training was funded by ICS, and delivered to a considerable number of prison officers in Doncaster during 2021.

Work has commenced to identify nominals at risk of suicide and locations for target hardening. These are currently identified through S136 MHA detentions and negotiator callouts. A monthly report is circulated to the police SNS Hubs/SYP off road bike team, and a sanitised copy sent to the local authority, this allows the creation of POP plans to manage individuals and identified hot spot locations. The ICS has secured funding for a project manager to lead on attempt suicides, and this post will sit within YAS. Examples of initiatives include:

- Posters and support details provided at bridges and vulnerable locations across the

County, working with Samaritans and BTP.

- Environmental clean-up and trees felled at vulnerable location near Keep Moat Stadium, the location of suspected suicides.
- Environmental scanning at carparks/bridges with Design out Crime officers, to consider suicide prevention measures, including funding opportunities and involvement in new developments.
- Partnership working with Highways and Supertram to consider suicide prevention measures.

As a result of real-time surveillance, we can monitor and respond, to changes in MO's, demographics and use funding more efficiently to target the identified changing trends.

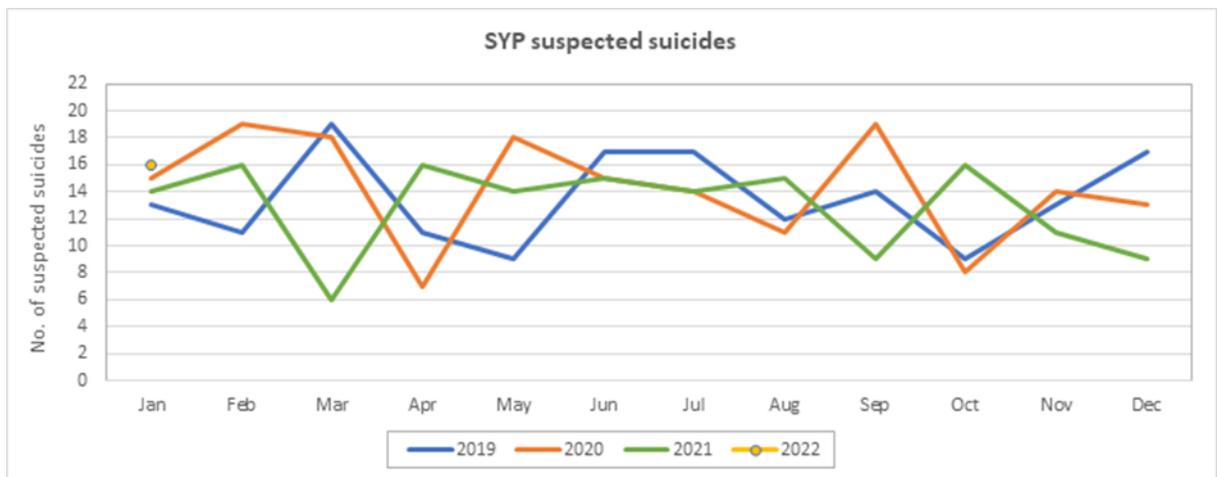
Additional work has led to having a Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS) and Andy's Man Club groups in each local authority area.

The ICS has been approached by other organisations ie WYP and Cheshire, seeking to replicate what has been developed here in South Yorkshire. An evaluation of SYB Real-time surveillance has been conducted by Huddersfield University and has not yet been published. The feedback received has been very positive.

The ICS, including SYP, held our first memorial event in December for families to remember loved ones lost to suicide.

In April 2022, SYP will launch a Mental Health Alert Card to raise awareness of individual's issues that can be carried with them and will be recorded on Smartstorm.

Real Time Surveillance of suspect suicides and attempt suicides/self-harm.



2021-2022	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Barnsley	1	3	4	2	6	0	3	4	1	1
Doncaster	6	4	6	0	3	2	4	2	4	5
Rotherham	3	1	3	5	3	3	3	3	0	5
Sheffield	6	6	2	7	3	4	6	2	4	5
FORCE	16	14	15	14	15	9	16	11	9	16

Supporting following a suspected suicide.

	Jan – Dec 2020	Jan - Dec 2021
Info packs sent out	83	233
Amparo referrals (includes 2 to KIRKLEESTOGETHER and 1 to Lincolnshire)	37	73
Suicide numbers	175	165

DA related				
Jan - Dec 2021	Deaths	Victim	Offender	Vic/Perp
Men	117	0	37	5
Women	48	14	4	5
Total	165	14	41	10

A paper is in the process of being submitted to SLG, proposing an extension of the suicide prevention officer post beyond August 2022, until April 2023 when the current member of staff retires. It is proposed that this is funded equally by SYP and the four Local Authorities. Consideration will also be required regarding the long-term sustainability of the real-time surveillance. Since April 2021, SYP is required to submit detailed data of suspected suicides on a monthly basis to NPCC.

APPENDIX B –