

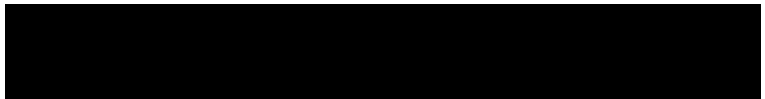
Public Document Pack



Friday 29 December 2023

To: Members of the Public Accountability Board

This matter is being dealt with by:
email:



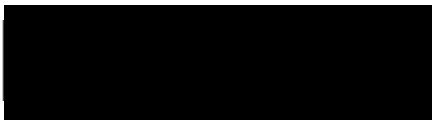
Dear Colleague

Public Accountability Board

You are invited to the next Public Accountability Board which will be held on **Monday 8th January 2024** at **2.00 pm** and will be held at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Carbrook, Sheffield, S9 2EH and via MS Teams.

The agenda and supporting papers are attached.

Yours sincerely



Dr Alan Billings
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Enc.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024

AGENDA

	Item		Page
1	Welcome and Apologies	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
2	<p>Filming Notification</p> <p>This meeting is being filmed as part of our commitment to make Public Accountability Board meetings more accessible to the public and our other stakeholders. The meeting will be streamed live on our You Tube channel (SYPCC Media) and will be recorded and uploaded via You Tube to our website (https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/) where it can be viewed at a later date.</p> <p>The OPCC operates in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Data collected during the filming will be retained in accordance with the OPCC's published policy.</p> <p>Therefore by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for publication on our website and/or training purposes.</p>	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
3	Announcements	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
4	Public Questions	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
5	Urgent Items	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
6	<p>Items to be considered in the absence of the public and press - There are no items</p> <p>THAT, using the principles identified under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended, or that they</p>	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report

	Item		Page
	are otherwise operationally sensitive or would attract an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.		
7	Declarations of Interest	Dr A Billings	Verbal Report
8	Minutes of the meeting of the Public Accountability Board held on 6 November 2023	Dr A Billings	5 - 12
9	Matters Arising/Actions	M Buttery	13 - 14
	FORCE PERFORMANCE		
10	Barnsley District Summary Update	S Wanless	15 - 24
11	Force Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan 2022 - 2025 - Protecting Vulnerable People	T Forber	25 - 38
12	Victim Report	T Forber	To Follow
	ASSURANCE		
13	JIAC Assurance Report	S Wragg	39 - 44
14	IEP Assurance Report	M Lewis	45 - 46
	CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORTING		
15	Victim Journey in the CJS	L Mayhew	47 - 52
16	Strategic and Financial Planning Update	M Buttery/ S Abbott	53 - 56
17	PCC Decisions	M Buttery	57 - 58
18	Work Programme	M Buttery	59 - 62
19	Any Other Business - to be notified at the beginning of the meeting		
20	Date and Time of Next Meeting		
	7 th March 2024 at 10am		

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD: NOTE OF THE MEETING

6 November 2023

Attendees present (in person and virtually)

Dr A Billings (Chair)
 M Buttery (Chief Executive & Solicitor, OPCC)
 E Eruego (Deputy Chief Finance Officer, OPCC)
 F Topliss (Engagement & Communications Manager, OPCC)
 S Parkin (Governance & Compliance Manager, OPCC)
 S Baldwin (Evaluation & Scrutiny Officer, OPCC)
 T Forber (Deputy Chief Constable, SYP)
 S Poolman (Assistant Chief Constable, SYP)
 J Bland (Assistant Chief Officer Resources, SYP)
 D Carrington (Chief Finance Officer, SYP)
 L Kosciwicz (Chief Superintendent, Rotherham, SYP)
 J Humphries (Violence Reduction Unit)
 S Wragg (Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee)
 M Lewis (Interim Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel)

Apologies received

E Redfearn, S Abbott, K Wright, L Poultny, R Alton, D Thorpe and D Hartley

NO:	AGENDA ITEM NAME
1	<u>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</u> The Commissioner welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	<u>FILMING NOTIFICATION</u> The Commissioner confirmed that the meeting was being streamed live on You Tube (SYPCC Media) and was being recorded and uploaded via You Tube to the website (www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/) where it can be viewed at a later date.
3	<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> There were no announcements.
4	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> There were no public questions.

5	<p><u>URGENT ITEMS</u></p> <p>The PCC requested assurance on Pro-Palestine protests.</p> <p>T Forber confirmed that South Yorkshire had seen some limited protests. These had passed off relatively peacefully.</p> <p>Four people have been arrested, investigations are live and ongoing.</p> <p>There are some incidents where SYP are trying to identify the offender.</p> <p>SYP recognise that there is public concern around what is taking place in the Middle East and the need for peaceful protests. Engagement is taking place with all parties.</p> <p>There is a designated command structure in place and scrutiny is in place to ensure the protests are undertaken in a peaceful manner.</p> <p>The Commissioner highlighted the demand on resources. T Forber confirmed that the previously weekend there had been two FA Cup football matches at relatively short notice which had put a strain on the force, but this is something they are used to. Next weekend is Armistice Weekend in addition to a big fixture match.</p> <p>The Commissioner enquired about dark nights. T Forber commented that this had passed off slightly quieter than in previous year. This may have been down to the weather.</p> <p>M Lewis commented that previously when there had been problems in the Middle East there had been spikes in hate crime. He enquired if this is the case this time.</p> <p>S Poolman informed the Board that there was no data to suggest this. Nationally, there has been a huge rise in anti-Semitic crime, SYP is closely monitoring this.</p>
6	<p><u>ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></p> <p>There were no items to be considered in the absence of the public and press.</p>
7	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
8	<p><u>SUMMARY NOTE AND DECISIONS/ACTIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2023</u></p> <p>The notes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
9	<p><u>ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>There were no outstanding actions and matters arising.</p>
10	<p><u>ROTHERHAM DISTRICT SUMMARY UPDATE</u></p>
Purpose	To provide assurance to the Public Accountability Board (PAB) and the communities of Rotherham that SYP is committed to working with our

	partners to deliver the vision and strategic objectives of the Police and Crime Plan.
Key points	<p>A discussion took place with Chief Superintendent Laura Kosciwicz, the District Commander for Rotherham, about the report in the Agenda Pack. The Commissioner asked questions about the following areas in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing challenges • Domestic Abuse, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) ○ Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) ○ Protecting Vulnerable People investigation teams ○ Project Soteria • Child Sexual Exploitation • ASB in Dinnington • Burglary • Missing from Home Officers • Organised Crime Gangs • Right Care, Right Person
Decision / Action	None

11	<u>FORCE PERFORMANCE AGAINST POLICE AND CRIME PLAN – CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR</u>
Purpose	To provide an update on the progress against the 'Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' priority of the Police and Crime Plan, 'Safer Streets More Police (2022-2025)' to support the Commissioner's overarching aim of South Yorkshire being a safe place in which to live, learn, work and travel.
Key points	<p>A discussion took place in the following areas of the report in the Agenda Pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in theft from vehicle and an increase in theft of vehicle • Response times • Priority graded incidents resolved upon first deployment of an officer • Attrition in the Force Control Room • Nomination for the Large Contact Centre of the Year in the UK National Contact Centre Awards • SYP's investigative standards • Retail crime • Dangerous dogs • The rise in Off-Road Bike/Quad incidents • Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) funding • Disruption / Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) seizures
Decision/ Action	None

12	<u>QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (Q2)</u>
Purpose	To inform the Public Accountability Board of the Force's outturn on its revenue and capital budgets as of 31 March 2024. It is based on an analysis of income and expenditure for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 before accounting adjustments.
Key points	<p>D Carrington, SYP's Chief Finance Officer drew attention to the following areas within the report in the Agenda Pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is the full year projected outturn as at 30 September 2023 • SYP is currently projecting a net underspend of £3.5m (before legacy costs) • The projected underspend is impacted by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilities ○ Income ○ In year savings ○ Growth ○ Workforce plan changes • The reported underspend has created opportunities to meet new and emerging cost pressures of £3.2m without the need to approach the PCC for reserves. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outsourcing of the Pension Remedy calculations ○ Estimates costs associated with the discovery of Doncaster Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) ○ The vehicle replacement programme ○ Priority Based Budgeting Tranche 2 ○ Dangerous dogs
Decision/ Action	None

13	<u>INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMITTEE (IEP) ASSURANCE REPORT</u>
Purpose	To inform the Commissioner of any exceptions for noting from the IEP meeting held on 18 September 2023
Key points	<p>M Lewis, Chair of the IEP, drew attention to the following areas, within the report in the Agenda Pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effectiveness of external scrutiny • Challenges remain around disproportionality of non-white citizens • SYP recognises that disproportionality exists in South Yorkshire even if not on the scale found in some other force areas, notably but not exclusively London • The collection of data on the ethnicity of subjects is improving but relies on self identification • The failure to record the true location of every stop and search event weakens the reliability and usefulness of stop and search data

Decision/ Action	None
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14	<u>JOINT INDEPENDENT AUDIT COMMITTEE (JIAC) ASSURANCE REPORT</u>
Purpose	To inform the Commissioner of any exceptions for noting from the JIAC meeting held on 27 September 2023
Key points	<p>S Wragg, Chair of the JIAC, drew attention to the following areas within the report in the Agenda Pack:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT governance continues to be a risk • The new Internal Auditors are settling in • The External Auditors have the following areas that need resolving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closing valuation of land and buildings ○ Valuation of the pension fund liability for Police Pension Scheme (PPS) ○ The pension fund net surplus for Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) • SYP, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and the External Auditors are in advance of a lot of other authorities who are still completing last year's accounts • S Wragg acknowledged the amount of work undertaken by SYP and the OPCC on the Statement of Account 2022-23
Decision/ Action	None

15	<u>TRUST AND CONFIDENCE</u>
Purpose	To provides an update from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on the ongoing work in support of improving trust and confidence in policing, one of the PCC's fundamental principles that underpins everything we do
Key points	<p>M Buttery, the OPCC Chief executive & Solicitor, highlighted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence in policing has been badly damaged nationally where police officers have seriously breached the standards of professional behaviour expected of them • The Home Secretary has highlighted the need to improve police culture and the public's trust that police officers will keep them safe in their communities • In May 2023 the Chief Constable provided a summary of the work underway to this Board. The key areas of the report included:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership and Culture ○ Violence Against Women and Girls ○ Police Perpetrator Domestic Abuse ○ Regulation 13 ○ Police Race Action Plan ○ Counter Corruption • DCC Forber has agreed that there will be more trust and confidence reports which include the work taking place to address national factors and understand local drivers • The work of the PCC's independent assurance panels
Decision/ Action	PAB work programme to be updated to include future reporting on trust and confidence.

17	<u>PCC DECISIONS</u>
Purpose	To provide the Board with a record of key decisions taken by the Commissioner outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting
Key points	M Buttery drew attention to the following point from the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of a shared welfare vehicle, funded by SYP
Decision/ Action	None

18	<u>WORK PROGRAMME</u>
Purpose	To provide the Board with an overview of the content of future meetings
Key points	M Buttery highlighted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work programme provides details of the next three meetings • A Witness Report is on the agenda for the next meeting
Decision/ Action	None

19	<u>AOB</u>
	None

20	<u>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u>
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	8 January 2024 at 2pm
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MATTERS ARISING / ACTIONS

Ref	Date of meeting	Matter arising/action	Update	Owner	Complete (Y/N)
455	06/07/23	Further information to be provided on the work of the LADOs, including the benefits of them working with the police on missing people	19/12/23 - Update provided at 06/11/23 meeting	T Forber	Y
456	06/11/23	SYP Trust and Confidence report to be added to PAB Work Programme - date of meeting TBC		DCC Forber	

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

TITLE	Barnsley District Performance Report
MEETING DATE	8 th January 2024
REPORT OF	Deputy Chief Constable Tim Forber

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Barnsley Command Team and the district are committed to supporting the force to improve the response to the public whilst maintaining the expected high standards of service delivery and the right outcomes for the people of Barnsley. Our officers and staff across the district are committed in providing an excellent service to victims and the wider communities with a particular focus on the forces priorities namely protecting vulnerable people, reducing serious crimes, and bringing offenders to justice.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Police and Crime Commissioner is recommended to consider the content of this report on behalf of the public in Barnsley and across South Yorkshire.

4. OVERVIEW

- 2.1 The district continues to see cohorts of students joining our numbers and starting their policing journeys. Over the past 6 months we have seen a further 23 student officers start their first year at district, with a further 20 student officers being confirmed as substantive and taking up posts in all three portfolios. Although this boost in officers is welcomed to the district, it hasn't been enough to counter the natural loss of officers through retirement, external/internal transfers, and resignations. The Barnsley Command Team are monitoring this closely and with ongoing scrutiny to ensure our resources stay at a level that allows us to continue to provide an exceptional service to the public. The new year projects further officers starting at district, with a cohort of 9 students starting within the first quarter of the year. A further 7 officers will be starting their third year of their student journey and completing this within the district. From March 2024 onwards, there is a steady stream of students being assigned to district or being confirmed as substantive. This will increase the districts capability and allow for us to continue with an enhanced service to the public.
- 2.2 The demand on district is forever changing and different times of the year provide the district with different challenges. After a busy summer period our incident demand has started to reduce as of September 2023. September saw the district receive 5343

incidents with 2952 of those requiring Police attendance. With November receiving the lowest volume of 4786 incidents reported. Emergency incidents made up between 18-20% of our monthly demand, with priority incidents making up 20-23% of our monthly demand. With the approaching festive season, we are planning for an increase in overall demand for the district. OP Blitzes have been utilised for another year, to ensure that staffing is sufficient to meet the expected festive demand.

2.3 In Respect to response times, Overall Emergency response times met have increased to 72% of incidents being attended with 15 minutes. This is slightly higher than the previous quarter. The average for attendance is 11 minutes, which has improved greatly since our previous report with a reduction of almost 4 minutes. With continued efforts to meet our demand we have shown further improvement on our Priority response times with an increase to 45% of Priority incidents being attended within the first 60 minutes of it being reported. In summary the demand volume has continued to be high for our district whilst the number of officers trained and capable to respond to the demands remains below capacity. However, our figures are testament to our officers' hard work to provide an excellent service to the public.

2.4 The following table outlines Barnsley's incident breakdown per grading. Followed by incident volumes per district per grading.

	Emergency		Priority		Priority 8	
MONTH	Volume	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Volume	Percentage
Oct-23	1071	20.0%	1067	20.0%	137	2.6%
Nov-23	1010	19.4%	1089	20.9%	108	2.1%
Dec-23	890	18.6%	1122	23.4%	116	2.4%

	RWD		Scheduled		Incident Total
MONTH	Volume	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Volume
Oct-23	2391	44.8%	677	12.7%	5343
Nov-23	2361	45.3%	646	12.4%	5214
Dec-23	2127	44.4%	531	11.1%	4786

Volume of Barnsley Incidents by incident grade. Months October-November.

	Emergency		Priority		Priority 8	
DISTRICT	Volume	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Volume	Percentage
A	4351	18.2%	5138	21.5%	456	1.9%
B	2971	19.4%	3278	21.4%	361	2.4%
C	3193	18.6%	3700	21.5%	407	2.4%
K	6923	17.9%	7535	19.5%	818	2.1%

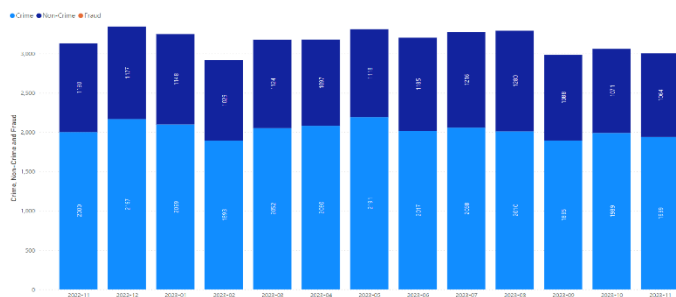
	RWD		Scheduled		Incident Total
DISTRICT	Volume	Percentage	Volume	Percentage	Volume
A	11626	48.6%	2349	9.8%	23920
B	6879	44.8%	1854	12.1%	15343
C	7978	46.4%	1926	11.2%	17204
K	19840	51.4%	3485	9.0%	38601

*Volume of incidents by incident grade across South Yorkshire. Months October-November
(A=Doncaster, B= Barnsley C=Rotherham K=Sheffield)*

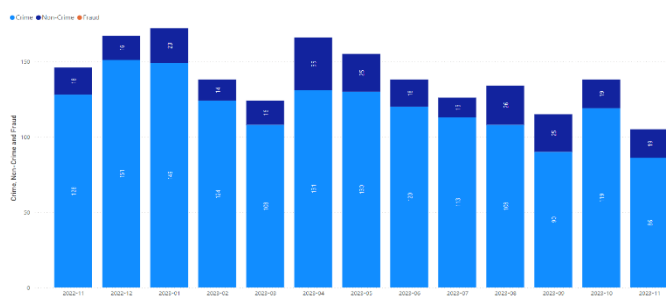
- 2.5 In the last quarter the largest demand volume came from calls around 'Public Safety and Welfare' which includes domestic incidents, concerns for safety, missing people and supporting the health services. Over 45% of the incident reports to our district were relating to 'Public Safety and welfare'. Though it contributed the largest proportion of demand, 'Public Safety and Welfare' incident reduced by over 400 reports compared to the previous quarter. The 'Right Care Right Person' plan has been implemented over this year and in the last quarter our demand benefited from this. In the last quarter 212 incidents were reviewed in the district to potentially fall under RCRP and 202 of those incidents were graded as not for the police to attend. Not only does mean that 202 members of the public were signposted to the correct service for their needs, but also that officers were able to attend other incidents and provide a better overall service where we have the powers to do so.
- 2.6 Regarding recorded crime, there were 6,519 investigations recorded between September and the end of November which equated to 17% of the crimes recorded by the force. An average of 2,173 crimes recorded each month. The central ward of Barnsley had the highest recorded crimes with around 16.5% of crimes being recorded there in the last quarter.
- 2.7 Barnsley district always strives to take positive action against offenders. Over the last quarter 14% of suspects were subjected to a charge, caution, or Community resolution.

3. PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Domestic Abuse



Volume of DA recorded per month force wide.



Volume of DA recorded per month Barnsley.

- 3.1 As shown in the above graphs, domestic abuse (DA) across Barnsley is below the force average over the last quarter. The total DA volumes dropped from 1,466 in the previous quarter to 1,378 in this quarter. This drop in volume is consistent with the previous year. Of the 1,378 recorded investigations this quarter, 1,026 were domestic related crimes.
- 3.2 All incidents reported as domestic abuse are attended and risk assessed using the DASH model. Of those recorded investigations within this quarter, 19.6% were recorded as high-risk investigations and 66.7% were deemed to be medium risk. The recording of medium risk investigations has increased which can be related to an increase in training for all of our frontline officers.
- 3.3 Barnsley district has a committed approach to tackling domestic abuse and protecting those vulnerable to it. The arrest rate for high-risk domestic suspects in the last quarter was 92% with the average being around 90% for the previous quarters. Those high-risk suspects not arrested are reviewed by the DA Detective Inspector and the rationale for non-arrest corroborated to ensure we are managing any identified risk. An example where arrest is not appropriate is a third-party report from a domestic violence advocate, where police involvement would put the victim at greater risk. Between September and November arrest rates for medium-risk have dropped slightly, from 62% in August to 47% in November. The reason for this will be that some of the suspects are still outstanding and once processed, the arrest rate will increase to an average of around 60%. Standard-risk has increased to 25% where on average it is around 20%. These rates tend to fluctuate as the investigations are continuously reviewed and appropriate actions taken at the relevant times i.e. delay in processing suspect due to obtaining evidence.
- 3.4 At district we continue to run a number of successful operations to identify and arrest our most high-risk DA offenders. The MARAC process continues to be an effective meeting structure to take a problem solving and partnership approach for the most at risk victims of domestic abuse. The MATAC process identifies high risk repeat offenders, and like MARAC tries to implement a problem-solving approach towards the suspect to prevent further offending.
- 3.5 As a district we strive for a positive outcome especially when it comes to domestic abuse. Positive action was taken in 141 cases between September and November. This equates to 14% action taken which is slightly higher than the force average.

	2023-09	2023-10	2023-11	TOTAL
01/A Charge / Summons	10%	9%	10%	10%
01/A Adult Caution	1%	1%	2%	1%
08 Community Resolution	1%	1%	1%	1%
15 Evid.Diff. CPS / Police Decision	15%	17%	15%	16%
16 Vic. Withdraws / DNS	71%	70%	72%	71%
18 No Susp – Investigation Complete	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Volume of DA outcomes per month force wide.

	2023-09	2023-10	2023-11	TOTAL
01/A Charge / Summons	10%	13%	8%	11%
01/A Adult Caution	0%	0%	1%	1%
08 Community Resolution	2%	1%	3%	2%

15 Evid.Diff. CPS / Police Decision	13%	12%	13%	13%
16 Vic. Withdraws / DNS	73%	73%	75%	73%
18 No Susp – Investigation Complete	1%	0%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Volume of DA outcomes per month Barnsley.

- 3.6 In support of our safeguarding towards victims of domestic abuse, we have had 14 Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) granted at court. In addition to this form of protection, 38 disclosures have been provided under the right to know and 53 disclosures under the right to ask under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS). The DVPO's can be used following a domestic incident where violence has been used or threatened to provide short-term protection to the victim where there is insufficient evidence to support a prosecution and allows for support services to intervene. A DVDS requests (also known as Clare's Law) allows disclosures to be made to victims in relation to the previous offending of a partner. This includes discussions in relation to the threat they may pose and allows the victim to make informed decisions about how to safeguard themselves and/or their family.

Adult Safeguarding

- 3.7 Barnsley has previously been trialling the new version of the Police vulnerable adult form. This was designed in partnership with social care to ensure the pertinent information is received by them at an early stage, to enable them in providing support to those that need it. The form has now been rolled out force wide and is available to all frontline officer on the PRONTO system. This has been in place for some time now and the feedback from partners and officers has been positive. The improvement of questions and easy access of the form will support future adult safeguarding.

Child Protection

- 3.8 Child protection is a key pillar of policing and is always considered within any incident that our officers attend. During the last quarter 232 referrals were made to our partners in relation to vulnerable children. The raised concerns are all reviewed by our LRU team and those that require action, will be jointly progressed by working with our local authority partners to safeguard and protect those who were most vulnerable.
- 3.9 During the last quarter 287 non-crime investigations were submitted in relation to Child protection incidents. Of these submitted investigations 90% related to welfare, 9.4% related to Missing episodes, 3.5% related to neglect and 1.7% were related to sexual exploitation.
- 3.10 August saw the introduction of our district-based Child Exploitation team. This team has the key focus and ownership of both criminal and sexual exploitation of children. The team has oversight of all CE tagged investigations, provides support with children who are reported as missing and work together with partners to provide a problem-solving approach to those identified as most at risk of exploitation. The team has been greatly received by the district and are already having an impact on this element of the districts demand. The Child Exploitation Tactical Group (CETG) continues to be held with the CE team having a key role within the meeting, using it as a platform to problem solve with our partners.

4. TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME

Burglary

- 4.1 Burglary remains a key district priority, with continuing efforts to identify and bring offenders to justice. In the previous quarter there were 431 burglaries recorded, of which 280 were residential burglaries. This is down from the same period last year where 476 burglaries were recorded, where 386 of those were residential. During the last quarter 27 arrests for burglary were made, 14 charges of burglary were obtained and one out of court of disposal applied.
- 4.2 The district continues to have a focus around patrols within our identified hotspot areas. This is due to coordinated activity within our Intelligence, Response, Neighbourhood, and CID teams. Intelligence and crime analysis is a key drive to identify our at-risk areas, offenders to target and gather intel to help support a wider problem-solving approach, led by the Neighbourhood teams. Between September and November, utilising the 7 X 3 plan for residential burglaries, this led to:
- Over 347 dedicated patrol hours.
 - 124 curfew checks conducted.
 - Over 945 burglary 'cocoon' visits to neighbouring properties.
 - 27 arrests of key suspects.
- 4.3 Revised operational and tactical intelligence collection plans were utilised to develop preventative activity and target offenders. Intelligence analysis indicates that our most recent burglary hotspots have been in the Dearne, Wombwell and Central areas. However, the district regularly responds to emerging trends through daily monitoring and management. Officers continue to use the tracking devices to support the application of directed patrols in hotspot areas. The devices accurately measure speed, live time movement and locations of police officers undertaking targeted patrols.
- 4.4 Work is being conducted around the creation of a neighbourhood crime team within the district. At present Barnsley is the only district without one, but due to the recent reviews within force, the benefit of the team has been highlighted. This has meant senior command team support for the creation of a Barnsley based team. Interest to join the team is currently being sought from officers and the district is hoping to implement it in the new year. The team would focus on target hardening known offenders, owning burglary residential with an identified suspect and will become experts in identifying and linking similar or like crime series. The aim of this is to increase detections of all burglaries and serve justice against the offenders.

Auto crime

- 4.5 Vehicle related crime has risen slightly this quarter compared to the previous quarter. 534 investigations were recorded between September and November 2023. Although this is an increase from the previous quarter, it is still down compared to 685 investigations that were recorded in the same period in 2022. Barnsley North-East and South-East have similar volumes of vehicle crimes recorded, with Barnsley West having slightly more reports recorded.
- 4.6 Our Neighbourhood teams continue to focus on reducing offending or opportunities to offend with continued attrition visits of offenders, pushes on intelligence gathering and targeted patrols around the Vulnerable Vehicle Scheme in our hotspot areas.

- 4.7 When offenders are identified there is a strong focus on action to be taken. In the last quarter 19 charges were obtained in relation to vehicle offences.

Most Serious Violence

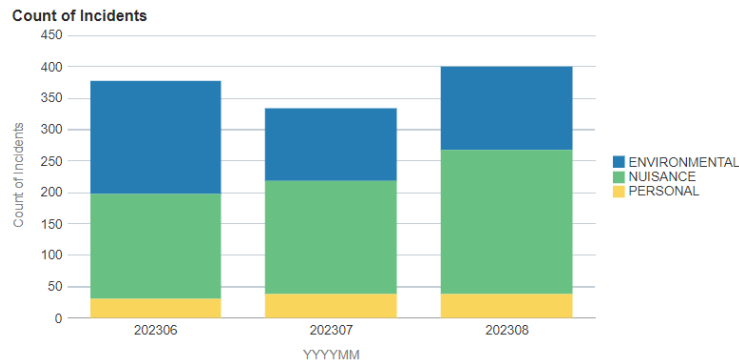
- 4.8 Barnsley has seen a steady volume of recording of most serious violence (MSV) offences. These are a defined group of offences including but not exhaustive of, death by dangerous driving, serious assault with intent to cause serious harm, attempt murder and murder. Recent numbers show an increase of 2% of offences recorded in the last quarter compared to the previous quarter. A review of the crimes shows domestic abuse, assaults with offensive weapons and using vehicles to cause injuries as consistent factors. Over 97% of the crimes are under the category of assault with intent to cause serious harm with 25% of these offences being domestic related.
- 4.9 During the same period there were 93 investigations whereby use or possession of a knife was recorded, either as a weapon or carried during an offence. This is a decrease from the previous quarter of 122 investigations. Of the 93 investigations 26% of the investigations were attributed to possession of a weapon with the remaining being used in the commission of the offence. The category possession of the weapon will include where an officer identifies knife crime through pro-activity and the use of the stop/search powers. 81 such offences were recorded which represents 14.3% of the force's total. During the last quarter the action taken outcome rate is 18.3% with a further 20% of the investigations still ongoing.

Violence Against Women & Girls

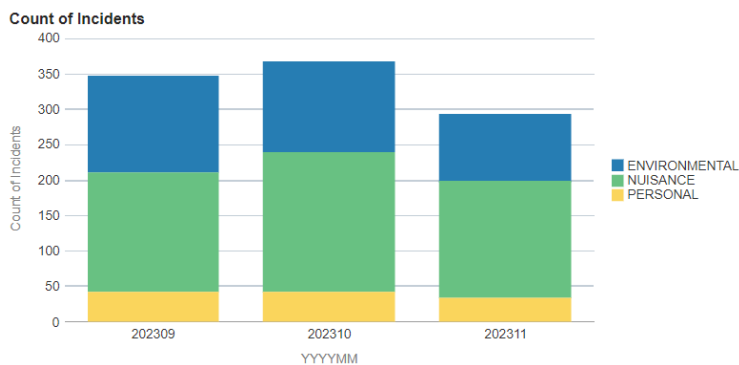
- 4.10 Violence against women and girls (VAWG) covers a large proportion of incidents reported. This can include but is not limited to Domestic abuse, Sexual offences and Physical violence. In the last quarter 1864 investigations were recorded as being related to VAWG, which is a decrease of 4% compared to the previous quarter, where 1,939 investigations were recorded. 70% of the recorded investigations in the last quarter related to violence against another person, 40.5% were domestic abuse related and 7.5% related to sexual offences.
- 4.11 In the same period 143 charges were authorised against offenders, with a further 67 out of court disposals applied. 55.9% of action taken was against domestic abuse perpetrators and 9.5% of action taken were related to sexual offences. This is a 7.7% increase on action taken for violence against women, compared to the previous quarter.
- 4.12 VAWG is a main topic discussed at the monthly THRIVE meetings held within district. During this part of the meeting the top risk offenders are discussed, investigations reviewed, and any safeguarding addressed. It is also a topic within the night-time economy plan, which is utilised every Friday and Saturday night by the response teams doing their street safe patrols. The district Superintendent also represents Barnsley at the force level VAWG group.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 4.13 Barnsley has seen a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour in the last quarter compared to the previous quarter with even less recorded in November compared to the other months. This trend will relate to the change in the seasons and is line with the force trend. The trend is in line with the rest of the force, and we are lowest of all the districts in terms of incident volume.



Volume of ASB incidents Jun-Aug



Volume of ASB incidents Sep-Nov

- 4.14 Anti-social behaviour is categorised and the largest proportion of ASB recorded incidents relate to rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, off road bikes and vehicle nuisance. This is managed predominately through our neighbourhood teams who work in partnership with the local authority to tackle it within the community through joint visits, operations, and interventions.
- 4.15 At the end of the last quarter a piece of work concluded around the ability to record local authority orders on our police systems. Our district now can record ASB warnings, Community Protection orders, Closure Orders, civil injunctions and Criminal Behaviour orders. Previously not having access to this information was a gap in our intelligence, that would help officers make informed decisions when dealing with offenders. This partnership information sharing will give officers another avenue to explore when tackling anti-social behaviour and issues within the community. Which will help prevent further offending and demand for both the force and our local authority partners.

Neighbourhood Engagement

- 4.16 Neighbourhood engagement such as your voice counts, and the PACT meetings informs the relevant Neighbourhood teams of the local communities' priorities and concerns. All Six NPT areas have different focuses. Which include the following:
- Barnsley Central: Anti-Social behaviour, intimidating behaviour, and drug use within the town centre.
 - Barnsley North East: Use of offroad bikes and drug use in the local area.
 - Barnsley North: Open Spaces and associated anti-social behaviour.
 - Barnsley West: Speeding vehicles across all areas.

- Barnsley South: Drug dealing, ASB and vehicles involved in drug dealing.
- Barnsley South East: ASB nuisance, off road bikes and speeding in the local area.

The plans to tackle these priorities are to work with the local authority wardens to identify, address and target the offenders through engagement and enforcement. All while building up intelligence to disrupt activity and prevent re-offending.

- 4.17 Wednesday 1 November saw Operation Duxford return to Barnsley with another day of positive action within the Barnsley district. The district was supported by officers from across the force – with some 178 officers and staff. Key partner agencies were also involved such as Barnsley Council and Berneslai Homes.

Officers from Roads Policing Group and Tactical Support Group and other specialist teams supported the day. They joined the ranks of Barnsley's Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs), Response units, domestic violence team, Child Exploitation team and other officers and staff taking part.

11 arrests were made throughout the day, including for Robbery, Drug offences, Failing to appear and Immigration offences.

Other enforcement actions included:

- Weapons including 3 Shotguns being recovered from a warrant on a property in the Penistone area.
- 5 Car washes visited with 7 people arrested due to immigration offences. Large quantity of money seized from one and another being investigated by DWP/HMRC for not paying national minimum wage.
- 9 Cannabis plants being seized from executed Warrants.
- 18 Vehicles being stopped and searched with 4 being seized for driving offences.
- 8 Public Space Protection Orders issued within the Town centre.

Partnership work included:

- Home visits by CE team and local authority to those at risk of exploitation and frequently reported missing.
- Joint patrols with BMBC Wardens
- 9 Petrol stations visited in relation to vehicle drive off's Staff spoken with and educated to prevent further offences.
- Trading standards warrant executed and Prohibition notice issued for incorrect labelling of foreign food.
- Flood Hotspots patrols. 40 households engaged with and 81 leaflets distributed to properties.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 What is working well?

With all the challenges we have faced around resources and demand, Barnsley districts staff continue to provide a strong, effective, and efficient service to the community of Barnsley. The development of new teams, like the CE team, have allowed for a focused and problem-solving approach to those most vulnerable in our district. Our response to high-risk domestic abuse continues to be exemplary and we strive to protect all our vulnerable people. The neighbourhood functions have done key work in reducing anti-social behaviour, issues within

our local communities and building a strong relationship with our local authority to target problems together.

5.2 What are our concerns?

The continuing stream of new officers is welcomed, but they take time to become proficient and confident at their roles. The student journey continues to add strain to our resources due to their education, training, and abstractions for courses. This has an impact on available resourcing, and on the wellbeing of those who are substantive. With Christmas approaching, Burglaries will be a key concern and focus along with an increase in domestic abuse.

5.3 What do we need to do going forward?

Moving forward the district will continue to monitor and have oversight of our current and future staffing. This is to ensure that we can meet our ongoing demand and still be able to provide an excellent service to the public. We will drive the development of the neighbourhood crime team and endeavour to bolster our Detective capabilities across all portfolios, to ensure increase in our overall investigation quality and making sure we bring justice against our most prolific offenders. In addition, focus will be to support the ongoing wellbeing and development of our staff, to ensure that they achieve our collective priorities and help enable them to provide the best service they can to our communities.

Report Author: Chief Superintendent Simon Wanless, Barnsley District Commander

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

8TH JANUARY 2024

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

THEME: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE (PVP)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2 SUMMARY OF OPTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISION REQUIRED

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

3 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 This report will present a brief summary of some of the work undertaken in the overarching area of Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP), in delivering the Police and Crime Plan during the current period. This report will provide evidence of approach and delivery within a number of PVP areas:
- Safeguarding children and young people
 - Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
 - Trauma Awareness and Trauma Informed Response
 - Modern Slavery Human Trafficking
 - Right Care Right Right Person (RCRP)
 - Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)
 - Domestic Abuse (DA)
 - Cyber Crime and Fraud.
- 3.2 In the HMICFRS 2021/22 PEEL Inspection, South Yorkshire Police was rated as OUTSTANDING at protecting vulnerable people, an improvement on the GOOD rating of the 2018/19 inspection.
- 3.3 Within the latest inspection, there were no areas for improvement and six areas of 'Innovative Practice' identified:

- The force knows who the most vulnerable repeat victims are to be able to safeguard them.
 - Partner organisations provide information and intelligence that support future plans to safeguard children.
 - The force makes good use of a police staff team to take forward protection orders to safeguard victims of domestic abuse.
 - The force uses GPS to locate people who go missing and keep them safe.
 - The force has a child-centred approach when children are held in custody.
 - The force communicates well with people who are vulnerable and detained in custody.
- 3.4 Notwithstanding the outstanding assessment, the force has outlined to HMICFRS in the most recent Force Management Statement (FMS) the projected challenges in this area of delivery. Detective vacancies and increasing digital footprint within investigations continue to be recognised as a concern for the wider policing service provision.
- 3.5 It is acknowledged that the officer uplift programme will bring long-term benefits with specialist resources allocated to the PVP areas of work, but this will take time to deliver. Demands for PVP services are high, and in some areas, increases are anticipated. Supporting the effective use of existing resources and ensuring the force works to deliver a whole system approach across the wider partnership in the protection of vulnerable people will continue to be a focus as the force moves into 2024.

4 Safeguarding Children and Young People

- 4.1 The force is working towards the anticipated publications and revised statutory guidance focused on child protection and safeguarding, expected at the end of 2023 moving into 2024.
- 4.2 A range of multi-agency events have been made available in anticipation of the revised working together document being published. SYP have fully engaged with those events alongside partners and a joint assessment made of any impact on service or how partners work together to safeguard children.
- 4.3 There are no areas of concern attached to the launch of the revised guidance. 'People' and partners have been consulted in its development from an early stage. Police and partners are versed in adapting to the change and amendments to practice can be absorbed as part of ongoing business.
- 4.4 In respect of **missing from home investigations (MFH)**, the previous PVP PAB report referenced the ongoing multi-agency work in respect of first-time missing children and the development of the handheld guidance for missing investigations.
- 4.5 The multi-agency work to try and identify early intervention opportunities to first time missing reports for children, has identified some challenges with this approach in that the strategy meetings threshold is generally not met, unless the episode highlights some exceptional risk within that report or around that child/family unit.
- 4.6 Generally, first time missing episodes for children, particularly for young children (under 16) is a case of a child not being where they are expected to be or not returning

home at the expected time. As such there is little overall concern or 'root cause' matters highlighted by the investigation, nor by speaking to the child themselves at prevention / independent return home interview stage or even by the wider social services who may / may not be involved with the family beforehand.

- 4.7 The repeat missing episodes of children is an area that requires focus and a multi-agency approach, as data suggests it is these small cohorts of children that contribute to the overall missing repetition rate.
- 4.8 The thresholds for instigating multi-agency strategy meetings are met at this stage; however work is now ongoing via the setting up of MFH Scrutiny Panels to assess the effectiveness and quality of these to ensure the governance structures are robust and effective in identifying root causes and taking a problem solving approach to mitigate / manage / reduce the impact of these on the individual child.
- 4.9 The last report referenced an increase in crimes identified from missing from home episodes that involved children and young adults in 2023 compared to 2022.
- 4.10 SYP data suggests an increase in crime identification and recording from missing reports, however the SYP recording system for missing people case management (COMPACT) is standalone and has only been in force since October 2021. Anecdotally this is felt to be due to increased understanding of crime recording practices and crime data accuracy rather than a true increase in offending against children.
- 4.11 As such there is no previous data sets to rely upon and it currently does not communicate directly with the crime recording system, therefore comparison between the two system data sets cannot be done in a meaningful way. Work is ongoing within Performance and Governance to build a link between the two so that the patterns of crime recording and its association to Criminal Exploitation / Child Sexual Exploitation can be fully understood. Considering 'harm suffered' only recorded on the COMPACT system during missing episode (majority of which is self-inflicted, accidental and not crime related) this is reporting similar data in 2023 to 2022 at 1.6 per cent of all missing child reports.
- 4.12 The SYP Governance arrangements around COMPACT are managed through a quarterly Force Missing Governance Group (FMGG) that reports into the Vulnerability Governance Group (VGG).
- 4.13 The MFH lead is now planning to introduce a quarterly MFH scrutiny panel that will qualitatively assess the journey of a missing person from inception to the police; to the wider multi agency response following being located utilising the Qualitative Assurance Thematic Testing (QATT) methodology alongside partners.
- 4.14 Benchmarking with other forces around best practice and innovation around problem solving is ongoing and it is anticipated the scrutiny panels will inform both SYP and partners of our strengths and weaknesses in this area.

5 Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

- 5.1 The expansion and uplift of resources to create additional child exploitation teams in Barnsley and Doncaster has provided greater capacity to ensure a consistent service is provided to protect children across South Yorkshire.
- 5.2 The new teams have been developed based around the HMICFRS commended Rotherham partnership model and have been driving engagement and awareness with regard to the risk of child exploitation.
- 5.3 Cognisant with the dedicated intelligence collection plans, staff within the new teams have been developing the local and regional understanding, which is evidenced by a quarter three increase in CSE related intelligence of 78 per cent for Barnsley and 132 per cent for Doncaster.
- 5.4 The increase in quality intelligence will create a better understanding of the risk posed by CSE within South Yorkshire and assist in the annual development of our organisational problem profiles.
- 5.5 Dedicated intelligence collection plans have been developed for both CSE and CCE / County Lines. The plans identify intelligence gaps from the annual problem profiles and drive activity across the organisation to fulfil these gaps.
- 5.6 Intelligence support officers work alongside district resources to ensure key areas are targeted and front-line officers are sighted on the requirement. Monthly governance meetings between thematic leads and child exploitation supervisors, ensure a consistent approach is applied force wide.
- 5.7 As with the previous twelve months, SYP has observed an increase in cyber enabled offending relating to both CSE and CCE. In line with the national picture, internet use as an offending method now accounts for over 60 per cent of all reported CSE offences in South Yorkshire. Due to the nature of this type of offending, which could be committed from anywhere in the world, more intelligence is required to assist in developing our tactical response.
- 5.8 Further collaboration between district CE teams and the centralised Internet Sexual Offences Team (ISOT) is being driven to address intelligence gaps regarding platforms and techniques used by offenders to target children. Additional support is being sought through teams at the regional organised crime unit.
- 5.9 Stage two of the SYP Child Exploitation Communication Strategy will look to raise awareness regarding the risk of online based, or cyber enabled child exploitation. This will aim to address directly a potential generational knowledge gap regarding the risk posed by technology in children's lives.
- 5.10 SYP CE teams in all four districts will continue to work directly with education settings to equip children with the skills to be safe online, utilising the Lifewise centre and advancement in technology, via VR headsets to create an immersive meaningful input.

- 5.11 There is information held later in this report within the Cybercrime section which provides further detail regarding an increased demand in internet offences and the implementation of a new digital forensic model to support this.
- 5.12 Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society were primarily online offences relating to take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs of children (referred to as take/make offences throughout the document) or offences relating to possession of indecent images of children. It is clear that online crime continues to dominate CSE offending. Blackmail of young boys who have sent a suspect indecent image was a feature of online offences.
- 5.13 There were 135 (60 per cent) offences committed over the 12-month period (January to December 2022) which the data is taken from, which had an online crime indicator and this increased from 57 per cent in 2021. Of these, there were 62 distinct victims (two repeats), who were 67 per cent female, with an average age of 13 years old. It must be noted that in female victims, the age with the highest proportion of online offences was age 12, at 31 per cent of all female victim online offences. In male victims, ages were more evenly distributed. Ninety-three per cent of online victims were white British.
- 5.14 Peer on peer and child self-generated indecent images continue to pose a challenge within South Yorkshire, with an observed increase in demand consistent with the regional and national recording over the previous year. The identification and separation of predatory, exploitative action from inappropriate adolescent behaviour is essential, to ensure vulnerable children are safeguarded from abuse, without their inappropriate criminalisation.
- 5.15 New research from the NSPCC highlights the risk that Virtual Reality (VR) poses to children online, particularly with VR Headsets which are enabled for use with common games consoles such as the Sony Playstation. The NSPCC states that 15 per cent of children have used a VR headset, with six per cent using it daily. The difficulty, as with all online crime, is the risk of potential suspects using this technology to contact children, with the VR element adding an extra layer of 'realistic' contact with those they seek to abuse.
- 5.16 As with all emerging technology, there is the risk that parents and caregivers are not fully versed on safeguarding methods when using this technology, with more 'tech-savvy' children likely to be able to circumvent parental controls. There was no evidence of the use of this technology in the current data, but it is likely to emerge in years to come.
- 5.17 As in recent years, live streaming, online gaming, and general online chat functions continue to pose a risk to children as they are environments in which suspects can remain anonymous and can continue to target multiple children from a distance. There

is also the risk that specific online forums (such as those aimed at discussing mental health) may be a particular target for potential suspects who seek to exploit a particular vulnerability of a child or capitalise on a child's feeling of social isolation or loneliness.

- 5.18 The use of websites which promote online sex work poses a clear risk to children, both boys and girls. There were a few investigations within 2022 data which referenced use of sites such as 'OnlyFans', but the prevalence within intelligence is growing, with social media networks such as Twitter (now known as X) also being used. There is evidence that young girls in particular are at risk of being encouraged or coerced to use these sites as a way of earning money, with the risk that this will lead to contact offences. Anecdotally, within 2023 intelligence there has been evidence of young girls 'advertising' themselves as 'sugar babies'. This is particularly pertinent at present, with a cost-of-living crisis and many families living below the poverty line.
- 5.19 All four district child exploitation teams are now co-located, alongside local authority contextual safeguarding teams, ensuring a partnership approach to the assessment of risk (via the MACE and CETG process). This process looks to map the movement of children both into and out of SYP boundaries.
- 5.20 Thematic leads for CE engage with regional partners via tactical working groups, to exchange intelligence and develop collaborative risk mitigation strategies.
- 5.21 Traditionally an exporter of children to other regions, an intelligence gap remains regarding children brought into South Yorkshire for the purpose of exploitation.
- 5.22 Ongoing work via the dedicated intelligence collection plans for county lines will look to develop intelligence gather opportunities, utilising further support from the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).

6 Trauma Awareness and Trauma Informed Response

- 6.1 Trauma Training was rolled out across the force during 2023. The current situation is that 330 people (officers and civilian staff) have received the full day trauma training with three more inputs scheduled for February 2024 along with a 'train the trainer' event.
- 6.2 Once the above has been completed the full findings will be presented to the Senior Command Team and the force will be able to comment further on how this has helped SYP recognise trauma and respond to it.

7 Modern Slavery Human Trafficking

- 7.1 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is a complex and often hidden crime and one which is found in all areas of the UK and also locally here in South Yorkshire. The challenge for policing and other statutory agencies is often in the identification of victims as they are found in many common sectors of employment; construction, nail bars and car washes, often appearing to the public as legitimate employees. However further investigation often identifies that they are controlled through mental and

physical abuse and debt bondage, a system of control where people borrow money they cannot repay and are required to work off the debt, losing control of all conditions of their employment and also the debt which is most often never repaid.

- 7.2 The neighbourhood policing teams across the force work closely with the Modern Slavery Team and partner agencies, communities, and charities to safeguard our most vulnerable, identify this type of criminality and bring offenders to justice.
- 7.3 Two recent examples of this are when South Yorkshire Police received information regarding a pop-up brothel in Doncaster city centre. Officers, supported by the force's Modern Slavery Team and Immigration colleagues, identified three individuals within this property who were potential victims of sexual exploitation. Two suspects were arrested for modern slavery and immigration offences.
- 7.4 Information was also received about modern slavery offences being committed at a car wash in Sheffield. Following an operation led by the Modern Slavery Team, a number of suspects were arrested, and a victim was safeguarded. Both of the investigations remain ongoing.
- 7.5 In June 2023 South Yorkshire Police instigated Operation Mille; our local response to a national operation targeting Western Balkan criminality in particular drug supply and cannabis cultivation. Victims of modern slavery and trafficking can often be found in cannabis cultivations as they are forced to act as gardeners, being unable to leave during the three-month cultivation period prior to the cannabis being cropped for sale.
- 7.6 During this operation, 10 warrants were executed over a three-day period. Twelve premises were identified as being used for the purpose of cultivating cannabis and were linked to an Albanian organised crime group. Each of the premises displayed bypasses to the electricity supply, creating a fire risk to the location and adjoining premises. One thousand, four hundred and fifty (1450) cannabis plants were recovered during the operation, eight people were arrested and remanded in custody and all electricity supplies were made safe.
- 7.7 The force's Modern Slavery Team along with local neighbourhood policing teams have been working together to raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking within partner agencies and the third sector. Recent examples of this include a community engagement event focused on organised crime in Doncaster and an event focused on engaging with the sex worker community in order to reduce their vulnerabilities to exploitation. Operation Bubbles is a force wide operation managed by the Modern Slavery team which addresses modern slavery offending in the county's car washes and a number of visits have been made in recent months resulting in victims being identified and safeguarded and perpetrators being arrested.
- 7.8 An emerging risk area is seen in the private renting of Air BnB properties, often used as "pop-up" brothels. These are often difficult to detect and are moved on very quickly. Police rely on community intelligence about premises of interest and also robust online monitoring of sex worker adverts to identify those with the indicators of exploitation.
- 7.9 Child exploitation is a form of modern slavery and offences that are committed as a result of child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation can sit under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 in addition to other sexual offences legislation. As

referenced in the CE/CSE section of this report, the force has now seen the inception of new CE Teams in both Doncaster and Barnsley consisting of a team led by a detective sergeant to bring them in line with Sheffield and Rotherham, whose teams have been in existence for a while.

- 7.10 The teams are located within multi-agency safeguarding hubs to further increase and develop this partnership response. Each district holds a bi-weekly Child Exploitation Tasking Group (CETG) meeting chaired by the PVP Detective Chief Inspector. This continues to provide scrutiny to the partnership response to child exploitation. This meeting is a multi-agency meeting considering all intelligence and incidents relating to victims, offenders, and locations with continued emphasis on partnership intelligence sharing, disruption and safeguarding.
- 7.11 Outcomes relating to modern slavery prosecutions continue to be of concern across the force. Victims have often experienced trauma, do not see themselves as victims and are mistrustful of law enforcement and authority therefore achieving best evidence from them is a challenge.
- 7.12 The force continues to strive to pursue prosecutions where victims do not engage and continues to push the use of civil orders to manage the risk presented by offenders where the victim will not engage. Work continues with the third sector and non-governmental organisations who support victims of slavery and trafficking to engage with and support victims through the criminal justice system.

8 Right Care, Right Person

- 8.1 South Yorkshire Police has now launched all three phases of Right Care Right Person (RCRP) with the final phase, phase three – Mental Health, launched at the end of October 2023.
- 8.2 The force has worked closely with partners ahead of the launch of phase three to identify gaps in service provision and take steps as a collective partnership to address them. The South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (SY ICB) have been pivotal to co-ordinating activity and organised a survey across all partner agencies to understand their preparedness and identify actions to progress.
- 8.3 Owing to the governance meetings that have been in place since March when RCRP was initially launched, excellent working relationships have been forged with partners in health and social care and the force has been praised for its engagement and approach.
- 8.4 The introduction of RCRP has required a culture shift within the force control room, to shift from being the agency that attends all incidents to defining where police have a legal duty to attend. This culture change requires continual support to ensure that staff feel fully supported with their decision making and prevent a return to previous behaviours of accepting a duty of care for incidents where the police do not have one.
- 8.5 Moving forward the force will continue to support staff with their decision making and application of RCRP through use of RCRP champions, training, and continuous professional development (CPD). The force will continue with excellent partnership working and keep the governance structures in place to ensure shared learning across

each agency to improve service for vulnerable members of our communities. Work will continue towards the principles within the national partnership agreement which was launched at the end of July 2023. The main remaining element of the partnership agreement for SYP is to achieve the handover of mental health patients to one hour.

- 8.6 RCRP incidents account for around 1.5 per cent of all force demand on a monthly basis. This is relatively small in terms of numbers of incidents compared to what the force receives daily, but with the nature of concern for safety incidents the amount of time spent can span hours and sometimes days dealing with the same incident. This has a considerable impact on our ability to focus on core policing matters. What should develop over time, as partners and members of the public become more aware of RCRP, is a reduction in the calls for service being made to police where we are not the most appropriate agency. This will take some time to achieve but has so far seen improvements in the number of incidents classified as 'Concern for Welfare' which has shown reductions compared to the same month in previous years.

9 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

- 9.1 In respect of the areas of improving trust and confidence, relentlessly pursuing perpetrators and creating safer spaces the following update is a follow on from the previous PVP PAB report: The VAWG lead links in with the four VAWG local authority leads, IDAS, Sheffield Womens Aid and Changing Lives on a regular basis, this is in addition to the VAWG IAG which now has in excess of 60 members from organisations and community members across South Yorkshire.
- 9.2 In November 2023 the VAWG lead was invited to a round table event with the DA Commissioners Office as SYP were highlighted by Sheffield Womens Aid as having good relationships across the VAWG sector. This was an opportunity to share best practice and highlight areas for improvement across the criminal justice partnership.
- 9.3 The VAWG IAG is one of the main forums where SYP, the OPCC and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) are encouraged to present changes to current practice or new initiatives that disproportionately affect women and girls. Most recently SYP's RASSO lead presented the force approach to the implementation of Operation Soteria and received feedback on what women across South Yorkshire would like to see in our new operating model.
- 9.4 There are also plans to develop the tackling of tech-enabled VAWG. This area of offending now features within the Force Strategic Intelligence Assessment and moving forward there will be discussions with the force lead for Cyber Crime and the new force lead for VAWG who takes over on 15 January 2024 following the departure of the current lead.
- 9.5 There is work already underway ahead of these discussions with a district superintendent leading on creating safer spaces and has commissioned some work into online fraud specifically romance fraud and key messaging around this.

10 Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO)

- 10.1 South Yorkshire Police are an “adopter force” in respect of Operation Soteria and are working towards the implementation of the National Operating Model (NOM). As such the force is currently carrying out a self-assessment process in which the current force position in respect of the six pillars is documented.
- 10.2 A case file review of 45 investigations is also being carried out to provide a detailed and qualitative insight into current performance. The self-assessment will be submitted in January 2024. This will be evaluated by the Operation Soteria Joint Unit who will provide bespoke feedback and support the force in developing a transformational plan to improve the response to RASSO.
- 10.3 Several training courses including the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Investigative Skills Development Programme (RISDP) have been developed by the College of Policing to improve the police response to rape. This training is being rolled out across the force to all front-line staff including response and neighbourhood officers, call handlers and enquiry desk assistants. Those within PVP and CID roles who are responsible for the investigation of RASSO offences are receiving a distinct RISDP product between December and March 2024 and we are awaiting the launch of the revised Specialist Sexual Assault Investigator Development Programme (SSAIDP) by the College of Policing in April 2024.
- 10.4 The force is delivering an internal and external media campaign to encourage participation in the National Police Experience survey for victims of rape and serious sexual offences conducted by City University of London as part of Operation Soteria. The anonymous survey is open to all survivors aged over 18 who have reported to police and will provide a valuable insight to forces in shaping the service and support they offer.
- 10.5 Through the awareness work that police, commissioned services and partners have carried out, South Yorkshire Police are currently the highest force in terms of the number of victim survivor responses for the month of October 2023 and second only to the Metropolitan Police overall since 1 July 2023. This feedback will again inform our response moving forward.
- 10.6 The National Operating Model has been designed by the Operation Soteria Joint Unit with respect to rape and serious sexual offences, and the NPCC encourages the use of the term RASSO.
- 10.7 The force has adhered to the national guidance to aid forces in preparing for the implementation of the NOM which was issued by the Operation Soteria Joint Unit. There is an identified NOM Senior Responsible Officer and leads for each of the six pillars in order to support the completion of the self-assessment and develop and implement the transformation plan. Appropriately trained subject matter experts have been assigned roles in respect of the case file review.
- 10.8 A project manager and project support staff from the Business Change and Innovation Team have also been engaged with the preparations for the implementation of the NOM. These staff are aligned to progress phase three of the PVP Review which will also incorporate the scoping of various structural models in respect of the allocation and investigation of RASSO to identify the most effective solution for South Yorkshire.

11 Domestic Abuse (DA)

- 11.1 The force takes a positive action approach to domestic abuse (DA) and therefore the arrest rate remains high in comparison to those nationally.
- 11.2 With regard to implementation of recommendations emerging from 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.
- 11.3 The force has also responded to learning opportunities when it comes to listening to the needs of police officers and staff working for SYP who are victims of DA and feel unable to report to their own force. Operation Moonstone, which was launched on the 12 December 2023, is a reciprocal arrangement between SYP and Humberside whereby officers and staff are able to report any incidents to the neighbouring force.
- 11.4 As per the previous PVP PAB report it is recognised there is a link between early arrest of a suspect and a positive criminal justice outcome. However, not all victims will necessarily want the suspect to be prosecuted. The force continues to work hard with the CPS to increase the number of successful DA prosecutions as part of the national DA Joint Justice Plan. Outcomes for the force have remained consistent and compare favourably with peer forces nationally.
- 11.5 As referenced in the previous report, Quality assurance thematic testing (QATT) is the quality assurance process for DA managed by the Investigations Improvement Unit (IIU). QATT audits are carried out via a dip sampling approach by districts and the results are compiled by PVP Performance and Governance (PVP PAG) for a thematic report. Any areas for improvement are addressed via PVP PAG, Investigations Governance Group or the Investigations Improvement Unit. The most recent DA victim satisfaction survey showed that overall satisfaction remained stable at 80 per cent, with all four districts being in line with the force average.
- 11.6 The main development for DA is the imminent publication of the National Joint Justice Plan written collaboratively by CPS and the police. This aims to improve criminal justice outcomes for DA victims and reduce delays in the system. The force lead for DA is working with the head of the Criminal Justice Department on a plan to address the 12 joint commitments in the National Plan and launch an SYP improvement plan. The development of this in line with future QATT analysis will allow for a holistic overview of whether there has been an improvement to SYP's response and outcomes.

12 Cybercrime and Fraud (including online offending, exploitation online)

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 Recorded cybercrime offences have continued to increase in recent years, with over 10,000 offences recorded in 2022/23. The largest proportions of cybercrime categories

are malicious communications, harassment, fraud, obscene publications, and blackmail.

- 12.3 There is an increasing digital footprint within criminality (including online exploitation and fraud) 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.
- 12.4 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.
- 12.5 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.
- 12.6 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 Cybercrime Units as required.
- 12.7 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 a cybercrime 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's mini videos on various cyber scam topics.
- 12.8 All fraud and cybercrime investigations are recorded and allocated to forces depending on a number of factors including location of victim and (if identified) the suspect. Currently all fraud and cybercrime investigations are reviewed, triaged, and allocated to the correct team to progress by the Fraud Co-ordination Team. This allows staff who are trained in fraud and cybercrime to make the correct decisions around how to progress the investigations. There are also appropriately trained staff members who can deal with complex and serious fraud investigations.
- 12.9 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 ROCU. The governance of the local delivery team have also moved to sit under local management in the Economic Crime portfolio. This new structure is now operational and working well.
- 12.10 It has been agreed that a cohort of new Digital Media Investigators will commence in the new year, however delays are being experienced due to demand for officers

elsewhere within the force. This is being managed by the workforce deployment board who are delivering on this project.

- 12.11 The Digital Forensics Unit continue to align their analytical function. A new operating model has been agreed and implementation will commence within the coming weeks. This will involve a realignment of priorities as opposed to an increase in staffing numbers.
- 12.12 Fraud and cybercrime is believed to make up 40 per cent of all crime nationally. Therefore, it is likely all forces will see an increase in this area of offending. The force is committed to sending strong Protect advice in line with National Guidance. Following the launch of the National Fraud Strategy in May 2023, the Policing Response was then launched in October 2023, and this combines fraud, money laundering and cybercrime. A new bespoke South Yorkshire Police response to fraud is being developed and will be launched in March 2024.

13 FUTURE DIRECTION / DEVELOPMENT

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

14 COMMUNICATIONS

None

15 EXCEPTION REPORTING

None

Chief Officer Lead: DCC Tim Forber

**Report Author: DS Carly Booth
Strategic Delivery Unit, Performance & Governance.**

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Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

Exception Report	Report Author
Joint Independent Audit Committee	Chair of the Joint Independent Audit Committee
	Date of the Report
	18 December 2023 (for PAB on 8 January 2023)

Urgent: No

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

Restricted: No

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

Level of assurance

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

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

Updates and Exceptions

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

The Joint Independent Audit Committee met on the 22 June 2023 and further on 19 July 2023 for the closure of the accounts workshop.

Exceptions for noting:-

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

1 PCC UPDATE

The Commissioner informed the Committee that there is a new Director of Public Prosecutions, Stephen Parkinson, who he had met remotely a few weeks ago. He is coming to South Yorkshire shortly and the Commissioner will meet him in person.

The Commissioner mentioned the Pro-Palestinian protests happening across the country. Protests in South Yorkshire have ranged from around 50 to 1000 protesters. The Commissioner has not had to invoke his Protest Panel and he commented that he is very content with the way SYP have managed the protests.

The Commissioner pointed out that it is budget setting time and it is anticipated that the precept will not be as high as expected this year, which will have big implications for the MTRS.

The Commissioner also acknowledged the amount of work taking place and the pressure staff are under because of this and also the Mayoral transfer.

3 IT GOVERNANCE UPDATE

D Breeds, Interim Head of IT and J Brewer gave an update on the IT Department which provided information on:

- Progress since the previous report
- Next steps

A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Members considered the update but were still unable to provide assurance.

4 SAVINGS AND PBB PROGRAMME UPDATE

A report was presented to the Committee providing an overview of the South Yorkshire Police Savings Programme including the Priority Based Budgeting approach, current position and next steps.

As of the end of September 2023 SYP have made over £800,000 of cashable savings (estimated to be around £1m by the end of 23/24) through non Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) activity. All of which have been impact assessed as part of the decision-making process through the savings and efficiencies board chaired by the DCC and attended by key stakeholders including the OPCC.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

The (PBB) programme has been delivered over three phases:

- Phase 1 – Service analysis
- Phase 2 – Demand and productivity changes
- Phase 3 – Service level options

SYP start a second tranche of PBB across the force from the beginning of 2024. They will continue to work with PWC and have triggered the second part of the contract that was procured which will see SYP investigate around 42% of the force by budget.

Members considered the update and were able to assure the PCC and Chief Constable that plans are in place but will require further information as the process develops.

5 SYP ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION UPDATE/OUTCOMES

J Axe, the new Head of PSD, provided an update on Anti-Fraud and Corruption including:

- Financial vetting – authorised professional practice 2021
- Unmanageable debt policy
- Financial vulnerability data
- Counter corruption
- SYP picture of theft and fraud
- Current misconduct picture
- IEP support and scrutiny

Members were assured on the adequacy and effectiveness of SYP's Anti Fraud and Corruption arrangements.

6 OPCC ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

The PCC's Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy was presented to the Committee.

Members commented that it was pleasing to see culture in the policy.

Members were assured on the adequacy and effectiveness of the PCC's Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption arrangements.

7 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

A report of the Head of Internal Audit was presented to the Committee to provide JIAC with a summary of internal audit activity since its last meeting and confirm the reviews planned for the coming quarter.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

M Swann confirmed that Internal Audit was on schedule.

Planning has been undertaken for all the substantive reviews and agreement had been obtained from officers.

The following reports are due to be presented to the March 2024 JIAC:

- Priority Based Budgeting
- IT strategy
- Delivery shared services: IT

The committee enquired if there was enough capacity and whether the Head of Internal Audit would be able to give his opinion and it was confirmed that the Head of Internal would be able to give his opinion.

8 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022-2023 VALUE FOR MONEY REPORT

A report of the External Auditor was presented to the Committee presenting the Auditor's Annual Report on the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable of South Yorkshire's 2022-23 Value for Money arrangements.

The Annual Report is one of the key reports of the year and it is a positive report with no statutory or key recommendations to be raised. There are some improvement recommendations.

The report is in line with findings of HMICFRS. It highlights several concurrent workstreams for 2023-24 including the de-collaboration of regional procurement function, deciding on the future delivery model of the IT service, and the realisation of savings identified from PBB.

The committee congratulated SYP and the OPCC on a good report.

9 EXTERNAL AUDIT ISA260 REPORT

JIAC received the report on progress in delivering Grant Thornton's responsibilities as SYP and PCC's external auditors.

10 SYP STRATEGIC CONCERNS UPDATE

A report was presented to the Committee to provide an update on the Force's Organisational Infrastructure (OI) governance arrangements such that members may be in a position to reassure the Chief Constable that this area of governance is being appropriately managed.

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

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

11 ETHICAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT ASSURANCE PLAN

J Axe provided an update.

Everything is currently green and he has asked that broader due diligence takes place around some of the key areas.

12 OPCC RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

A report was presented to the Committee to provide an overview of the PCC's Strategic Risks such that members may be in a position to reassure the PCC on the adequacy and effectiveness of his risk management arrangements.

E Redfearn presented the report which was noted

Members were assured on the adequacy and effectiveness of his risk management arrangements.

13 SYP ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS UPDATE

A report was presented to provide an update in relation to the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2023/24, enabling members to give the Chief Constable assurance that progress is being made against those areas for improvement identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

Members were assured that progress is being made against those areas for improvement identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

14 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2023

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

The following were highlighted:

- No new long term borrowing has been undertaken during the period, the principal outstanding remaining at £32.570m.
- As at the end of September 2023 investments stood at £64.30m, the average return on investment being 4.66%.
- Economic updates are being monitored

Joint Independent Audit Committee Exception Report

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

15 OPCC/SYP BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Committee were presented with a report to provide information on the consolidated financial position, and forecast out turn as at 30th September 2023.

The provisional outturn position is an underspend of £4.420m.

Additional pressures include Doncaster Police Station, Body Worn Video and Dangerous dogs.

The utilities underspend was highlighted and JIAC were informed that new income is a big part of the position. This is due to additional Home Office funding for the pay award, additional one off funding for uplift, and one off funding for Operation Safeguard.

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

16 OPCC/SYP STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING REPORT

A report of the was presented to the Committee to provide members with an overview of the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual strategic and financial planning process in relation to reviewing his Police and Crime Plan and setting a supporting budget and council tax precept for 2024/25.

In mid-January the 2024/25 budget priorities and precept increase will be presented and debated at the meeting of South Yorkshire Council Leaders.

Members were assured on the adequacy and effectiveness of the PCC and Chief Constable's annual strategic and financial planning process.

Recommendations

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

Report author details

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

Signed: S Wragg

Date: 18.12.23

INDEPENDENT ETHICS PANEL – EXCEPTION REPORT - DIGITAL POLICING

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB) – JANUARY 2024

Building on its report on the ethical dimensions of Digital Policing the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) has continued to explore the implications of rapidly developing digital technology.

It notes the Policing Minister's commitment to expand digital policing, in particular Facial Recognition.

On 18 September 2023 IEP received a report from SYP on the deployment of **drones**. As a result and with the active support of OPCC, IEP formulated a series of questions to SYP, covering:

- Governance
- Legality and compliance
- Trust and confidence

On 12 December IEP received detailed written responses on the basis of which we can offer the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) substantial assurance about the current use of drones in relation to the matters listed above.

We note with concern that there is at present no national Code of Practice and that such a code is not expected until mid-2024 at the earliest. Responsibility for this work lies with the NPCC Unit located within the Metropolitan Police. We are pleased to report that SYP is contributing to College of Policing work on authorised professional practice. We are also to report SYP's agreement to share with us the outcomes of its annual review conducted with the Civil Aviation Authority.

Finally, we suggest that a bespoke communications strategy aimed at maintaining the trust and confidence of the wider General Public in relation to the use of drones may be helpful.

IEP also received a presentation on **Facial Recognition (FR)**. We were reminded that this technology does not rely on Artificial Intelligence.

The current use of FR by SYP is low with 39 instances in the last year. All SYP use is based on the Police National Database. This use is expected to increase.

Of greatest concern is the absence of national regulation of FR technology which is leading to inconsistent use across the country, raising issues of in-built bias, inaccuracy, data storage and potential infringements of Human Rights.

IEP can offer assurance to the PCC that SYP is aware of the risks and issues associated with FR, as well as the benefits it can bring. It is committed to ensuring that the 12 principles of ethical technology delivery form a central and essential part of SYP practice.

IEP is aware of its own limitations in dealing with this rapidly advancing area of policing and anticipates being able to strengthen its capacity in the new year. IEP will maintain a focus on Digital Policing and in particular Facial Recognition in the course of 2024.

Michael Lewis
Chair
Independent Ethics Panel
13 December 2023

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

DATE: 8 January 2024

VICTIM JOURNEY IN THE CJS

REPORT OF THE OPCC

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information regarding the Police & Crime Commissioner's role in relation to victims, and an update from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on some of the work undertaken during the last year aimed at improving victims' experience of the criminal justice system.

2. SUMMARY OF OPTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISION REQUIRED

- 2.1 That the report is noted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) chairs the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and one of the Board's key ambitions is to deliver an end-to-end service that supports victims and witnesses so that they:
- Receive the support they need from skilled professionals to help them to cope and recover from the crime they have experienced
 - Are supported to provide their evidence before and during court proceedings, including support with advocacy and navigation through the court process
 - Where appropriate, feel involved in the ongoing sentencing and rehabilitation of offenders as part of their recovery from the experience
 - Have seamless end to end care, are not passed from one agency to another unnecessarily, and receive tailored and specialist support.
- 3.2 The PCC receives funding from the Ministry of Justice each year to provide victim support services to help victims cope and recover in the aftermath of crime and to support them through their criminal justice experience.
- 3.3 Back in 2022-23, work took place on behalf of the LCJB that examined Victim Attrition (i.e., why victims withdraw their support for the prosecution before the case reaches a justice conclusion). That work identified a number of findings which included a need for:

- improved communication & knowledge sharing across criminal justice agencies
- recognition of signs of victim disengagement, at the earliest opportunity
- trauma awareness and the importance of victim empathy
- understanding and promotion of Special Measures.¹

3.4 In order to address the findings of the victim attrition work, it was agreed that an event should take place to assist criminal justice (CJ) partners' understanding of each other's key roles and responsibilities and engagement with victims through the criminal justice process.

3.5 It was also agreed that a special measures guide should be made available.

4. DE-MYSTIFYING THE VICTIM JOURNEY

4.1 It was determined that an event would be aimed at criminal justice practitioners to address key findings from the victim attrition work.

4.2 Considering their approach from the perspective of victims and witnesses, the aims of partner agencies working in the criminal justice system included:

- Increasing their knowledge and awareness of each other's roles and responsibilities to better support victim through the criminal justice system.
- Seeking to improve both quality, timeliness and collaboration of communication and knowledge sharing between CJ partner agencies so that victims are kept fully informed throughout the criminal justice process and are prevented from having to re-tell their story to separate agencies
- Provide a networking opportunity for CJ agencies including sharing current information provision and contact details, in essence, creating a South Yorkshire wide 'address book'
- Provide partner agencies with an opportunity to 'ask' and 'answer' frequently asked questions and resolve queries
- Equip partner agencies with information and materials for inclusion in practitioner training and use in victim support provision
- Seek partner feedback on a draft special measures guide.

4.3 The event took place on the 18th October. There was considerable interest in the event and places were offered to as many organisations as possible, both

¹ Special Measures are a range of different types of additional support that can be put in place during a trial to help victims and witnesses give their best evidence. These measures should be requested in advance of a court hearing and their use is authorised by the court as part of pre-trial preparations. For example, some of the special measures include (not exhaustive):

- Screens – to shield the witness from the defendant's view
- Live Video Link – to allow a witness to give evidence from another location

Further information on special measures can also be found here
[Special measures - Preparing to come to court \(youtube.com\)](#)

those who had expressed an interest and those where it was felt they ought to be encouraged to attend. The expectation was made clear that those attending the event should cascade learning from the day within their own organisations.

4.4 Representatives from more than 25 agencies or organisations were allocated places, and just over 50 delegates attended on the day.

4.5 Various inputs were provided by partner agencies, for partner agencies, following the victim journey with the aim of de-mystifying it.

4.6 In terms of the event aims, the following can be provided:

4.7 Increase knowledge and awareness of each other's roles and responsibilities:

Feedback from partners attending the event highlighted gaps in practitioner knowledge particularly in respect of services such as the Victim Contact Scheme², Restorative Justice ³and some of the specific provision available in support services such as the Witness Service⁴ and Victim Support⁵ (e.g. support for children and young people that are victims of crime). Work remains ongoing to ensure this knowledge and awareness is shared more widely amongst partners.

4.8 Improve both quality, timeliness and collaboration of communication and knowledge sharing between CJ partner agencies so that victims are kept fully informed and prevented from having to keep re-telling their story. This will remain an area of focus across all partner agencies, particularly in areas such as reminding staff of the importance of keeping victims informed. For example, in respect of any delays that might occur at any point in the criminal justice process and reasons why as well as explaining decisions made clearly to victims in a way that they can understand.

4.9 Provide a networking opportunity for CJ agencies including sharing current information provision about their service and contact details. The structure of the day allowed plenty of opportunities for partners to network and share information from the event invite including presentations. Partners were observed exchanging information and contact details during the event and an output from the event has been a South Yorkshire wide 'address book'.

4.10 Provide partner agencies with an opportunity to 'ask' and 'answer' frequently asked questions and resolve queries: The structure of the day allowed plenty of opportunities for partner agency interaction, questions & answers and collaborative working based on the themes that had emerged from

² [Information about the Victim Contact Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/victim-support)

³ <https://www.restorativesouthyorkshire.co.uk/>

⁴ <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/legal-system/going-to-court-as-a-witness1/>

⁵ [Victim Support — Help and Support](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support)

the Victim Attrition work many of which included questions that they are often asked by victims and witnesses.

- 4.11 **Equip partner agencies with information and materials for inclusion in practitioner training and use in providing support to victims:** an information pack has been produced and circulated to attendees of the event containing partner agency website links, contact details and other useful information. Partners have been asked to populate their own websites with this information where applicable and were encouraged to make victims and witnesses aware as this can help them better understand the criminal justice process and support available to them.
- 4.12 **Seek feedback on draft special measures guide:** detailed feedback on the draft guide has led to the production of 2 guides, 1 aimed at victims and witnesses, and another aimed at practitioners across CJ agencies. Final versions of those guides have recently been approved and will be available for use in the new year.

5. POST EVENT IMPACT

- 5.1 Two months after the event, although still early days, participants were asked to confirm:
- What they learnt or got out of the event?
 - What have done with any learning and the post-event output materials?

- 5.2 In respect of the first question, overwhelmingly the feedback has been that the event was really successful. A few quotes from some of the participants are as follows,

“the event was a great success in our opinion. It was great to meet up and network with other professionals from different agencies, and listen and learn from their informative presentations. Contacts were made and email addresses exchanged for future engagement”

“It brought home for me how we often talk about processes that ultimately impact on people’s lives and small changes could make such an impact”

“It was eye opening to realise the extent of services that victims have had contact with before we even make contact. It put into context why we often get resistance in terms of engaging with the process of having their voice heard”.

- 5.3 In terms of what change it has led to already,

“All the learning and post-event output materials have been shared with the rest of the team. This includes our Area Manager and Operations Manager. The PowerPoint presentations and the agencies information documents have been shared on our internal intranet site for easy access and reference for all staff”.

“(I) took my observations back to meetings to ask them how we consider better engaging victims and stepping into their shoes throughout all of our processes. That has resulted in far more discussion and consideration of ways to employ best practice from across the region.

“We have considered whether we can contact the victim earlier in their ‘journey’ with our service and see if they wish to contribute to the Pre-Sentence Report stage of the young people we work with. Victims normally come in at the stage when sentences have been imposed and they feel slightly powerless as they have not been a part of deciding on the outcome unless they have attended court. This will hopefully enable victims to feel more in control”.

5.4 There is further work taking place and the hope it to bring partners together again in 2024 to review that work and the progress made.

6 RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION REQUIRED

6.1 The PCC is recommended to note the report.

Linda Mayhew
Criminal Justice Strategic lead

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

6 January 2024

Report of the Chief Executive & Solicitor

Strategic and Financial Planning for the 2024/25 budget

1 Report Objectives

- 1.1 To provide members with an overview of the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual strategic and financial planning process in relation to reviewing his Police and Crime Plan and setting a supporting budget and council tax precept for 2024/25.

2 Recommendations

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

3 Background Information

- 3.1 Sections 5, 7 and 8 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the PRSRA) require each PCC to issue a policing and crime plan (Plan) to cover his/her term of office, which sets priorities for the local area. The Plan is to be kept under review, and varied if necessary.
- 3.2 Sections 21-27 and Schedule 5 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, and sections 39-43 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1972 provide that each PCC holds the police fund and other grants from central and local government, and the PCC sets the policing element of the council tax precept for his/her area.
- 3.3 Throughout each year, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) undertakes a strategic and financial planning process (the Process) - working with South Yorkshire Police (SYP), the public and partners to gather the information necessary to support the PCC in meeting those statutory responsibilities set out above.

4 The PCC's Strategic and Financial Planning Process

- 4.1 As in previous years, the OPCC has set a timetable this year which explains the various activities in the Process, with milestones for their completion.

- 4.2 The PCC holds a monthly Planning & Efficiency Group (PEG) which oversees the Process. PEG is supported by activity by OPCC officers and SYP Senior Command Team colleagues to make sense of our environment, current and future threats and demands, and the views of our communities and partners on the priorities in our local area. For the 2024/25 budget planning process these meetings started in September.
- 4.3 SYP's input to the process is largely fulfilled by SYP's operational threat assessment and its Force Management Statement (FMS); a requirement of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). From SYP's activity there emerges the Chief Constable's assessment of policing need in South Yorkshire for next year and beyond, and a view on whether the PCC's priorities as set out in his Plan are sound.
- 4.4 At PEG, the PCC and OPCC officers then discuss with the Chief Constable and her command team how the identified policing need will be met, and the cost of doing so.
- 4.5 The PCC also looks at the local need for funding from other elements of the policing and crime budget – e.g. for PCC-commissioned victims' services, the requirements for grants from the community safety budget, etc.
- 4.6 In parallel with these PEG discussions, the PCC awaits announcements from central government on the policing settlement for the forthcoming year, together with clarity on other areas where budget assumptions have been made (including assumptions about the level of Special Grant funding being made available to South Yorkshire for its so-called 'legacy issues'). This year the provisional settlement was communicated by central government on 14 December, the final settlement being announced in early February.
- 4.7 A range of options are then presented to the PCC by the Chief Constable as to how SYP's planned expenditure will be kept within available resources. Considerations also include growth, savings uncertainty and risk, as well as other areas of the budget, for example, commissioning and partnerships and LCJB. Each of these areas is challenged to ensure it's in line with priorities, then prioritised in terms of affordability. This leads to understanding the level of council tax precept that is required to balance the overall policing and crime budget (and what the Chief Constable's budget needs to be within this). These options form the basis for the OPCC's consultation with the public on the level of council tax precept people are willing to pay and the policing service they will receive in return.
- 4.9 Additional considerations are also discussed and scrutinised throughout the process, in particular the capital programme and strategy (and associated revenue impact), the reserves position and future implications of options on reserves, and the effect on treasury management.
- 4.8 Following public and partner consultation, further PEG discussions occur which lead to the PCC's final decisions. The final precept proposal is then presented to the Police and Crime Panel. This has been arranged for the panel meeting being held on 5 February 2024.

- 4.9 The final 2024/25 budget proposal is anticipated to take place at the Public Accountability meeting scheduled on 26 February 2024.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Throughout the year the Communications and Engagement Team consult with the public and businesses on a number of issues including their policing priorities and value for money.
- 5.2 This engagement is usually carried out through face-to-face public engagement events, in tandem with online surveys, consultation and engagement and monitoring of public views and comments via social media. In person and virtual meetings with groups, individuals, communities and organisations (including parish councils) also take place.
- 5.3 Targeted consultation with the public about their willingness to pay more in their Council Tax Precept to fund policing and crime services begins in earnest following the publication of the government's provisional settlement.
- 5.4 Once the provisional settlement has been announced, and with this figure in mind, the PCC puts forward a proposal on the level of precept for South Yorkshire to enable SYP to deliver the services outlined in its Operating Model.
- 5.5 The Engagement Team will then consult on these proposals with the public to obtain a consensus of opinion before the PCC consults with elected members and makes a decision on the level of precept. Any delay to the publication of the provisional settlement will mean a delay to the start of the consultation and engagement exercise. A communications plan to promote the consultation and encourage participation is prepared, and the survey launched. This is usually supported by South Yorkshire Police's social media channels and SYP Alerts to ensure it is promoted as widely as possible.
- 5.6 The 2024/25 budget priorities and precept increase will also be presented and debated at the meeting of South Yorkshire Council Leaders and at a Police and Crime Panel Budget Familiarisation meeting held prior to the main precept meeting.
- 5.7 The Police and Crime Panel (in scrutinising the PCC) reviews the PCC's proposed level of Council Tax Precept and makes its' recommendations in February, before the PCC finalises the budget for the coming year.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

8 JANUARY 2023

REPORT BY THE PCC'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SOLICITOR

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISIONS

1 Report Objectives

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

2 Recommendations

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

3 Background

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

4 DECISIONS

- 4.1 The PCC has made 34 decisions in 2023/24.
- 4.2 For the period 23 August 2023 (the date of the last report) to 18 October 2023 the PCC has made the following decisions to draw to the attention of the Public Accountability Board.

4.2.1 Priority Based Budgeting (PBB)

The PCC approved the second part of the contract with Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) to undertake the next stage of Priority Based Budgeting. The first phase identified potential capacity savings of up to £4.8m (9%) and cashable savings of £3m (6%), with limited impact to the level of service delivered.

Should Tranche 2 yield the same % of Productivity savings (savings with little change in service / risk) of 9% this would lead to a saving of around £7m before taking into consideration service level changes and capacity savings through officers.

4.2.2 Contract Standing Orders

The PCC agreed the content of the newly updated Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

4.2.3 Joint Data Centre

The PCC agreed to commit the capital spend of £472,893 in 2023/24 for new IT hardware residing within the force(s) core data centres of Humberside and South Yorkshire Police (SYP). This is a collaborated project, and the spend will be split between SYP and Humberside Police.

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

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PAB 3 Month Work Programme (Feb – May 2024)

Date of Meeting	Papers Required	Agenda Items / Reports	Author	Purpose/Comments
26 February 2024	15 February	Final precept recommendations and budget 2023/2024.	OPCC	PCC to formally agree the budget and council tax precept.

PAB 3 Month Work Programme (Feb – May 2024)

Date of Meeting	Papers Required	Agenda Items / Reports	Author	Purpose/Comments
7 March 2024	27 February	Force Performance – Sheffield District Summary Update	SYP	Provide the PCC with an update on Sheffield District's performance against Police and Crime Plan priorities.
		Force Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan (2022 - 2025) – Treating People Fairly	SYP	Provide update to PCC re Force progress towards the priority Treating People Fairly in the Police and Crime Plan.
		CSE Update (Annual report)	SYP	Provide information around how SYP responds to CSE and to provide re-assurance that the ongoing response supports Police and Crime Plan priorities.
		Force Quarterly Budget Monitoring Overview (Q3)	SYP	SYP's financial position for (1 Oct to 31 December) Q3 2023/24
		Firearms Licensing (Bi-Annual)	SYP	Provide information on the findings from a bi-annual review of Firearms Licensing
		Sustainability Update (Annual)	SYP	Provide an update on the delivery of the force sustainability strategy, highlighting achievements and outlining aspirations for 2024.
		HMICFRS (Bi-Annual Report)	SYP	Provide an update recent and future HMICFRS activity including recommendations
		Trust & Confidence	SYP	
		PCC Decisions	OPCC	Provide the Public Accountability Board (PAB) with a record of key decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting

PAB 3 Month Work Programme (Feb – May 2024)

Date of Meeting	Papers Required	Agenda Items / Reports	Author	Purpose/Comments
2 May 2024	23 April	Force Performance – Doncaster District Summary Update	SYP	Provide the PCC with an update on Doncaster District's performance against Police and Crime Plan priorities.
		Force Performance Against the Police and Crime Plan – Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	SYP	Provide update to PCC re Force progress towards the priority Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in the Police and Crime Plan.
		Force Delivery Plan	SYP	Inform the PCC how the Force will deliver activity and how the Force will work with Partners to deliver activity (For the new P&C Plan 23/24)
		Force Year End Outturn Performance Assessment Report	SYP	Provide final year end position of Force performance against Police & Crime Plan 2021 - 2024. To inform PCC's Annual Report
		Force Quarterly Budget Monitoring Overview (Q4)	SYP	SYP's financial position for (1 Jan to 31 March) Q4 2023/24
		OPCC Delivery Plan	OPCC	Inform the PCC how the OPCC will cover activity by Commissioned Providers, Grant Recipients and Other Partners the OPCC works with (For the new P&C Plan 23/24)
		PCC Decisions	OPCC	Provide the Public Accountability Board (PAB) with a record of key decisions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) outside of this Board since the last PAB meeting
		JIAC Assurance Report	JIAC	Provide an overview of the Committees areas of exception reporting for PCC's information / action
		IEP Assurance Report	IEP	Provide an overview of the Panel's areas of exception reporting for PCC's information / action

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