

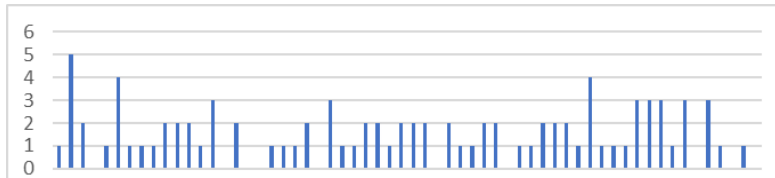
**Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide**

**Home Office crime codes and description:**

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

Recorded crime levels

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



The volume of Homicides in South Yorkshire has increased since 2019/20, albeit a reduction on volumes in 2018/19. In 2023/24, 19 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire, with a rate of 13.8 homicides per million population, above that of the national average.

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

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

Force response to homicides

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

behaviour of perpetrators. The force-wide Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meeting focusses on repeat perpetrator behaviour through engagement or enforcement.

Prevention solutions are available to protect DA victims including Tecso phones, SmartWater forensic marking, and Buddi Tags, which can be monitored via GPS. Civil Orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Stalking Protection Orders are used to good effect to protect victims, supported by a dedicated DVPO team. District-based DA teams provide consistency of quality investigations for all high-risk DA crimes.

### Ongoing focus – May 2024

Supt Dave Cowley (Homicide, Domestic Abuse, Serious Violent Crime)

The Grip project to tackle Most Serious Violence (MSV) and CIVITAS funding to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has been amalgamated into one project supported by a single Home Office team. A grant of £1.97M has been received from the Home Office which is a real terms reduction of £300,000 from the two previously separate grants. An additional officer has been recruited to the new team which is now called the Hot Spot Response Team. A proportion of the budget has been sent to the local authorities who will also be responsible for conducting hot spot patrols.

The Grip / Hot Spot response team are continuing to coordinate and assist districts with proactive operations. These have included Operation Sceptre for knife crime, the Winter Homicide Prevention Campaign and a Sheffield MSV intensification week. Results of these are detailed below:

#### (i) Sceptre (May 2024)

The focus on this operation was on offenders and all the national tactics identified in the Sceptre toolkit were deployed. The results are shown on the below infographic:



#### (ii) Winter Homicide Prevention campaign (Nov 2023 to February 2024)

This was a campaign designed to prevent non-domestic abuse homicides among the over 25s in the Night-Time Economy (NTE) and was funded through a grant of £90,000 from the Home Office. The successful campaign ran over the three winter months. From the initial timeline of proposed operations, South Yorkshire Police met its commitment to delivering proactive patrols in NTE hotspots.

December 2023 was understandably a challenge in delivering swift operations due to the quick turnaround in receiving approval from the Home Office for funding and arranging overtime staff in a month which already has exceptional seasonal demands on staffing.

Key positive indicators over the period include:

- 15 police led operations
- Number of Arrests: 22
- Stop Searches of Individuals: 89
- Stop Searches of Vehicles: 9
- Reported on Summons/ Traffic Offence Reports (TOR): 35
- Intelligence Reports Submitted: 22
- Vehicles Seized: 16
- Positive Drug Wipes Licensed/Business Premises: 18 Cocaine Positive

There was also considerable success in the forces media campaign with:

- 200 posters displayed at 65 licensed venues in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield city and town centres. 60 posters displayed at four football stadiums – two in Sheffield, one in Rotherham and one in Barnsley. Exposure to approximately 107,000 people at football grounds. (Footfall figures from licensed venues not available).
- Digital van advertising in Doncaster town centre reached a footfall of 23,000 people. Digital and printed billboard advertising in Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley reached a footfall of over 940,000 people and in-game digital screen advertisements at Sheffield United Football Club for two fixtures in January reached a stadium attendance of 47,555.
- Targeted social media paid advertising also took place via Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

<b>Measure: Reduce Serious Violence</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NHS hospital admissions data for under 25-year-olds for assault with a sharp object; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Police recorded crime data on offences involving the discharge of a lethal barrelled firearm</b></li> </ul>	
Recorded levels	<p>Reductions have been seen for Under 25-year-old admissions to hospitals for assault with sharp object since the baseline period, aligned with a national reduction. However, the latest data to January 2024 shows an increase.</p> <p>Internally, Knife Crime and Most Serious Violence (MSV) datasets are also reviewed to support understanding and focus activity. The force is working with the National Data Quality Improvement Service to support the data capture against the HO definition of Knife Crime.</p>
Force response to reducing serious violence	<p>The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception. Clear interdependencies exist with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grip funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis)</li> <li>• Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity)</li> <li>• Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)</li> </ul> <p>The Grip team undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality and reduce knife-crime offending. Local policing teams and specialist teams such as licensing also operate in response to violent offences, and proactively work to reduce night-time economy offending. Profiles have been delivered to understand the impact of Covid on demand and resourcing needs and profiles delivering against thematic areas are delivered throughout the year. Taking learning from analytical products, the GRIP team work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective.</p> <p>The <a href="#">National Problem Solving and Crime Prevention Programme</a> is based in South Yorkshire Police, with a focus of events around tackling serious violence, supporting a repository, in which the force engages fully to learn from this beneficial insight.</p> <p>The force has an established brand for tackling organised crime, this operation brings together the four districts and Crime Services in a stand against Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and routine sharing of content externally and internally which builds on the four Ps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue – prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality</li> <li>• Prevent – preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality</li> <li>• Protect – increasing protection against organised crime</li> <li>• Prepare – reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place.</li> </ul> <p>OCG threats are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force has undertaken mapping to establish the level of firearms capabilities across the OCGs residing in South Yorkshire.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing focus – May 2024</b>  D/Supt Jamie Henderson (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)</p>	
<p>Firearm discharge incidents are at their lowest for five years. Levels recorded in 2023 were 24 per cent lower than the previous year, and 50 per cent lower than in 2020 (the year that the Armed Crime Team was launched).</p> <p>The national threat from Converted Blank Firearms (CBF) remains high. The use of these weapons has now surpassed the use of Original Lethal Purpose (OLP) weapons.</p> <p>The use of these is expected to continue through 2024, due to the ability to legally purchase suitable weapons at affordable prices, convert, and refashion them to look authentic with relative ease. The forces Serious Organised Crime Unit and the Armed Crime Team have dismantled three conversion factories and charged 18 people with</p>	

manufacture firearms offences, seizing 97 viable firearms in the course of the operation which is currently moving through the court system.

The excellent preventative work with firearms licence holders to make them aware of the risks arising from the theft of lawfully held firearms which has been delivered by our firearms licensing team has resulted in no reported stolen viable firearms in burglaries in 2023 and only three firearms stolen (year to date) in one offence so far in 2024, significantly reducing the legal to illegal threat.

As previously reported, South Yorkshire has worked closely with other key gun crime forces and the National Criminal Use of Firearms forum to introduce a process of identifying individuals suspected to be involved in armed criminality and subjecting them to assertive management visits by the Firearms Support Group (FSG) under a dedicated operation. In excess of 20 nominals are afforded consistent attention including weekly visits to encourage the individuals to turn their back on firearms criminality, this has been acknowledged as positive practice and recorded as such with the College of Policing.

2024 year to date figures show that there have been seven lethal barrelled weapon firearms discharges, three in Sheffield, three in Doncaster and one in Barnsley. Fortunately, none of these have resulted in injury. Each one of these incidents has benefited from our Operation Relentless approach that proved effective in 2023. This response sees every viable firearms discharge being declared as a Critical Incident, with a local Gold/Silver/Bronze management response, complemented by flooding the geographical area with specialist resources in support of district and investigative assets. This is combined with a proactive more impactful media strategy, adopting a more robust approach to firearms discharges and working to dispel any possibility of apathy or acceptance.

The new Firearms Intelligence Assessment Process was launched in September 2023 with introduction of the FSG3 document as a means of ensuring consistency, accountability, and traction to ensure the force actively develops and acts upon firearms intelligence, ensuring Tactical Firearms Commander assessments are conducted appropriately and that they are accessible on Connect. Over 200 FSG assessments have been completed in this time, resulting in a range of activity that includes warrants, arrests and other disruption and intelligence development activity.

In April this year Sheffield District launched an intensive week of action to tackle MSV. Tactics included stop and search operations involving passive drugs dogs in the city centre, open land searches for weapons, arrest operations for outstanding suspects for violence offences, drugs warrants for individuals linked with violent crime and weapons and Organised Crime Group (OCG) disruption activity. The operation received media attention on BBC Look North. The results are shown in the infographic below:



In addition to these operations, the Hot Spot Response team has coordinated over 67 proactive operations. These are focussed in and around the NTE and are focussed on violent crime, knife crime, drug dealing and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) offences. The force Football intelligence Unit are also proactive in preventing football related violence with 119 Football Banning Orders currently in place and a host of initiatives to divert youths away from football violence supported by all five FA clubs in the county.

The team have operationalised a Habitual Knife Carriers Index that uses intelligence and previous crime reports to identify individuals known or believed to be involved in knife crime. These individuals can then be managed and diverted away from knife crime through management activity coordinated through Tactical Tasking and Coordination Group (TT&CG) and the Sheffield MSV meeting.

The Violence Reduction Unit have recently completed a competitive process to award money to support small community-based projects to deter youths away from violent crime. Money has been awarded to 19 projects. These include projects led by football clubs, boxing clubs and community centres.

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

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

Recorded crime levels	<p>ONS dataset shows the proportion of homicide victims and suspects that were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the homicide. The force submits all homicide reports to the Home Office, and the reports include notification of those identified to be drug related. This is captured by the officer in the case with the information known at the point of submission. The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs – drug related homicides accounting for 71% of the homicides in the county in 2023, a higher proportion than seen nationally (52%).</p> <p>Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces.</p>
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Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines	<p>The force focus continues in the disruption of drugs supply and county lines. The force has worked to significantly increase drug expert witness capability, providing greater support to drug-related prosecutions, and assisting the process through the criminal justice system. Operational activity links to the work of the Armed Crime Team and district Fortify Teams with a high proportion of mapped OCGs primarily linked to drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines are monitored (<i>Reduce Serious Violence section</i>).</p> <p>The force employs a SOC Co-ordinator who attends the monthly regional SOC Co-ordinators forum chaired by a Home Office representative and regional county lines leads, facilitating wide sharing of intelligence, emerging threats, and notable practice.</p> <p>The forces Fortify Management Group scrutinises and tasks against the top SOC threats for each of the four districts, in turn informing the Multi Agency Regional Tactical Operational Meeting (MARTOM) where the top SOC threats across the region are discussed. Level 2 activity around force SOC threats is governed through covert Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TT&amp;CG) chaired by the SOC thematic lead.</p> <p>The SOC-IT team is responsible for undertaking SOC System Tasking process for OCG Management, reviewing the threats and geographic impact of each OCG with the relevant LRO to inform future demand scanning.</p> <p>MoRiLE scores for OCGs are used during various TT&amp;CG meetings to aid decision making in terms of resources, including whole force and covert meetings. In addition, the districts/departments receive a summary of their OCG's in risk order after each full round of SOC System Tasking to aid</p>
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local meetings and to allow districts to make informed decisions around resourcing and response to the risks.

Each district has proactive Fortify teams varying in numbers commensurate with the size, demographic and SOC threat within the district, equipped with the appropriate tools with which to undertake their roles.

The force Serious and Organised Crime Strategy sets out the direction for the force. The purpose of the strategy is to outline the vision for tackling and reducing SOC, set the objectives the force is trying to achieve over the period and the steps that will be taken to deliver this. The strategy has six specific objectives aligned to the 4Ps Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent, these being reducing vulnerabilities; developing our capabilities; improving problem solving; developing strategic partnerships; promoting communications and engagement; and demonstrating effective governance and compliance.

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

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

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

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

**Ongoing focus – May 2024**

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

South Yorkshire have 67 identified active OCGs, of which 48 have a primary threat of drugs and a further five having a primary threat of County Lines. Cocaine and Crack, Heroin and Cannabis being the predominant threats in that order. The threat from synthetic drugs is an emerging threat, with four OCGs now recorded with a synthetic drug threat. The Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), Fortify, and Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) continue to enforce and disrupt drugs markets and OCGs with the threat of controlled drugs with great success, resulting in significant seizures of controlled drugs over the last reporting period.

All four districts have invested in child exploitation teams which will bring focus to Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), modern slavery, county lines and drug supply investigations where children and vulnerable people are being exploited to become involved in drugs supply. The force continues to benefit from the support of a dedicated County Lines Detective Inspector within the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (Y&H ROCU SOC) who is involved in coordination between importing and exporting forces.

During March 2024, the force participated in a period of national intensification around Country Lines, a national multi partnership operation to tackle county lines and exploitation. This is an opportunity to share analytical

products and intelligence gaps to target offending, identify and safeguard children whilst pursuing offenders and increasing the intelligence reporting force wide, as well as regionally.

This successful operation resulted in the seizure of mobile phones, viable firearms, partially converted blank firing pistols, bullets, shotgun cartridges, knuckledusters and controlled drugs.

In December 2023, force thematic leads presented to the Senior Leadership Team at the Force Performance Day insight session on the progress of force wide exploitation work streams, including the introduction and progress of district exploitation teams and future operations.

Specialist training has been delivered to multi-agency partners following the establishment of the Barnsley Exploitation Team in September 2023. With support from regional colleagues, a Hydra suit delivery of county lines exploitation training resulted in collaborative upskilling that marked the launch of the team.

South Yorkshire Police now has four established district based exploitation teams, working with partners to continue to tackle child exploitation. The teams work closely with Fortify to ensure joint delivery of exploitation operations.

South Yorkshire Police continue lead the way nationally in the field the 'Clear Hold Build' (CHB) initiative. The Barnsley project is the first nationally to move from 'Build' into business as usual and was commended in the National CHB conference hosted by the NPCC National Serious Organised Crime Portfolio and the Home Office. A second CHB project is live in Doncaster, with a third about to be launched in Sheffield later in 2024. These CHB initiatives continues to benefit from the dedicated support of a Detective Inspector within the Y&H ROCU SOC portfolio and the forces own SOC Coordinator.

In the last 12 months South Yorkshire Police have recorded 11,566 seizures on controlled drugs seeing a 5 per cent increase from the previous year.

The force continues to work with partners in the Combatting Drugs Partnerships to break drugs supply, deliver a world class treatment and recovery system and achieve a generational shift in demand for recreational drugs.

South Yorkshire Police are working with stakeholders within the Combatting Drugs Partnerships to prepare for and prevent harms caused by the introduction of Synthetic Opioids into the local drugs supply. Forces have seen increased deaths where these substances have been found and this is constantly monitored. The force are working with partners to ensure timely harm reduction messages are made and action is taken. The Drugs and Alcohol related Death (DARD) panels are now in place and the Local Drugs Information Service (LDIS) are embedded. The drugs Death Coordinator is now in position, updating partners on a daily basis and forging relationships with drugs intervention partners and coroners.

South Yorkshire Police are in the final stages of planning to test cannabis plants in house. This is aimed at reducing turn-around times for drugs to be tested to ensure those caught with drugs are processed as efficiently as possible. The force work closely with Local Authorities who have funded a Spectrometer machine allowing for testing of some drugs in force for timely intelligence.

The force achieved over 6000 tests for drugs after arrest in custody suites. Those with positive tests then meet with a drugs recovery worker in their first steps to recovery. Recent tests showed a strong link between drugs and offences within the Night-Time Economy (NTE). During the Sheffield Violence week of action, police and partners worked incredibly hard together with drugs detection dogs and licencing officers to deter drugs entering the NTE resulting in several arrests and weapons recovered.

Drugs Expert Witnesses in South Yorkshire Police act as Subject Matter Experts in force and have recently received training in County Lines and Serious and Organised Crime improving their effectiveness.



Training is ready for officers around the awareness of Naloxone which is a life-saving drug for those suffering through overdose. This has seen many successful applications throughout the UK. South Yorkshire Police is working hard to secure funding for staff to be issued with naloxone in the near future.

Training sessions were provided to those officers dealing with cannabis cultivation scenes to ensure they are dismantled safely and efficiently, and the force continue to use the analytical algorithm resulting in police and prosecutors being able to demonstrate more than just street dealing by analysing bulk messaging. This has an impact on sentencing and future Proceeds of Crime Act offences.

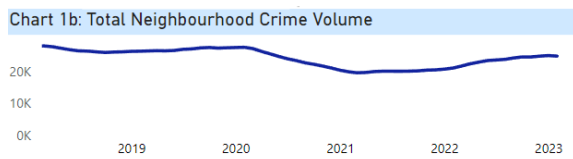
**Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime**

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

Recorded crime levels

The CSEW data to December 2022 reported that the *percentage of adults in South Yorkshire who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that was a victim of at least one household crime are 1.9 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively – this was aligned with the national picture.*

In the 12 months to December 2019 (baseline) there were 27,309 Neighbourhood Crimes recorded in South Yorkshire. Since December 2019, reductions in recorded crime volumes have been seen in Residential Burglary, Theft from Person and Theft of/from Vehicle, whereas



Personal Robbery has seen an increase. Some reductions had pre-dated reductions recorded in neighbourhood crime during lockdown. As restrictions have eased there have been increases in volumes of crime, although not to pre-pandemic levels, with an

overall reduction in the twelve months to March 2024 of 14 per cent in comparison with the baseline period.

Whilst reductions are largely maintained, Theft of Vehicle is an increasing challenge, and the force currently records a higher rate of Residential Burglary, Robbery and Theft from / of Vehicle than peer forces, and a similar rate of Theft from Person offences.

Force response to reducing neighbourhood crime

Prevention activity undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) is the backbone for long-term delivery of crime reductions. The force analysts have identified wards with the highest rates of neighbourhood crime. The NPTs apply an evidence-based policing approach to develop local problem-solving plans for these areas. Bespoke neighbourhood policing training has been developed for NPT officers; the first force to achieve officer accreditation by Skills 4 Justice. This work is supported by effective communications with the public and the force continues to deliver media campaigns for emerging neighbourhood crime types to ensure the public is alert to any local themes of criminality, and where possible undertaking preventative action.

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

District investigation teams are responsible for the investigation of these offences, management of suspects and offenders. All teams are dedicated to improving the quality of initial scene

	<p>attendance, evidence capture and investigation to improve action taken outcomes and reduce offending.</p> <p>Resulting from the development of NPT structures and investigative focus, the force is in a strong position to focus on the continued delivery of reductions in neighbourhood crime.</p>
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**Ongoing Focus – May 2024**

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

Following the last update the force has implemented a dedicated problem solving operation to tackle residential burglary. This operation makes use of detailed and in-depth analytical work to identify 18 key hot spot areas across the force which have historically suffered high levels of residential burglary. Additional funding has allowed for a greater visible presence in these key areas, with predominantly PCSOs conducting engagement visits with residents, to offer crime prevention advice and using leaflets to alert residents to the risk of burglary in that area and nudge them to take further preventative measures.

In addition to this, changes in governance arrangements have allowed for detailed scrutiny to take place in relation to the completion of cocooning activity following reported break-ins and has seen improvements in conducting cocooning activity. Further to this, dedicated problem-solving plans are either now in place or being developed for each of the 18 identified hot spot areas across the force, ensuring wider partnership and preventative measures are in place.

To support this problem-solving approach, a pilot using social media messaging to residents in the top four hot spot areas is also under way. This 10-week pilot that started in late April 2024 follows from the nudge leaflet dropping which forms part of the aforementioned operation, alerting residents to the burglary hot spot areas and signposting to crime prevention advice. The full impact of this pilot will be reviewed in late July 2024, but early signs show that over 9000 people received and listened to the messaging on a weekly basis.

Since the last report, dedicated neighbourhood crime teams now operate in each district.

The most recent report made to the Neighbourhood Crime Strategic Board for May 2024 highlighted the following;

- Force wide, both March and April were below historic average levels with March 5 per cent below average and April 17 per cent below historic averages. April 2024 was the lowest recorded month for Neighbourhood Crime since August 2021.
- Residential burglary reduced by 19 per cent and reported volumes were the lowest in a month since August 2021.
- Force wide vehicle offences have fallen 17 per cent with theft of motor vehicle falling to a 26-month low.
- Force wide robbery offences have fallen by 13 per cent and remains in line with expected volumes.
- Further challenge in relation to commercial burglary offences which have increased by 16 per cent following a six-month period of suppressed levels.

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

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

Recorded satisfaction levels	<p>There is no local comparison available against a national measure, but the force has locally invested to undertake victim feedback surveys to support an understanding of service delivery. Since June 2016, the Home Office has required forces (as part of annual data return requirements) to survey victims of Domestic Abuse. Victim feedback is important to the force to understand where improvements in service can be made.</p>
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	<p>In the 12 months to May 2024, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is 72 per cent for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 78 per cent for local victims of Domestic Abuse.</p>
<p>Force response to improving victim satisfaction</p>	<p>South Yorkshire Police works alongside OPCC to deliver the victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. The force seeks the views of members of the public across South Yorkshire who have been recent victims of domestic burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking, vulnerable victims and anti-social behaviour victims.</p> <p>The Victim Satisfaction Strategy 2021-2024 refers to several factors which aim to improve victim satisfaction across the force. Whilst the force usually receives positive feedback for the initial response to incidents, and treatment of victims by officers, the main areas for improvement are in the updating of victims by the officer and keeping victims informed of the investigation progress. Two other areas which can result in negative feedback are satisfaction levels where an officer did not attend, and those instances where the victim was not provided with the victims’ booklet (or a link to the online version).</p> <p>Compliance against the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP), including an assessment of the force’s delivery of enhanced service where appropriate, and delivery of the communications plan is coordinated through the strategic group. It is difficult to understand compliance without a manual review of the investigation, to ensure that the correct people have been identified as being entitled to an enhanced service and whether they receive this service or not. As a result of review, changes were made to the referrals process to better support the identification of victim vulnerability.</p> <p>DA Matters training was provided to over 1600 front line officers and staff in 2020/21. This included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability to support intervention, supporting the victim service. A network of DA champions continues to operate across the force to support ongoing local delivery and looking for ways to improve the service provided.</p>
<p><b>Ongoing focus – May 2024</b> Ch Insp Johnathan Greaves (Victim Satisfaction), Det Supt Dave Cowley (Domestic Abuse)</p>	
<p>Following a successful trial of Rapid Video Response to incidents including appropriate Domestic Abuse incidents, this has now been embedded in a central team working within the Force Control Room. Further analysis is currently underway to expand that team as well as the use of the RVR approach to continue to improve the timeliness of the forces response to victims of Domestic Abuse and to make police officers more accessible and convenient to victims. The force continues to engage with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other key partner agencies in line with the DA National Joint Justice plan.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse courts, that were originally trialled in Sheffield have now been rolled out further, with Barnsley now holding a specific Domestic Abuse court once a week. They have a designated district judge, CPS Advocate to review/present cases, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Probation Services available to support the efficient processing of the cases on the day. CJU provide a dedicated contact to the lawyer reviewing the cases and a dedicated point of contact on the day of the hearing.</p> <p>The force has taken part in a trial employing a Special Measures Adviser to help understand how special measures can be used more effectively and frequently to support prosecutions involving the most vulnerable victims. The force has seen a positive increase in its use within sexual offences and continues to train officers from other departments around its benefits and uses. As previously referenced in a recent Public Accountability Report, the force has agreed to fund the post for a further 12 months whilst work continues to be embedded across departments with the goal to increase satisfaction across the criminal justice portfolio and reduce victim attrition by increasing support.</p>	

The identification of vulnerability for officers attending incidents and work around the initial victim needs assessment is ongoing. A training programme has been undertaken across new recruits to upskill them as to the requirements and its importance. There is currently IT work underway to allow officers to record the initial victim needs assessment (IVNA) directly from their mobile device onto the associated investigation. This will ensure that appropriate measures can be put in place to support victims and an audit trail is maintained. Once this IT change is implemented, a week of focus using internal media will be planned to inform officers of their obligations and the benefits of this.

The force has now implemented the Single Online Home (SOH) national website which will incorporate online reporting of DA and an online Clares Law Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application process.

Whilst the force is already using its own online reporting tool and is processing DVDS applications via the Police.co.uk website, the new SOH will improve accessibility for the public and will conform to a national template.

#### **DA Victim Satisfaction Summary: March to May 2024 (crimes reported in January to March 2024)**

Overall Satisfaction: remained stable at 78 per cent (133 victims)

- The below aspects of service have remained stable.
  - First Response (92 per cent, 102 victims)
  - Initial actions (81 per cent, 129 victims)
  - Investigation (67 per cent, 109 victims)
  - Treatment (90 per cent, 131 victims),
- **Follow up** continued to be the aspect of service with the lowest satisfaction, however, this has remained stable at 56 per cent (116 victims).
- Key indicators include:
  - 88 per cent of victims reported they would feel confident contacting police again.
  - 46 per cent of victims reported having been dealt with by **three or more different officers** throughout the course of the investigation.
  - 41 per cent reported that formal action was taken against the perpetrator, 42 per cent said they wanted formal action to be taken.
- All districts were in line with the force average of 78 per cent.

#### **Stalking Victim Satisfaction Summary: December 2023 to May 2024**

Overall Satisfaction: remained stable at 68 per cent (66 victims)

- The below aspects of service have remained stable.
  - First Response (86 per cent, 59 victims)
  - Initial actions (71 per cent, 63 victims)
  - Investigation (62 per cent, 53 victims)
  - Treatment (78 per cent, 65 victims),
- **Follow up** continued to be the aspect of service with the lowest satisfaction, however, this has remained stable at 57 per cent (53 victims).
- Key indicators include:
  - 82 per cent of victims reported they would feel confident contacting police again.
  - 38 per cent of victims reported having been dealt with by **three or more different officers** throughout the course of the investigation.

- 28 per cent reported that formal action was taken against the perpetrator, and 45 per cent said they wanted formal action to be taken.

*We do not recommend only looking at one month when the sample size is small, longer-term trends, e.g. over 12 months, should also be considered).*

The main challenge with DA appears to be around investigations. There is an ongoing DA investigation Teams review and work being conducted by the Criminal Justice (CJ) team to improve file quality and the charge rate with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The national DA Joint Justice plan which aims to improve DA victims CJ outcomes nationally is still awaiting sign off which has been delayed due to the general election.

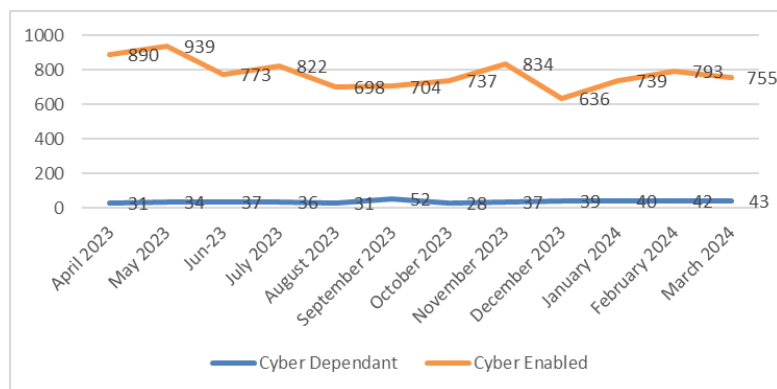
### Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

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

Recorded

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

Recorded cybercrime offences have continued to increase in recent years, with just under 10,000 offences recorded in 2023/24. The largest cybercrime categories are malicious communications, harassment, fraud, obscene publications and blackmail.



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

Force response to reducing cyber crime

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

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

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

Digital Media Investigators across the force work to support local officer knowledge and capability. Street Skills training, reaching all frontline response and NPT officers, includes cyber-

crime input. The force has an internal intranet page dedicated to cybercrime to provide an information support for all officers. This includes the force's Little Book of Cyber Scams, and links to the Met Police mini videos on various cyber scam topics.

ISO 17025 is the international standard applicable for all laboratories performing calibrations and/or tests. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national body with responsibility for assessing organisations that provide these services. In 2019, the force gained accreditation in the physical capture and preservation of data from computer related devices and in Autumn 2020 completed an extension to scope the capture and processing of data from mobile devices. The force recognises the need to continually improve the resources and training to respond to and prevent cybercrime and is committed to continued investment in digitally capability.

**Ongoing focus –May 2024**

DCI Anna Sedgewick (Digital Investigations and Cyber)

There is currently a regionally managed, locally delivered approach to cybercrime. South Yorkshire Police has a resolute team of pursue officers and a protect/prevent officer who deal with cybercrime. The pursue officers are dedicated to investigation cybercrime whilst the protect/prevent officer whose primary role is engagement with the communities and businesses in South Yorkshire to deliver advice aimed at reducing the risk of them becoming a victim of cybercrime.

All cyber investigations are reviewed by the pursue officers to identify any positive lines of enquiries and opportunities for disruption. The protect officer uses a variety of engagement methods including bespoke victim engagement or larger scale events and presentations.

In March 2024, a new South Yorkshire Police Economic Crime strategy was launched with focus on the following:

- Ensure an effective capability to tackle cyber criminality.

To do this succeed in this the Force Cyber Crime Unit will.

- Understand the demand.
- Develop the workforce to allow staff to develop and improve skills within a cybercrime environment.
- Focus on victims by providing advice to all victims, provide support to victims and understand the needs and concerns of the victims.
- Ensure partnership working with Regional Organised Crime Unit and City of London Police.
- Disrupt offenders through early intervention.