Police and Crime Plan Performance Report

QUARTER 3 2024/25 - 1ST OCTOBER 2024 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024

The South Yorkshire Mayor unveiled his first Police and Crime Plan for building a safer South Yorkshire at a special meeting of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel on 17 March 2025. The new Plan runs from April 2025 for four years.

However, as this report covers the period for Quarter 3 2024/25 (1st October to 31st December 2024) it is structured around the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire 2023-2025 in place at that time which was set by the former Police and Crime Commissioner. These are:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Treating People Fairly

In working to deliver on these priorities, there are also four Fundamental Principles identified that underpin everything that the police and partners do:

- Put victims first.
- Improve public trust and confidence in policing.
- Demonstrate value for money.
- Support sustainability.

This report aims to provide an overview of the progress of all policing and crime partners across South Yorkshire against achieving the priorities of the 2023-2025 Plan. The quarterly reports cannot include everything being delivered, however more information can be found online here: www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore/policing-and-reform-directorate.

National Priorities for Policing

The National Priorities for Policing were introduced by the Government in 2021/22. The priorities are specified by the Government in the National Crime and Policing Measures. The aim of the national measures is to complement existing local priorities set out in the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan. All of the national priorities are included in the current Police and Crime Plan.

The key national policing priorities are:

- Reduce murder and other homicide.
- Reduce serious violence.
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines.
- Reduce neighbourhood crime.
- Improve victim satisfaction with a focus on victims of domestic abuse.
- Tackle cybercrime.

There is a requirement for the local policing body (either a Police and Crime Commissioner or a Mayor) to provide a statement on the contribution of South Yorkshire Police to achieving improvements against these national priorities and the latest statement can be found online here: www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk. This report also contains information relevant to the national priorities.

Disclaimer

Much of the performance indicator data used in the graphs in this report is not yet fully audited and is subject to change as records are updated and quality checks undertaken. Therefore, data is subject to change until published by the Office for National Statistics and cannot be reproduced without permission from the owner of the data.

Police and Crime Plan Summary Dashboard

Protecting Vulnerable People			
Measure	**12 Months to Dec 23**	**12 Months to Dec 24**	**Trend***
Recorded Domestic Abuse Crimes (1)	24,340	23,561	↓
Domestic Abuse Crime Arrest Rate (1)	44%	42%	↓
Recorded Sexual Offences (1)	4623	5280	↑
% Of crimes where victim is assessed as vulnerable (1)	32%	32%	↔
Vulnerable victims satisfied with police experience (8)	71%	68%	Change not statistically significant
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour			
Measure	**12 Months to Dec 23**	**12 Months to Dec 24**	**Trend***
SYP Recorded level of Anti-Social Behaviour (1)	25,696	25,747	↕
Recorded level of all crime (excl. fraud) (1)	157,246	152,111	↕
Measure	**Data published October 2024 (Jam 22 to Dec 22 cohort)**	**Data published January 2025 (Apr 22 to Mar 23 cohort)**	**Trend***
Rate of proven re-offending (adults) (2) (Lower rates are better)	30.7%	31.2% (England/Wales 26.0%)	↕
Rate of proven re-offending (youth) (2) (Lower rates are better)	29.4%	28.1% (England/Wales 32.5%)	↕
Measure	**12 months to Sept 23**	**12 months to Sept 24**	**Trend***
Serious crimes involving a knife or sharp instrument (3)	1,619	1,459	↓
Treating People Fairly			
Measure	**12 Months to Dec 23**	**12 Months to Dec 24**	**Comparison**
% Of people saying police do a good/excellent job (7)	27%	27%	Change not statistically significant
Measure	**Oct 23 to Dec 23**	**Oct 24 to Dec 24**	**Trend***
No. of cases created by Restorative Justice service (active referrals) (4) More information on type of referrals on page 29	81	88	↑
Measure	**12 Months to Dec 23**	**12 Months to Dec 24**	**Trend***
Stop and Search conducted (1)	12,209	12,114	↓
Providing Value For Money For Policing and Crime Services			
Year end forecast to 31st March 2025 as at 31st December 2024			
End of year forecast (Revenue) (6)	£ 6.4m surplus		
End of year forecast (Capital) (6)	Against a revised capital programme of £17.4m – expected to spend in full		

Source: (1) SYP, (2) MoJ, (3) ONS (4) Remedi, (6) SYMCA (7) SYP Your Voice Counts Survey, (8) SYP survey undertaken 6 to 8 weeks after the crime

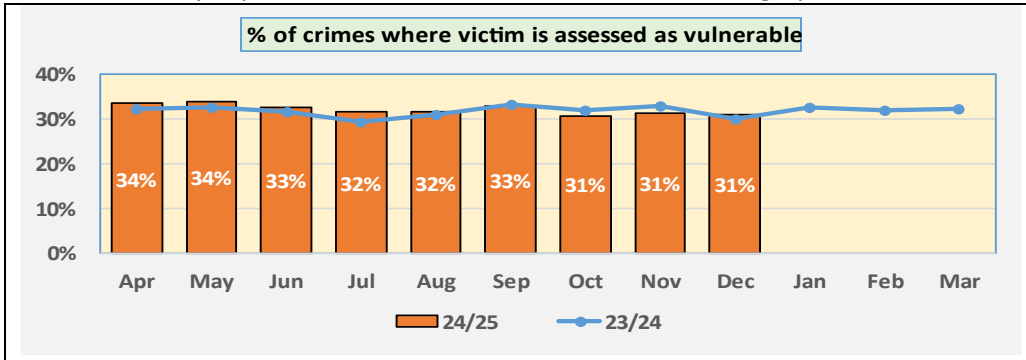
* Unless otherwise stated, the arrows denote the direction of travel rather than any statistically significant increase/decrease. Statistical significance is used in this report in relation to survey data to help understand whether one set of responses is actually different to another set of responses, taking account of differences in size of survey sample or population. If the result is not statistically significant, then this means that the results for each group are not considered to be sufficiently different to demonstrate any real change in perception.

1. Protecting Vulnerable People

Within this priority, the areas of focus are:

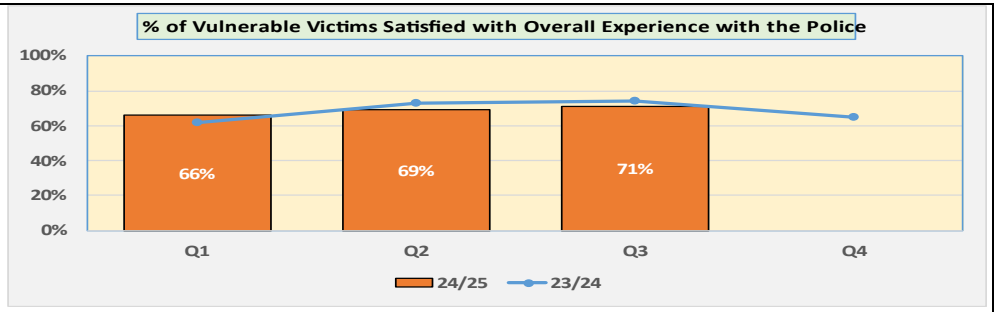
- Working in Partnership to Protect Vulnerable People
- Domestic Abuse (DA)
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Tackling the Exploitation of Adults and Children
- Tackling Fraud and Cyber Crime

This section of the report includes a look at data and performance indicators as well as information about the range of work going on aimed at protecting vulnerable people - details of which are included after the graphs.



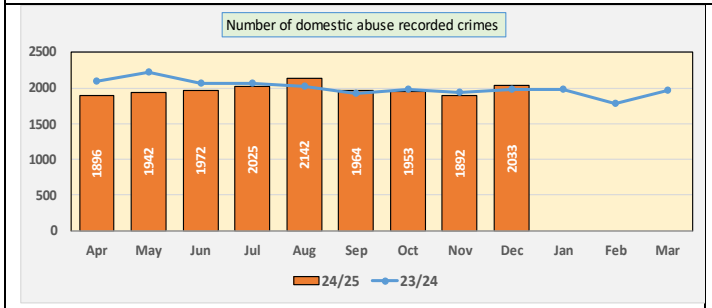
Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

The % of crimes where a victim is assessed as vulnerable in Q3 24/25 is in line with the % of victims assessed as vulnerable in the previous quarter and the same period last year.



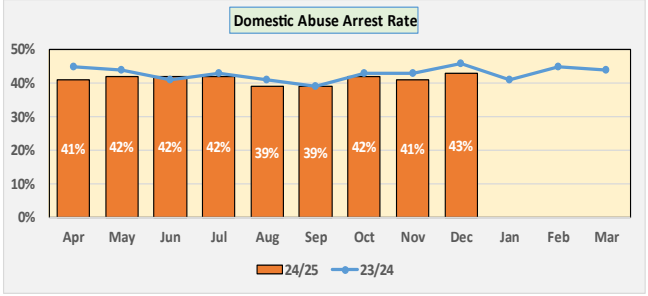
Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

In Q3 24/25, 71% of vulnerable victims were satisfied with their overall experience with the Police, an increase from the previous quarter, and the same period in 23/24, but these increases were not statistically significant. Victim satisfaction data is collected by a telephone survey conducted 4-10 weeks after reporting.



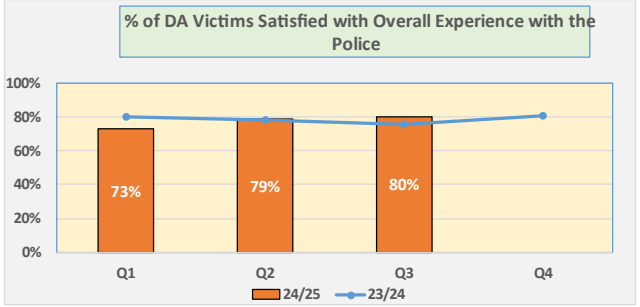
Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

There has been a decrease in DA recorded crimes in Q3 24/25 compared to the previous quarter and the same period last year. Comparisons with the previous year may be impacted by changes to the Home Office crime counting rules. SYP and SYMCA continue to ensure victims have the confidence and ability to easily report domestic abuse, including through an online reporting portal.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change.

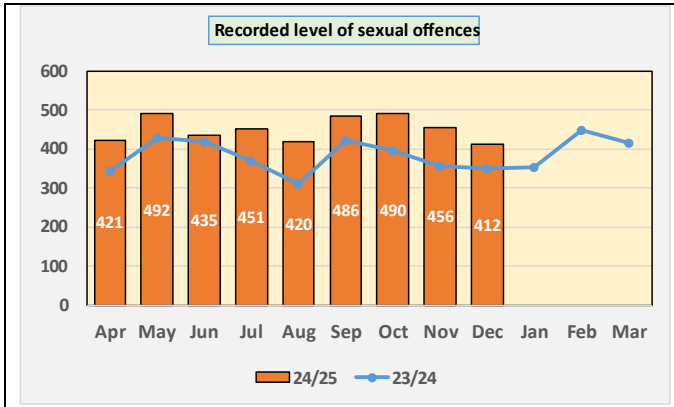
The proportion of all domestic abuse (DA) crimes with an arrest has increased slightly compared to last quarter. The arrest rate for high-risk DA cases remains between 89% & 90%. Domestic abuse is a priority for SYP and SYMCA. Dedicated domestic abuse teams have been set up to deal specifically with DA crime.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

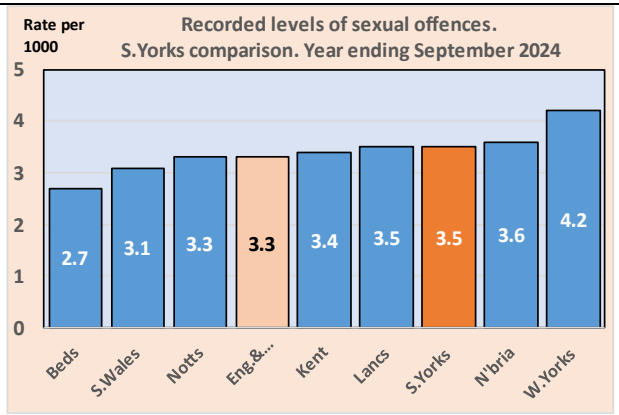
The % of domestic abuse victims satisfied with their overall experience with the police was 80% in Q3 24/25. There is no statistically significant difference compared to Q2 24/25 or the same period last year. A telephone survey is conducted around 8 weeks after reporting. 142 domestic abuse victims completed the survey in Q3.

1. Protecting Vulnerable People



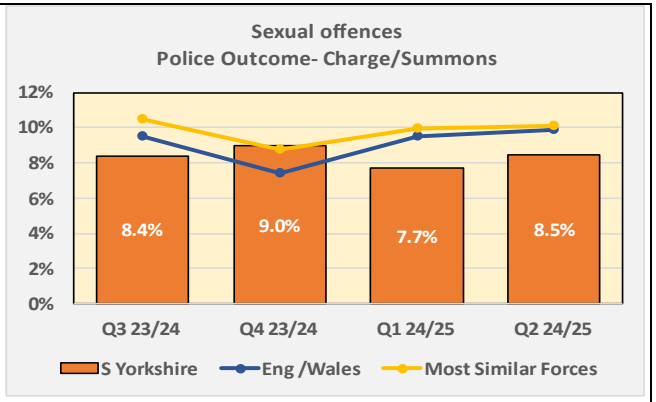
Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

The recorded level of sexual offences in Q3 24/25 has remained stable compared to the previous quarter but has increased from the same period last year. Looking at rape offences, the recorded level of rape in Q3 has decreased from the previous quarter but increased compared to the same quarter last year.



Source: ONS – Police Recorded Crime

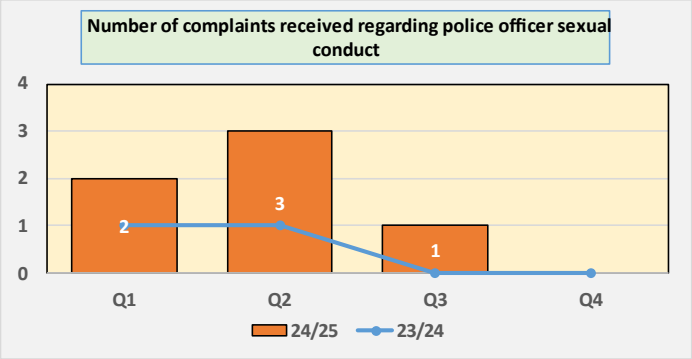
Latest data up to September 2024 shows South Yorkshire Police has slightly higher rates of recorded sexual offences than average. Sexual offences are under-reported nationally, so it is important that victims have confidence in reporting to the police.



Source: ONS – Police Recorded Outcomes

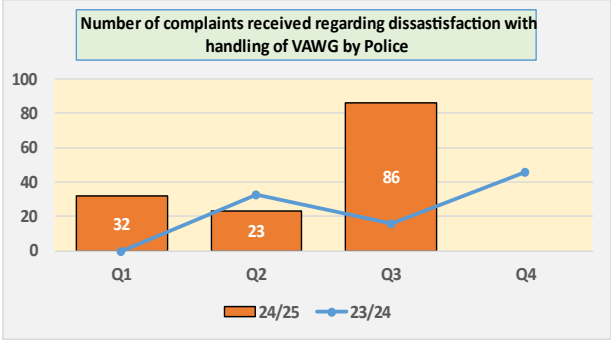
The latest ONS data shows that SYP had lower than average police charge/summons rates for sexual offences in Q2 24/25 when compared to SYP's most similar forces. SYP also sits below the England and Wales average.

However, looking at rape offences specifically, SYP has higher charge summons rates in Q2 24/25. At 9.0% SYP has 4th highest charge/summons rate of its most similar force group for rape offences. In comparison, the national average is 8.7%.



Source: IOPC Police Complaints Information Bulletin

In Q3 24/25, there was one complaint made to SYP about police officer sexual conduct, a decrease from the previous quarter but more than the same quarter last year.



Source: IOPC Police Complaints Information Bulletin

In Q3 24/25, there were 86 complaints made to SYP regarding dissatisfaction with the handling of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) by SYP. This is higher than the number received in Q2 24/25 (23) and Q3 23/24 (16).

1. Protecting Vulnerable People

Anyone may become a victim of crime and if that happens, people need to have confidence that they will receive a timely and supportive response. Protecting women and girls is a key area of focus as well as making sure all vulnerable victims and their needs are recognised at the earliest opportunity so that they can be supported in the most appropriate way. It is important that feedback from victims is sought to make sure that the services commissioned to support people are effective in meeting the needs of all victims including victims of sexual offences who may be particularly vulnerable. However, over recent years, many requests for a police service are not directly about crime, but about safeguarding the vulnerable – such as those who are missing from home or those with mental health issues. Supporting and safeguarding is the responsibility of all agencies who must continue to work together to protect the most vulnerable in society.

South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partnership - Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) and Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (CHISVA)

The ISVA/CHISVA service is a South Yorkshire service with bespoke teams across each of the districts.

Overall, total referrals to the South Yorkshire ISVA service increased by 7.3% in quarter 3, rising from 411 in quarter 2 to 441 in quarter 3. Sheffield and Barnsley saw a notable increase in the number of referrals received compared to quarter 2, while Doncaster and Rotherham experienced minimal change.

In quarter 3, the partnership saw a 2.7% increase in the total number of active clients compared to quarter 2, supporting an average of 1268 active clients.

The genders of active clients across the partnership remain at comparable levels to quarter 2, with the largest group being people who identify as female (88.2%), followed by people who identify as male (9.6%). The proportion of people identifying as transgender, non-binary or other remained at a similar level to quarter 2, forming 1.8% of the total client group.

People aged 13-17 years continued to be the most common age group of active clients across the partnership in quarter 3, forming 22.6% of all active clients. The number of young people accessing ISVA services across the partnership remained at a consistent level in quarter 3; just under a third of active clients were aged 0-17 years (31.5%), which continues to demonstrate the demand for support for children and young people in the region. While this is positive as it indicates that more young people are receiving the support they need, it also raises capacity concerns for Children's ISVAs, who maintain a smaller caseload in order to manage the additional work that comes with supporting young people and their families. Following the 13-17 age group, people aged between 25 and 34 years were the second most popular age group across the four services and formed 21.8% of total active clients in quarter 3.

The majority of active clients across the region identify as heterosexual (48.3%), while 11.0% identify as LGBTQ+. The remaining 40.7% of active clients either have not provided or prefer not to disclose their sexual orientation. Similarly, White continues to be most recorded ethnicity among our active clients (74.3%). The proportion of minority ethnic clients across the partnership remained at a similar level to quarter 2, at 8.8% in quarter 3, and the remaining 16.9% of clients have either not provided or prefer not to disclose their ethnicity.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The co-commissioned SARC service at Hackenthorpe Lodge has continued to provide free, confidential healthcare and compassionate support to

1. Protecting Vulnerable People

anyone in South Yorkshire that has experienced sexual assault or rape. The centre provides support and guidance, a medical assessment/treatment, a forensic examination, and the opportunity of aftercare referrals for support services. People attending the centre are offered these services based on their own individual needs and can choose to use as much or as little of the service as they wish.

Case referral numbers in South Yorkshire decreased in Q3 24/25 compared to Q2, with 123 referrals in Q3, compared to 149 in Q2. Referrals into the service are predominantly from the police (63% in Q3) followed by self-referrals at 26%. Police referrals have seen a slight decrease from Q3 (66% in Q2), whereas self-referrals have increased (22% in Q2).

The majority of people using the SARC in Q3 identified as female (85%). The proportion of male users of the service has decreased slightly in Q3 compared to the previous quarter. In respect of ethnicity, those identifying as white British are still the predominant users of SARC services.

Child Sexual Assault Referral Centre
South Yorkshire also has a separate dedicated children's Sexual Assault Assessment Service based within the Sheffield Children's Hospital. The service provides specialist support, including forensic examinations as required, for children (under 16 years of age) where there is a concern about recent (acute) or non-recent (historic) disclosure or suspicion of sexual abuse. The children's SARC also accepts referrals for young people aged 16 and 17 years old who have additional vulnerabilities and provides support where concerns about sexual exploitation or other child protection issues exist.

There were 38 referrals made to the children's SARC in Q3 24/25, 23 of which were acute referrals and 15 were non-recent child sexual assault referrals. This is a decrease from the previous quarter, where there were 46 referrals made (28 acute and 18 non-recent).

The majority of referrals identified as female (91% acute and 73% non-recent). In respect of ethnicity, those identifying as white British were the majority of referrals (87% acute and 60% non-recent).

'Cranstoun Inspire to Change'- Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme
The Cranstoun Inspire to Change (CITC) programme is a voluntary behaviour change programme targeted at the perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Quarter three saw 97 referrals made to the service across South Yorkshire, an increase from the previous quarter. Police referrals accounted for five of those referrals (5%), 65 from Childrens Social Care (67%) and 7 self-referrals (7%). The lower number of police referrals have been raised with the relevant Assistant Chief Constable and are being discussed at district quarterly performance meetings.

Referral breakdown by area:

- Sheffield – 28 referrals (29%)
- Rotherham – 31 referrals (32%)
- Doncaster – 23 referrals (24%)
- Barnsley – 15 referrals (15%)

100% of referrals made into the service were offered an assessment appointment within five working days of first contact.

During the quarter, ten cases exited the service early for the following reason:

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1. Protecting Vulnerable People

- 8 – Dropped out after completing more than one session of an intervention.
- 2 – Were removed from the group due to behaviour which includes a lack of engagement or attendance with intervention.

Of the 97 referrals, 28 successfully commenced intervention which equates to 29%.

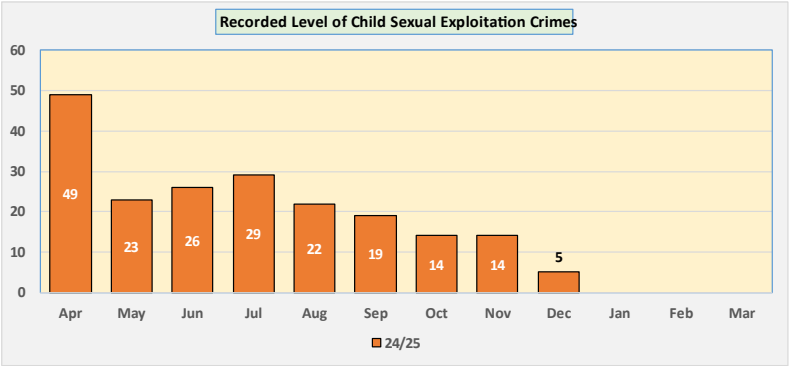
The Men and Masculinities programme continues to be run face to face in each of the four areas. Practitioners continue to carry out ongoing assessments for service users showing little or no accountability which is reviewed periodically in supervision.

The service continues to deliver an online option for those that are physically unable to attend face to face (for example, if they work out of area without the opportunity to return). Each key worker continues to also deliver one to one work to an average of five service users per week.

There were 22 completions for the quarter. The completions by area are as follows:

- Sheffield – 6
- Rotherham – 5
- Doncaster – 5
- Barnsley – 6

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



The chart above shows a reduction in the number of recorded CSE crimes. However, this is as a result of a full-scale review of CSE related data, and the accuracy of keywords used in the recording of crimes related to CSE. A Panel was set up during Q2 to review the quality and accuracy of crime recording in line with national definitions of CSE. The Panel found some over-recording and therefore data has been corrected in line with those national definitions. Where the panel established the misuse of the keyword, the keyword was removed. The review considered all offences committed since 1st January 2024.

To ensure keyword consistency in future, new lines of accountability have been identified, and a new process designed. The new process commenced on the 3rd of September 2024 and consists of a dedicated management information report shared with each of the four district Child Exploitation teams. The report lists all investigations flagged as CSE (individual or group based) for that particular district for the previous seven days. It then

1. Protecting Vulnerable People

becomes the responsibility of the Child Exploitation team sergeant to review the investigation and to ensure that any keywords have been appropriately applied. The approach governs the use of crime recording keywords and provides a more accurate understanding of CSE related offending in South Yorkshire.

Running alongside this approach SYP pay close attention to the number of safeguarding investigations (an investigation where there is a safeguarding concern but not a crime to investigate). The number of safeguarding investigations (non-crimes) has remained consistent when compared to previous years reinforcing the forces priority of identifying vulnerability and protecting/preventing offending from taking place. This activity is carried out within the multi agencies teams found in each of the forces four districts.

Vulnerability and Mental Health (MH)

There have been 2 significant developments within the last quarter, in terms of mental health. The first is the launch of a new management information report, which provides almost live time data in relation to Section 136 detentions. This provides data in relation to the numbers of detentions in each of the force Districts but also, crucially, where those detentions are transported to as a place of safety and how long officers are remaining with detainees before a full handover to trained mental health staff. This is still a product in development and data quality remains an issue, but this is a significant step forward.

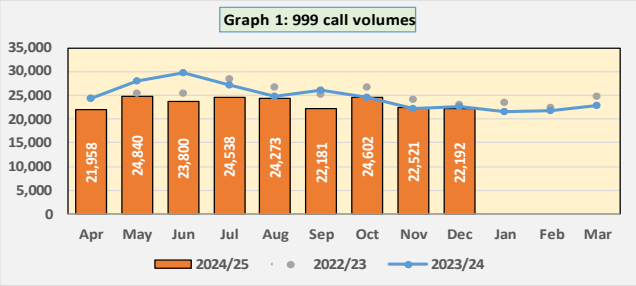
The second development is the launch of a new Section 136 suite in Sheffield at the end of January. This is a 'ringfenced' provision to Section 136 detainees for the whole county, and it brings the total number of dedicated suites (when all in service) to six. This has already led to lower handover times in Sheffield and reduced pressure on some of the other suites. The availability of the suites, patient flow and the handover time remains a focus and a priority workstream within the partnership.

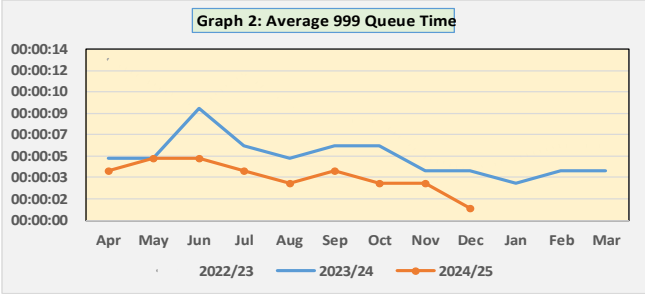
One other area to mention is that Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) launched their third South Yorkshire Mental Health Response Vehicle (plain ambulance with paramedics with enhanced mental health training) in February. This vehicle is based in Barnsley and, like the Sheffield and Rotherham / Doncaster vehicle) will respond to mental health related incidents from the YAS incident queue.

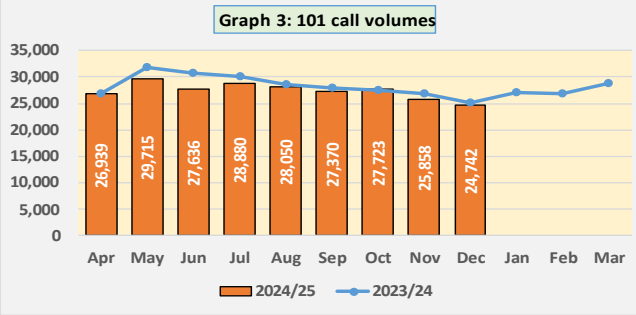
Looking further afield, the Mental Health Bill continues its journey through parliament. This will likely be some time before it becomes law but would see the formal removal of police stations as a 'place of safety'.

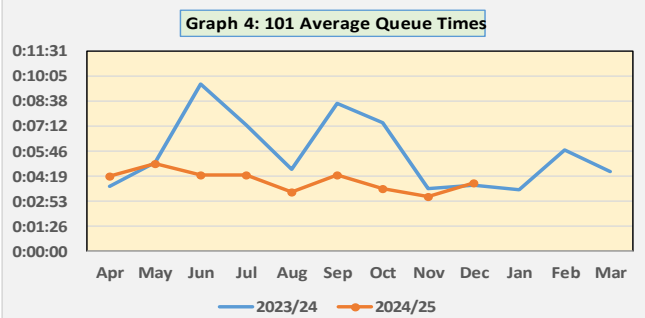
999 and 101 Calls[1]

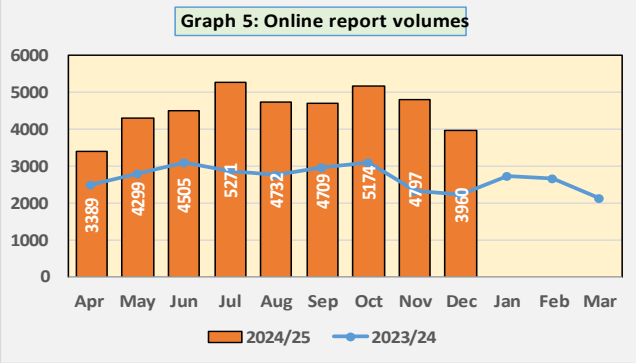
The Government publish national data for all forces in respect of 999 call handling performance on the Police.UK website which uses data provided by BT. The BT data will differ slightly to the data provided below, which is from SYP's own call handling system. The BT data measures call handling times from a slightly different perspective. More information about this can be found on the Police.UK website.

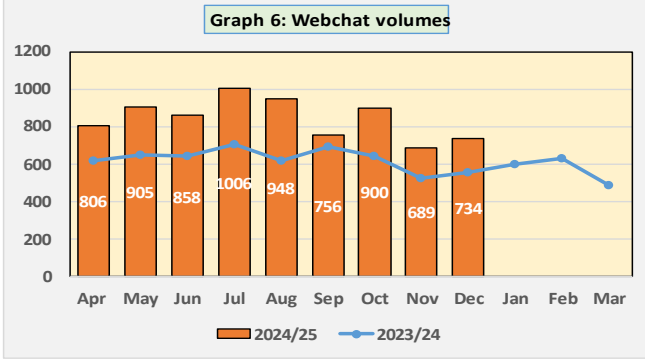












A new online contact system from April 24 will affect comparisons with 2023/24.

999 calls: 999 call volumes have decreased slightly in Q3 compared to last quarter. Volumes have remained stable compared to Q3 last year. (Graph 1). The average call wait time has decreased in Q3 compared to Q2 at around 2 seconds (Graph 2).

101 calls: Volumes of 101 calls have decreased in Q3 24/25 compared to Q2 (Graph 3) and the same period last year. The average 101 wait time during Q3 (the orange line in graph 4) was around 3m 34s, lower than the previous quarter.

Callers to 101 are now able to choose from a range of options before being put through to switchboard (or any option selected). As a result, the wait time after 15/09/2022 is now measured slightly differently and so this should be borne in mind when comparing wait times from before this period.

Online Reporting:

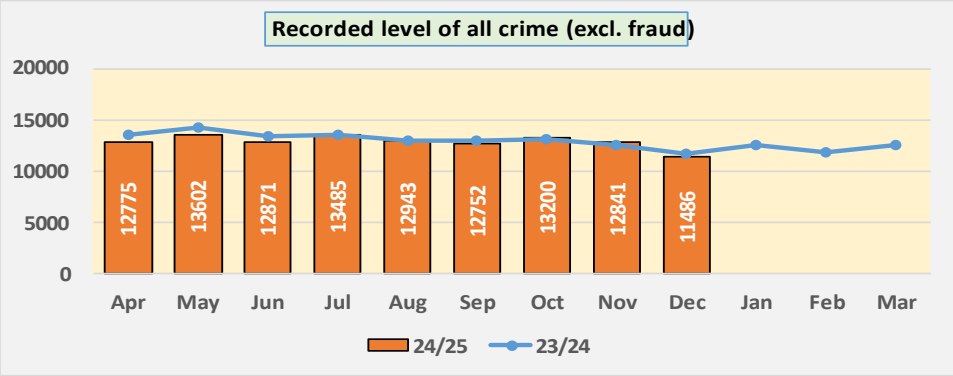
Members of the public can contact SYP using an online portal which has two methods of contact – online forms (which are bespoke by topic), and a webchat. Online report volumes decreased in Q3 24/25 compared to Q2 with 13,931 reports recorded. There were 2,323 webchats recorded in Q3, a decrease compared to Q2 but higher than Q3 23/24. The average webchat response time during Q3 was 2 minutes 37 seconds, an increase from Q2. A new system for online contact was introduced during Q1 by SYP. This needs to be taken into account when comparing 24/25 data with data from previous periods.

[1] 101 is the number for contacting the police about something that is not an emergency.

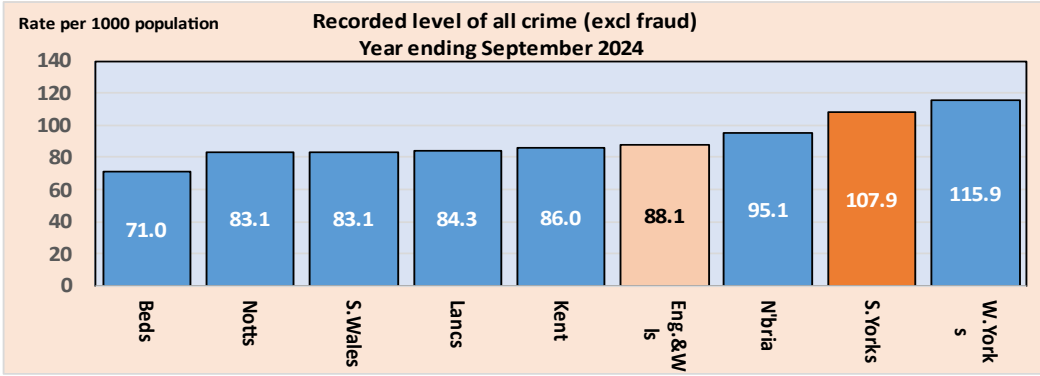
2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The indicators and narrative chosen for this section of the report aim to show achievement against the following areas of focus within the current Police and Crime Plan, namely:

- Neighbourhood Crimes and Policing
- Organised Crime and Serious Violence
- Local Partnerships
- Speeding and Road Safety
- Drugs Supply and Demand
- Violence Reduction Unit and Violence Reduction Strategy
- Rural and Wildlife Crime
- National Threats



The levels of total recorded crime (excl. fraud) have decreased in Q3 24/25 compared to Q2 24/25. The level of total recorded crime in Q3 was in line with the same period last year. The comparative 12-month rate across South Yorkshire is reducing (see dashboard at the start of this report). Changes to crime recording rules will impact comparisons.

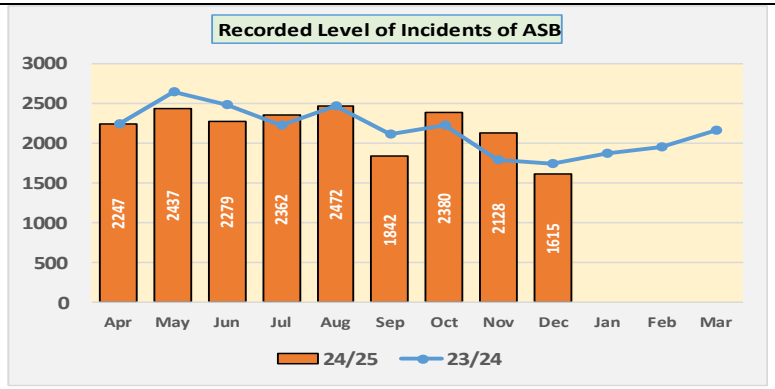


Source: ONS

Latest available comparator data shows South Yorkshire has the second highest rate of total recorded crime (excl. fraud) per 1000 population compared to the most similar group of police forces and the England and Wales average.

SYP: District Recorded Crime (excl. fraud)	Barnsley	Doncaster	Rotherham	Sheffield
% Change 12 months to December 24 compared to 12 months to December 23	-3.4%	-6.2%	-3.3%	-1.3%
Volume 12 months to 31.12.24	25,655	39,183	25,605	59,751
Volume 12 months to 31.12.23	26,567	41,783	26,476	60,565

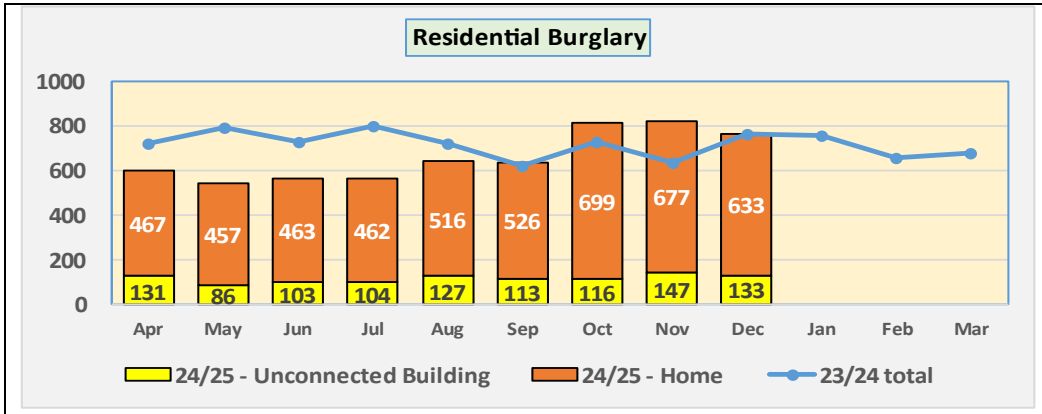
Source: SYP – Unaudited data subject to change.



Source: SYP – Unaudited data subject to change

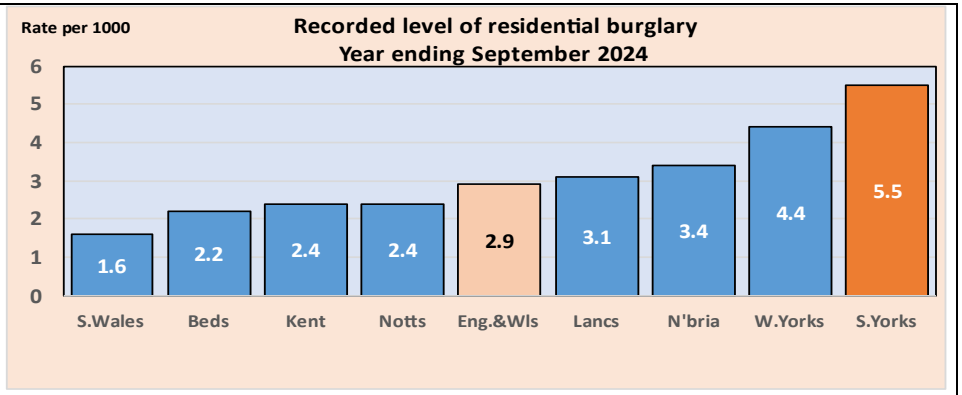
There has been a decrease in recorded levels of ASB in Q3 24/25 compared to the previous quarter. Levels are higher than the same period last year. Local authorities also record some ASB incidents which are not included here.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



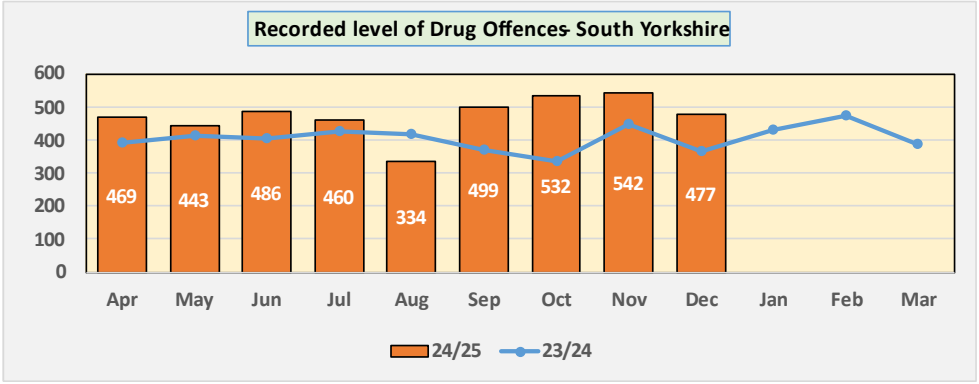
Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

Recorded levels of residential burglary have increased in Q3 24/25 compared to the previous quarter and the equivalent period last year. SYP continue to focus specifically on tackling residential burglary in line with residents' priorities. Data and force initiatives are being closely monitored to check the impact of this work.



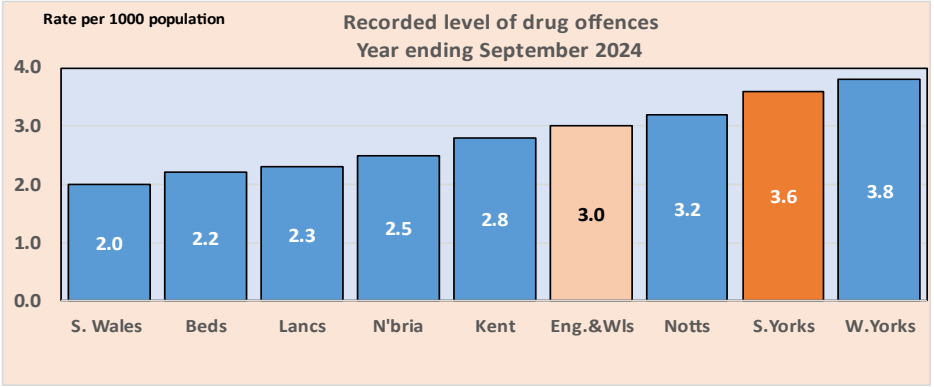
Source: ONS – Police Recorded Crime

The latest comparator data for the 12 months to the end of September 2024 shows that South Yorkshire has a higher rate of residential burglary than the similar group of forces and the national average. Tackling residential burglary is a priority for all districts with several specific operations and initiatives in place to tackle the issue.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

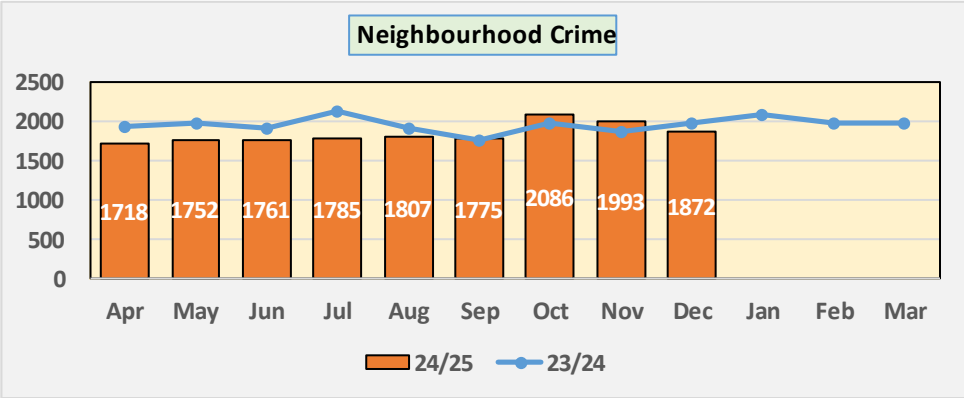
The recorded level of drugs offences in Q3 2024/25 have increased from the previous quarter and the equivalent period last year. Drugs offences include the possession and trafficking of drugs. Levels of recorded drug offences will increase as more pro-active work is undertaken by the police to tackle drug crime.



Source: ONS – Police Recorded Crime

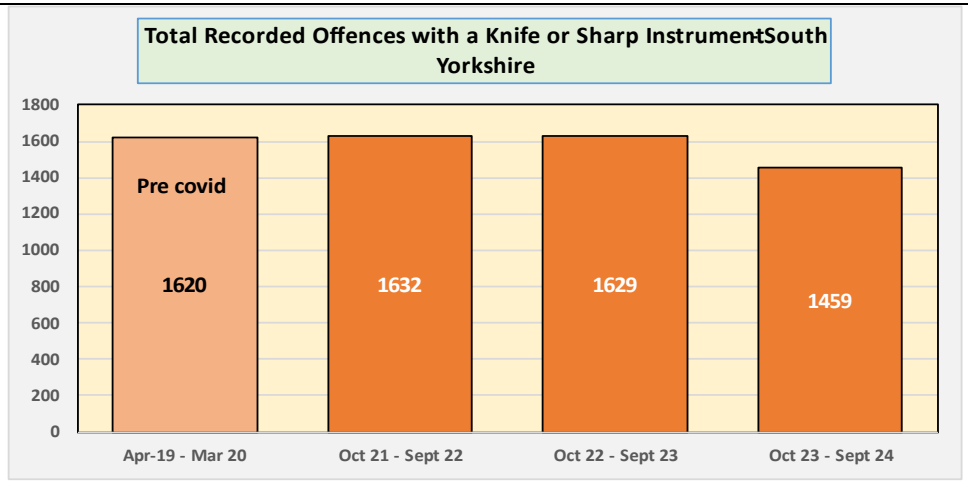
The latest comparator data for the year ending September 24 shows South Yorkshire recorded a rate of 3.6 drug offences per 1000 population, higher than the England and Wales average of 3.0 and above the average of the similar group of forces. Levels of recorded drug offences will increase as more pro-active work is undertaken by the police to tackle drug crime.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



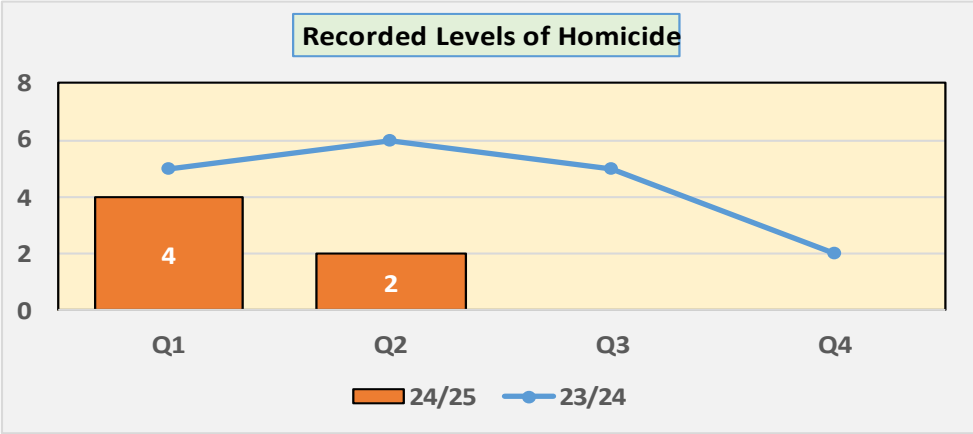
Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

The recorded level of neighbourhood crime in Q3 24/25 is higher than levels in Q2 and the same period last year. Neighbourhood crime includes Residential Burglary, Robbery of Personal Property, Theft from the Person, Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Vehicle, Theft from a Vehicle, and Interfering with a Vehicle.



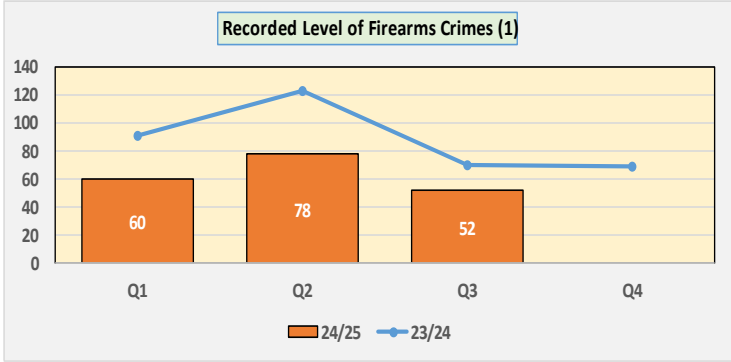
Source: ONS – Police Recorded Crime

The recorded level of crimes involving a knife or sharp instrument has decreased in the year ending September 24 compared to the previous 12-month period.



Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

There were no homicides recorded in Q3 24/25 in South Yorkshire. It should be noted that Homicide figures can change as inquests are concluded. Homicide includes murder, manslaughter, corporate manslaughter, and infanticide.



1). A firearm is defined as used if it is fired, used as a blunt instrument to cause injury to a person or used as a threat. This includes a threat made with a concealed firearm.

Source: South Yorkshire Police – unaudited data subject to change

The recorded level of firearms crimes in Q3 24/25 was lower than Q2 24/25 and lower than the same period last year.

(1) Firearms crimes includes the use of imitation firearms, air weapons if a violent crime or burglary and stun guns.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

CSPs and the VRU are a key way in which all partners across South Yorkshire work together to keep people safe. CSPs are made of up of representatives from South Yorkshire Police, Local Authorities, Health services, Housing Associations, Fire and Rescue Services and some of the Criminal Justice partners covering. They cover each of the 4 South Yorkshire districts, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. The Mayor holds bi-monthly meetings of the County Wide Community Safety Forum where representatives from each partnership come together. This is how the 4 CSPs have been working to tackle issues of concern to local residents.

Barnsley CSP - Safer Barnsley Partnership

During quarter three, there have been positive trends in crime rates and a reduction in antisocial behaviour. The partnership's proactive approach has led to increased interventions, particularly in prosecuting environmental crimes and enforcing Criminal Behaviour Orders against high-risk offenders, underscoring the partnership's commitment to deterring criminal activity and protecting the community.

Despite these successes, the partnership remains vigilant regarding ongoing challenges, particularly in relation to antisocial behaviour in the town centre, environmental crime, and off-road vehicle nuisance. Barnsley CSP also continue to see increases in demand around environmental crime and blight. These issues continue to impact the quality of life for residents and require sustained attention and innovative solutions.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

Volumes of ASB have reduced during quarter three. Numerous successful off road biking operations throughout the year and joint operations such as Civitas will have contributed to achieving the target. Off Road biking continues to be a priority for communities, raised at community meetings.

ASB week ran from the 18th-24th of November. The themes this year were as follows:

- Monday 18th - Partnership Day
- Tuesday 19th - Victims Day
- Wednesday 20th - "Let's Talk ASB" Day
- Thursday 21st - Community Heroes Day
- Friday 22nd - Young People's Day
- Sat 23rd - ASB and Health Day
- Sun 24th - Community Action Day

The team set up and attended market stalls in the town centre promoting their work and vulnerable people in the community were visited. Colleagues from Wirral visited the D' Clutter Club to see how this is run and took away some very useful learning. ASB directed patrols were made on the Summer Lane Estate. Properties that had been the subject of possession cases and closure orders were visited. ASB focused Webinars were attended during the week. The ASB week coincided with Safeguarding Awareness Week, Operation Duxford and the directed work being carried out in Honeywell.

Tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG):

Funding from the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has helped to create a safe space within Barnsley town centre and the nighttime economy. The Night life Angels compliment The Night Life Angels initiative to support vulnerable female nighttime revellers in Barnsley nighttime economy has

been funded for another year into 2025/2026. So far this quarter, 47 young people have been engaged with and safeguarded (this means taken to a place of safety, reunited with friends or family or assisted to get home safely).

Significant investment has been provided by the VRU to improve the safety of the Barnsley public with the funding of a Safe space for anyone who needs support whilst on a night out. The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit continues to support many different initiatives and organisations to reduce domestic violence and is working with strategic partners regionally to understand the vulnerability in the sex working industry not only within Barnsley but online and throughout South Yorkshire and regionally.

The VAWG Project lead attended community events including Safeguarding Adults Week and the Making Spirits Bright Event to promote the Ask for Angela Campaign and our newly launched safe space over the festive period.

The project lead has also been part of the planning team who have arranged the first South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Conference due to take place on 5th February 2025.

Doncaster CSP - Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP)
During Q3, the SSDP has continued to work to address issues across the Crime and Disorder spectrum and to ensure delivery against the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25 and wider Partnership Plans. The SSDP structure continues to support the activity of 6 thematic groups, governed by the Executive Board. These theme groups respond to current demand and identify future priorities across the key themes of Anti-Social Behaviour; Domestic and Sexual Abuse; Serious Organised Crime; Substance Misuse; Crime and Reoffending and Violent Crime. Each of these groups are performance managed to ensure progress and delivery of outcomes for our communities.

In relation to initiatives funded through the Community Safety Grant, the Partnership has continued to support key roles in relation to workforce development and serious organised crime, both of which continue to have a positive impact. As has been the approach in previous years, each theme group manages their own funding pot to enable them to respond to emerging issues and to facilitate planning for seasonal trends. Further activity funded to date includes: resources and training to support the domestic abuse agenda (this encompasses a range of books and training for staff and supportive measures for individuals in refuge), electric bikes and accessories to support the neighbourhood policing teams; a pop-up cabin over the Christmas period to assist with community engagement and crime prevention messages; support to the Best Bar None scheme with licensed premises; camera and lenses to support the work of the illegal off-road bike team and supporting a Safer City communications campaign.

A number of further proposals are currently being progressed. All activity undertaken will continue to positively contribute to the Community Safety Partnership priorities to tackle crime and disorder and improve the lives of Doncaster residents.

Rotherham CSP - Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Safer, Stronger Communities.
Protecting Vulnerable Children:
Training was delivered to 60 professionals on Online Risks for young people and the Misuse of social media. Further sessions are planned for February and March, in addition, training for Licensed Premises took place in November including spotting the signs of child exploitation. Further training is being planned for March.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Protecting Vulnerable Adults:
SYP Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit delivered bespoke training sessions to professionals, during Safeguarding Awareness Week in November. Training was also delivered to 450 members of the health service, including General Practitioners, Nurses and other medical professionals at an open learning event held on 14th November 2024 at the Magna Science Adventure Centre.
Safer & Stronger Communities.

Training provided to adult frontline workers and community champions to raise awareness of extreme right-wing risks in November and December.

A Rural Crime Task & Finish Group commenced work in October and meets monthly. Partners share intelligence to tackle the issue of off-road vehicles - the associated ASB and wider links to more serious criminality. Targeted days of action have taken place in 2025 so far, with more planned.

Domestic and Sexual Abuse:
Rotherham Rise is the one front door for all Domestic Abuse referrals in Rotherham. Referral numbers have been consistent. Consultation and gap analysis is ongoing to look at how the pathway into the service can be improved, as well as how we can improve the outcomes for children who experience domestic abuse (DA).

Victims presenting as homeless are receiving immediate support from the DA Homelessness Officers, with the safe accommodation and refuge being utilised and monitored on a weekly basis.

A session was held for Licensed Premises in November including Ask for Angela, Drink Spike Aware and safeguarding young people. Another session is being organised for March 2025.
The annual Reclaim the Night walk took place in November and was attended by over 100 people. Following the walk, around 60 people attended an event at the Town Hall.

Counter Terrorism:
Prevent Duty – The local Prevent risk assessment has been updated with the Prevent Partners Group; this risk assessment is being reviewed by the group on a quarterly basis. In addition, the Prevent Partners action plan and the communications and engagement strategy has been reviewed and agreed by all partners. The Channel Panel continues to meet monthly to develop and review support plans for individuals identified as susceptible to radicalisation.

Protect Duty (Martyn's Law)- The Protect and Prepare Group (PAPG) have recently completed a full review and self-assessment of against the six assessment criteria within the National Maturity Model for Local Authorities which was used for the Publicly Accessible Locations Pilot. This robust, critical, cross-partner approach challenged previous assessments, resulting in reduced assessment scores in some of the areas. A refreshed Action Plan is now in place based on the outcomes of the review.

Sheffield CSP - Safer Sheffield Partnership (SSP)
Theme group activity
ASB Theme group:

- **City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)**: City Centre PSPO was agreed by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee on 9th December with a target implementation date of April 2025. An implementation phase is now in progress A small proportion of the grant funding has been allocated to support the implementation.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- **ASB hot spots**: The hot spot patrol pilot is now in progress supporting the over-arching activity led by South Yorkshire Police (SYP). Activity focusses on 12 identified hotspot areas. Sheffield City Council's ASB team have contributed 460 patrol hours to the initiative to date.
- **Clear, Hold, Build:** Work on the Clear, Hold, Build initiative in Woodhouse is underway in conjunction with SYP and other key partners. The "Clear" phase has now concluded with positive results. Identified Organised Crime Group members have been arrested and are at various stages within the criminal justice system and several vulnerable individuals safeguarded. The emphasis has now moved to working with the community to "Hold" Woodhouse and prevent the return of such criminality.
- **Dark Nights**: The period passed without major incident. Theme Group funding supported several community events. Awaiting further information for evaluation.

Hate Crime Theme Group:

- **Hate Crime Awareness Week:** Support was provided to the multi-agency response to the annual hate crime awareness week.
- **Third party reporting centres:** On-going efforts to increase the number of third-party reporting centres continues.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):

- **White Ribbon accreditation action plan progressing:** White Ribbon Day celebrated across Sheffield City Council (SCC) and ongoing commitment to the initiative affirmed at SCC full council on 6th November 2024.
- **Cranstoun Inspire to Change Programme:** 35 individuals engaging year to date with referrals from multiple agencies. Current contract ends August 2025 – recommissioning discussion under way.
- **New VAWG / Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy:** From surviving to safety: approved by SCC Strategy and Resources Committee on 20th November 2024.
- **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences**: Issues reported with the MARAC process have been highlighted previously as a risk. Key actions to remedy include:

  - ✓ Addressing backlogs via additional resource and consideration of new business model.
  - ✓ Implementation of agreed action plan.
  - ✓ Reps and chairs training scheduled for Feb 4th, 2025.

Neighbourhood Crime and Re-offending:

- **Burglary/Theft Offences** - In order to mitigate the risk presented from high value burglary/theft offences across Sheffield during the dark nights period the theme group has supported the purchase of crime prevention materials. These are being circulated as part of broader operational and problem-solving activity delivered under *Operation Hawkeye* led by SYP.

Sheffield continues to see reductions in business burglary and robbery. Sheffield City Centre continues to see positive reductions in crime especially retail burglary. This is attributable to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams working in partnership with key stakeholders. Shop theft continues to be an issue across the district and the retail theft team aim to target those offenders who do the most harm. Consideration will be given as to how this work will complement the newly approved PSPO in the coming months.

Operation Goshawk continues following increases in the street cohort and small gangs of youths congregating in central areas. Several arrests have been made and Orders pursued. Continued patrols in these areas have

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

seen great results in dealing with offenders from the street cohort, ensuring support and diversion is integral to the response.

- **Rural Criminality** - The theme group have also supported the provision of cameras employed in rural crime settings to assist in the detection of crime and anti-social behaviour suffered by our rural communities. Particularly prevalent is the theft of plant and machinery.

Addressing the supply of drugs:

- **Fortify Awareness and Cuckooing awareness** – Shelter continue to deliver inputs across the city, with the intention of providing professionals with a greater understanding of the impact of organised crime and exploitation. With an expected attendance of 4-500 staff in total to build on the significant numbers who received the input last year. To complement this the Fortify team have delivered Fortify awareness sessions to Adullam Housing and SCC's new intake of social workers totalling an additional 45 staff.

Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP):

- **Elements Society:** The PVP theme group has worked with SYP and colleagues from the SCC Community safety team in support of the Elements society who are a national charity with a hub in the City Centre. The objective of the initiative has been to reduce ASB in and around the High Street and local business premises by engaging with young people in the town centre in order to reduce risk, vulnerability and signpost to other services by building trusting relationships. Early assessment by all involved is that the initiative has proven successful with excellent feedback from retail premises, service users and the public. The challenge ahead is securing funding for the work to continue.

Current Work in Progress

The Safer Sheffield Partnership is currently developing a revised Safer Sheffield Strategy to cover the 2025 -2028 period. A draft document has been prepared and is currently being shared for stakeholder feedback. It is hoped the strategy document will be finalised by 31/03/25.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT (SYVRU)

The SYVRU has continued to work in partnership with organisations and communities to prevent and reduce violence in South Yorkshire.

In Q3, the VRU has been carrying out visits to grant recipients who have been awarded funding through its Violence Reduction Fund. This year's fund has awarded nearly £340,000 to 19 projects across the county. The Violence Reduction Fund focuses on supporting projects working with young people aged between four and 25, with the aim of preventing them from becoming involved in violence.

The VRU has continued to engage with organisations and communities across South Yorkshire in the last quarter.

A meeting of the Preventing Violence Forum was combined with the Countywide Communications Meeting to allow both groups to input into the Knives Take Lives campaign. This was held in January.

The two groups have previously held separate meetings to bring together community and third sector organisations, giving the VRU and the organisations themselves an opportunity to deliver updates on the work they are doing and provide an opportunity to build links and strengthen relationships between organisations across South Yorkshire, ensuring a more coordinated approach to violence reduction. Both groups had similar agendas and some of the attendees attended both groups, so the

two meetings will be combined under the Preventing Violence banner for future meetings.

The Senior Communications Officer has also held separate catch-up meetings with communications colleagues from different organisations. In this quarter, this has included meetings with SYMCA, South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield United, local authorities and West Midlands OPCC.

Further areas of work in Q3 have included Violence Against Women and Girls, knife crime, the Evening and Night-Time Economy, the sex work industry, the delivery of trauma-informed training, and the A&E and Custody Navigators. The Navigator programmes work with people who are in those settings as a result of violence, to try to steer them onto a different path.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAMS (NPTs)

A key ongoing focus relates to knife enabled robbery (KER). The Chief Constable and the South Yorkshire Mayor attended the Home Office in October 2024 to discuss government plans to tackle KER alongside six other forces and how to support plans to form a national task force as part of the governments Safer Streets Mission.

South Yorkshire is one of seven forces nationally with the highest rates of KER but are the only force of this group to report a reduction in offences (four per cent) in the year ending June 2024 and volumes remain below pre covid levels. The force is supporting the national call for practice for KER and has submitted several key initiatives.

South Yorkshire Police is one of 20 forces to receive funding from the hot spot response fund, from the Home Office. This covers 'hotspot policing' and other problem-solving initiatives in areas impacted by violent crime and equated to £1.97m for 2024/2025.

The hot spot response hub coordinates and funds a wide range of proactive operations to target violent crime including robbery and these include Sceptre, the force-wide response to knife crime, Op Sentinel, Sidewinder and Scorpion in the Nighttime Economy, and Basic Mike open land searches. The hotspot response hub also coordinates and researches those subjects wanted for weapons offences and have actively chosen to avoid detection.

The South Yorkshire Police Analytical Unit and the hot spot response hub have worked together to compile a Knife Crime Index (KCI) that is able to identify and facilitate intervention, diversion and deterrence of nominals who have been identified through offence volumes and /or intelligence as connected to an aspect of knife carrying/offending. The aim is to provide a more targeted, prevention-focused response to those associated with knife crime and to identify those involved or linked to knife crime and serious violence. The list of nominals identified through the index are refreshed quarterly and disseminated through the monthly tactical tasking and coordination group (TT&CG), Thrive, and district most serious violence (MSV) meeting processes.

The KCI itself places an onus on districts and partners to devise interventions with this cohort of nominals who may carry knives and divert them from being drawn into future knife carrying and other criminal activity.

Each quarter, data that meets the following habitual knife carrier (HKC) definition is collated to create a single index of individuals.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- *Police records of those who are a suspect or offender in at least two incidents involving knife crime or possession of weapons in a public place (excluding domestic related offences), with at least one of the offences occurring in the last 12 months.*
- *Force intelligence data of individuals linked to two or more reports involving knives or other weapons within the last six months.*

Each month the robbery analyst in South Yorkshire Police produces a monthly robbery tactical document which is circulated to key officers around the force including crime and neighbourhood supervisors for local attention and action. The document includes statistics including volumes of crime, outcomes, temporal analysis, as well as further operational areas of focus such as hot spot areas, offenders of note, and recommendations under the 4P approach. Moving forward this monthly document will have a more detailed focus on KER.

The force has a dedicated 4P plan for robbery which covers the issues of KER offending and priority work for the coming quarter and focuses on reviewing the consistent ownership of KER and personal robbery offences in local investigation teams.

Road Safety

From October to December 2024, the Road Safert Partnership ran a Dark Nights campaign (focussing on the additional road safety challenges caused by fewer daylight hours), took part in Brake's National Road Safety Week and supported a national drink and drug drive operation called Op Limit. Campaign strategies included radio advertising, digital advertising vans, targeted social media messaging and traditional forms of public relations. The partnership linked up with Rotherham United for the Dark Nights campaign and local pub watch groups for the drink drive operation.

This was in addition to daily business populating social media platforms, updating and maintaining the partnership website and meeting partners to discuss delivery across the Safe System themes.

Strategic leadership of the Safer Roads Partnership has now successfully transferred to SYMCA and a South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership Manager has now been appointed which will support the Mayor to bring together those partners who can have the biggest impact. A number of Road Safety Focused Partnership events have been held and further roundtable sessions with key partners are planned focused on development of the strategic delivery plan.

There are recruitment plans underway to enhance the work of the partnership through a post which will focus on the research, analysis and evaluation work needed in working to improve road safety.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Retail Crime

Since the last update, some of the biggest retailers have committed to SYP's crime reduction charter, including Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and Tesco and new supporting services, including Lodge Security and Mitie. This is important, as it holds partners to account to proivde quicker and more efficient provision of evidence to the police. The use of Digital Asset Management Systems CCTV transferal is markedly improved. Officers are taking victim personal statements, whereby the courts hear from the immediate victim, i.e. the shop worker, of the effects upon them, to influence the judiciary sentencing powers. Newsletters are being shared across retailers, providing updates about offenders convicted and keeping stakeholders updated. Suspects are being processed more effectively, to illustrate, in March during the national week of action, 27 suspects were arrested with 54 offences charged, sending those offenders to court.

The use of Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO), which prohibit convicted offenders from certain actions which intends to reduce re-offending is increasing. For example, in Barnsley, there are currently 24 active CBOs in place, 21 of which were granted in the last 12 months. A repeat offender from Barnsley committed 26 offences in the same store, upon conviction the application for a CBO was granted and subsequently, the offender has not returned. Whilst CBOs are effective, they are a challenge to obtain. For example, during the last 12 months colleagues in Doncaster have sought CBOs 62 times. 15 have been granted so far. Some are still in train, but 34 have not been pursued. Officers continue to work with the Crown Prosecution Service to take every opportunity to use these preventative powers to the fullest extent.

SYP will be convening another retail crime symposium in October. This will be an opportunity to look back and acknowledge the progress which has been made across the county and to look forwards with the industry as to what more can be done. Across the county, Retail Crime Improvement Groups have been established but participation should be higher. SYP continue to encourage retailers to join the groups so that joint problem-solving opportunities are better developed.

Modern Slavery Human Trafficking (MSHT) and Organised Immigration Crime

The South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) Unit has continued to be chair and co-ordinate the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Partnership. Members of this partnership include a wide variety of organisations across law enforcement, local authorities and non-law enforcement areas and provides a forum and environment where information and best practice can be shared, and joint working agreed in order to effectively tackle Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime. New members have included representatives from HM Prisons and Probation Service. This partnership group meets every six weeks and there are separate strands to ensure that both strategic and tactical matters are discussed.

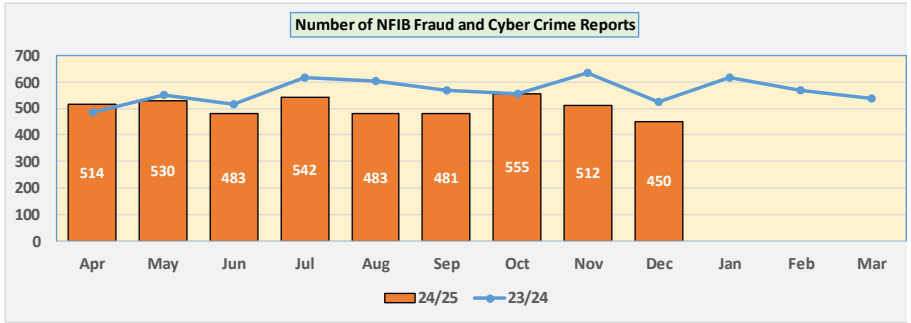
Examples of collaboration between members of the partnership has involved periods of intensification focussing on exploitation within the car wash, barbershop and food delivery industry. Partnership working has taken place in respect of tackling Organised Immigration Crime with activity continuing to be undertaken on the road networks of South Yorkshire, within the maritime equipment supply industry and through the conducting of formal intelligence debriefs with migrants who are residing in South Yorkshire. This work has resulted in intelligence being gathered to inform the local, regional, and national picture and awareness being raised in this area.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

South Yorkshire Police continue to manage a centralised investigation review process which involves Modern Slavery investigations being submitted centrally to be reviewed by the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) Unit. The MSOIC Unit will review each investigation to support the investigating officer and to ensure that the appropriate outcome has been achieved before endorsing for the matter to be concluded. Each of these investigations will also have a dedicated Modern Slavery Tactical Advisor assigned to again best support the investigating officer throughout the duration of the enquiry. This process after initially being trialled in the Sheffield district has been implemented also within the Barnsley district and is intended to be rolled out within the other districts across the force in 2025.

Anyone who has concerns for modern slavery can contact the force directly on 101 (or 999 if there is a concern an individual is in immediate danger), or alternatively by calling the Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 012 1700.

Fraud/Cybercrime



Source: NFIB Fraud and Cyber Crime Dashboard

The number of reports of Fraud and Cyber Crime in South Yorkshire to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) in Q3 24/25 is in line with the previous quarter but lower than the same period last year.

In March 2024, South Yorkshire Police launched a five-year Economic Crime strategy that brought together three cross cutting themes, Fraud, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery, and Cybercrime.

The Fraud Co-ordination Team is a triage team that provides oversight to cyber related offending, investigations are allocated from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) to South Yorkshire Police. This allows for a clear understanding of the threat, harm and risk posed by cybercrime in South Yorkshire and early identification of trends.

South Yorkshire Police has a team of pursue officers and a protect/prevent officer who deal with cyber enabled investigations. The pursue officers are dedicated to the investigation of cybercrime and the primary role of the protect/prevent officer is engagement with the communities and businesses in South Yorkshire to deliver advice aimed at protecting them from becoming victims of cyber enabled crime.

There is ongoing proactivity to identify offenders in South Yorkshire through various partnership working forums. National protect media campaigns are also supported, and South Yorkshire Police has a dedicated social media page that the Force Cyber Crime Unit utilise to circulate not only the national messaging but any local protect messaging too.

In this reporting period, South Yorkshire Police supported the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit in promoting Cyber Switch Up 2024. Cyber Switch Up is a digital and cyber skills competition aimed at students aged 11-18 years in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 with the aim of preventing people becoming involved in cybercrime and showcasing the career opportunities in cyber. Over 1,800 students registered for the online qualifier and several students have reached the final. The final will be held on the 26th of November 2024 at Sheffield Hallam University.

2. Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The team are working with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and their Business Advisory Board to enhance the partnership response in protecting local businesses from this crime type.

Organised Crime Group (OCG) Disruption activity
The force remains focused on the disruption of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). In October 2024, the Serious and Organised Crime portfolio was subject to inspection by HMICFRS, the initial feedback offered was positive, however, the full report will not be received in force until spring 2025.

South Yorkshire Police have 72 identified active Organised Crime Groups (OCG) with a total of 541 nominals, 51 have a primary threat of drugs, of which 11 also have a threat of County Lines and 12 have a primary threat of firearms. The force Fortify partnership is responsible for tackling organised crime at both tactical and strategic level. Strong partnerships exist and this was recognised in the inspection.

South Yorkshire Police continue to lead the way nationally in the field of the 'Clear Hold Build' (CHB) initiative focused on tackling organised crime in a locality. Following the success of two projects in Barnsley and Doncaster, Sheffield has launched the project 'Putting the heart back into Woodhouse'. This project has recently concluded the Clear phase and is now moving into the Hold and Build phases.

The force has established a process of identifying, mapping, scoring, and reducing the impact of Urban Street Gangs (USGs) which are seen as a pre cursor to young people progressing from anti-social behaviour and minor criminality to becoming vulnerable to entering into serious and organised crime. The force processes and procedures are solely focused on disruption and diversionary measures with no intention of criminalisation. This is in line with national best practice.
To date, four USGs have been mapped in the South Yorkshire area.

The force is participating in the County Lines national week of intensification in the week commencing 25th November. A combination of enforcement and community engagement activity is planned throughout the week across all four policing districts. There is a comms embargo until 6th December, but following this a media campaign is planned to raise local awareness of county lines and child exploitation including any positive news stories generated by the week of action.
Drug markets underpin a host of organised crime; linked to serious incidents of violence, anti-social behaviour, and neighbourhood crime. The impact of the drug market on families of those involved is significant and places a burden on health and social care providers.

3. Treating People Fairly

The areas of focus in the current Police and Crime Plan under this priority for are:

- Treating Members of the Public Fairly
- Championing Equality
- Fair Allocation of Police Resources.

The fair treatment of individual residents and communities in South Yorkshire is essential to maintain the public's trust and confidence in the police and partner organisations. Whoever the police engage with, they should always seek to treat people with courtesy and respect. This includes understanding and addressing such issues as racial and cultural differences. Ethical standards of behaviour need to underpin all officer interaction not just with members of the public but with other officers, staff, and partners to create an inclusive culture where trust and confidence is paramount.

Independent Ethics Panel (IEP)

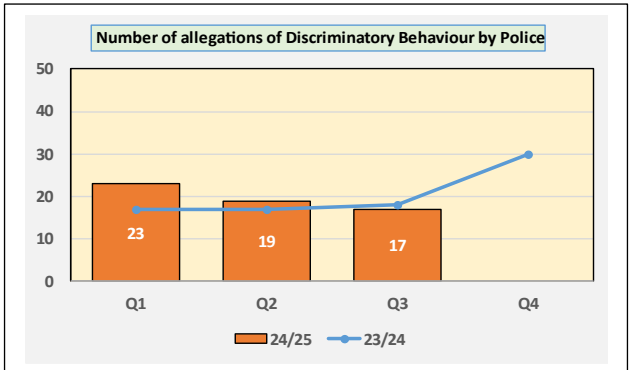
One of the main ways of gaining assurance that people are being treated fairly is through the work of the Independent Ethics Panel. The Panel has a role in helping the Mayor and Chief Constable build the trust and confidence of the public and partners in South Yorkshire Police, by ensuring the national policing code of ethics is culturally embedded across the organisation and is demonstrated through the way South Yorkshire Police thinks and behaves. The Panel receives reports and discusses ethics in particular areas such as Stop and Search, Complaints and Professional Standards and Workforce data including around equality and diversity. The Panel also have "link members" - nominated individuals whose role is to focus on a particular area of work over and above those discussed within the quarterly meetings.

The IEP met in November 2024 during this quarter. Following the serious public disorder that took place nationally as well as in South Yorkshire during August, the Panel received a report and had the opportunity to discuss the policing response and the impact on communities and police officers themselves.

The Panel also received reports and discussed the ethical issues in relation to:

- The South Yorkshire Police Race Action Plan.
- The assurance work of the lead panel member for complaints, vetting and misconduct and their future work programme.
- Violence Against Women and Girls and the links with the IEP's ethical work and future considerations for the Panel.

Further information about the work of the Independent Ethics Panel can be found online:
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority - South Yorkshire MCA (southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk)



The number of allegations of discriminatory behaviour by police in Q3 24/25 was 17. This compares to 19 complaints in the previous quarter. Q3 numbers are around the same as the same period last year when there were 18 allegations.

3. Treating People Fairly

Independent Custody Visitors Scheme
The Policing and Reform Directorate runs an Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) Scheme to check on the welfare of those who are being detained in police custody.

Visitors normally divide into teams of two and go to police custody suites at whatever time of the day or evening suits them. They arrive unannounced and the custody sergeant is obliged to welcome them and facilitate their visit.

The directorate is also monitoring the force custody dashboard. This enables them to track performance information including, the number of detainees, ethnicity, number of young people and the average length of time detainees are in custody. This additional monitoring does not replace the usual custody visiting but it gives added assurance to supplement physical visits.

The Independent Custody Visitors scheme continues to recruit, vet and train ICVs to increase capacity. As of Q3 24/25, five new ICVs have interviewed and are progressing through checks to join the scheme, and two await Induction training which is planned for the end of January 2025 with further interview dates fixed for the New Year.

During Q3 24/25, 7 visits to custody were undertaken by custody visitors, more than were undertaken last quarter. There is regular contact with officers from SYP in relation to findings from visits and the checking of records to share findings and set actions for improvement.

Officers supporting the ICV scheme have been looking at procuring additional technology that will support ICVs in being able to provide feedback quickly and efficiently on the results of their visits. An application was identified however has been delayed slightly due to continuing Wi-Fi issues. This has been raised with and by the Chief Inspector in custody. There is also an upgrade for the App to be rolled out in coming months which is being trialled in a different region.

The ICVs have not identified any concerns on their visits relating to prisoners being held in detention but continue to make checks. Due to low prison cell availability, prisoners are being placed in detention cells. ICVs have received guidance about this and have been asked to check on prisoner numbers, noting any affects the prisoner detention is causing in the custody suites. The ICV Chief Inspector meetings continue and the ICV visits are welcomed as critical friends.

The scheme assistant attended the regional scheme managers meeting in Leeds to share best practise and the National Conference in Birmingham: the national body ICVA will be launching a new digital platform and general learning, and best collaborative practise were discussed across the country, with recruitment being a national concern. The scheme assistant and Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer attended the virtual Humberside PCC Custody Scrutiny Panel (CSP) with a view to setting up a similar panel in South Yorkshire.

3. Treating People Fairly

Hate Crime

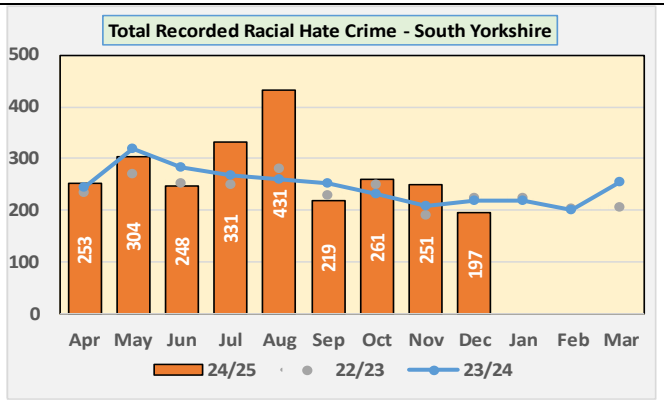
There was a decrease in the overall volume of hate crimes recorded in Q3 24/25 compared to the previous quarter. Volumes were higher than the same period last year.

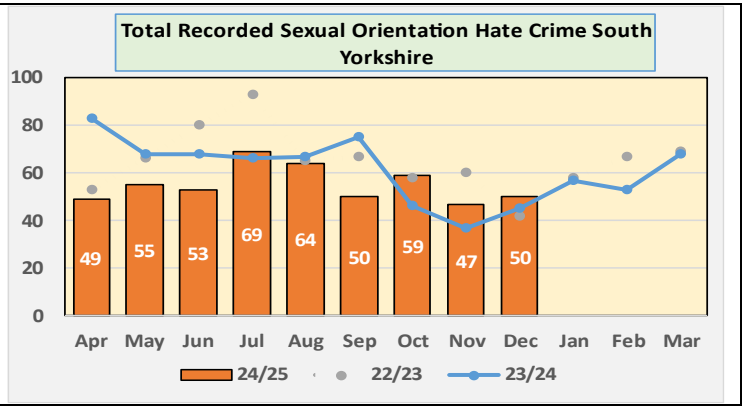
Overall satisfaction of hate crime victims increased in Q3 24/25 to 81% compared to 68% in the previous quarter. This change was not statistically significant. Satisfaction also increased compared to Q3 23/24, but this change was not statistically significant.

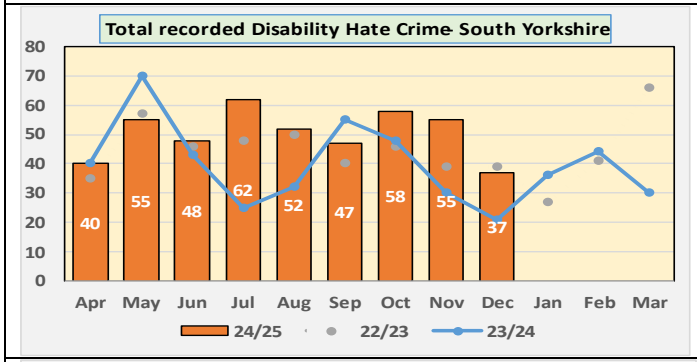
Hate crimes are reviewed regularly to ensure that they are allocated and investigated effectively. The force continues to work with partners, and SYMCA to seek feedback from victims to support improvements in service delivery and increase the confidence of victims to report to the police.

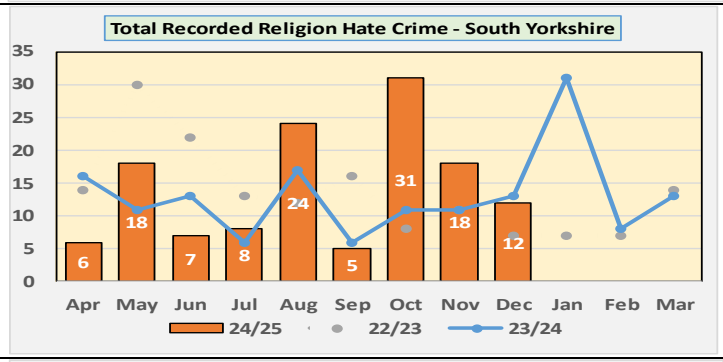
The volume of hate crimes being reported can be influenced by national and international events. Both SYP and the SYMCA are keen to make it as easy as possible for victims to report hate crime and for victims to feel confident that their report will be dealt with effectively and sensitively.

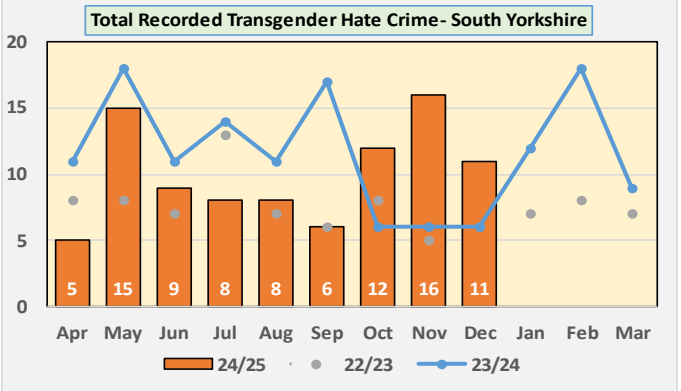
Source: SYP– unaudited data subject to change

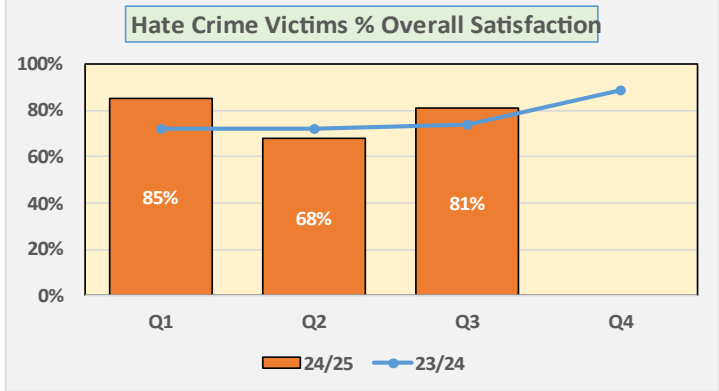












3. Treating People Fairly

Police Officer Workforce
Police Officer ethnic minority representation has increased slightly to 4.9% from 4.8% in the previous quarter and remained the same at 3.2% for heritage other than white in Q3, compared to the previous quarter. Police Officer representation for LGBT+ was at 5.5% in Q3 compared to 5.4% in Q2. Police Officer representation for Disability remains the same as Q2 at 3.9%

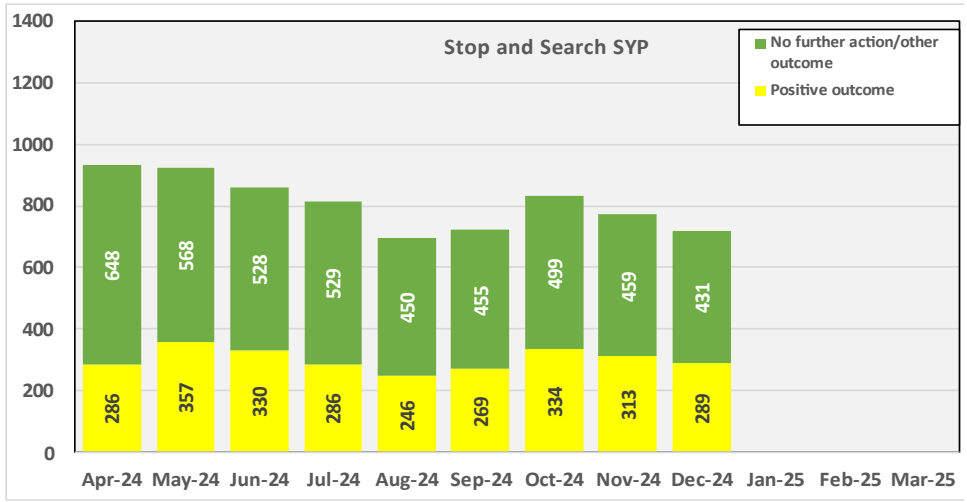
Police Staff Workforce
As a force, SYP is continuing to focus on representation across all protected characteristics, however trends have been mixed for the mid 2024/2025 period. Police staff ethnic minority representation currently stands at 5.1% in Q3, no change from Q2. Heritage other than white stands at 3.2%, again no change from Q2. However, LGBTQ+ representation has increased slightly (now 4.4% compared to 4.3% in Q2). Representation for disability stands at 5.5%, no change from Q2.

Longer term trends show that there have been slow but steady increases in female representation across the workforce. Female Police Officer representation currently stands at 38%, which is a very slight decrease from Q2 (38.3%),

Achieving more diverse representation within supervisory roles remains an area of focus as the force does not currently have any ethnic minority officers above the rank of chief inspector, a position which has not changed since the last quarter. That means there is currently no ethnic minority representation of superintendents, chief superintendents, or chief officers.

Stop and Search
South Yorkshire Police's stop and search powers are never used lightly and police officers will only exercise their legal right to stop members of the public and search them when they genuinely suspect that doing so will further their investigations into criminal activity – whether that means looking for weapons, drugs or stolen property.

Public scrutiny of stop and search incidents is in place, with a panel of members of the public meeting to review stop and search incidents by viewing body worn video footage where available. Meetings are held every two months and findings are discussed by the Panel members with SYP's Stop and Search Lead and an Inspector.



Source: SYP– unaudited data subject to change

The yellow areas in the chart above shows where there is a positive police outcome / action taken when someone is stopped and searched. This includes outcomes such as arrest, warning, caution and summons/charge by post or penalty notice. The percentage of positive outcomes was 32% in October and 31% in both November and December 2024 respectively. (The chart does not show the total numbers of stop and searches as there will be stop/searches where action is taken but not defined as a positive outcome. E.g., advice given, verbally warned).

3. Treating People Fairly

A member of the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) also has a lead for Stop and Search, although this role has become vacant during this quarter. Their role is to take the lead on behalf of the IEP in helping determine the level of assurance to be provided to the Mayor and Chief Constable in respect of the fair use of Stop & Search powers by SYP. Other panel members are sharing this role whilst a new lead is appointed.

The numbers of stop and searches & outcomes broken down by ethnicity.

Stop and searches broken down by ethnicity.

South Yorkshire 12 months 1st January 2024 – 31st December 2024				
Ethnicity	**No. of searches**	**% of searches**	**% positive outcome**	**Rate per 1000 population***
White	6495	64%	33%	5.4
Black	554	5%	39%	16.3
Asian	747	7%	34%	9.4
Other	230	2%	40%	9.5
Mixed	323	3%	35%	10.6
Not Stated	1857	19%	19%	-

Source: SYP stop and search report – data subject to change.

*Rate per 1000 population is based on 2021 population census data. These are the latest official statistics available that break down the ethnicity of the UK population.

In Q3, 86% of stop and searches were conducted on males, 14% on females.

Although the actual numbers of searches of people from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic communities are lower than for white people, the rate per 1000 population shows that there is disproportionality in the use of stop and search particularly within Black and Asian communities. Work continues to better understand and deal with this issue, including improved linking of stop and search data to age, ethnicity and location. Disproportionality is also an issue nationally. Although there is disproportionality in the rate of stop and search, there is no disproportionality in the % of stop/searches with a positive outcome.

More data and information about stop and search in South Yorkshire can be found on SYP's and the Police.UK website. https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/st-s/stop-and-search/ and https://www.police.uk

Restorative Justice (RJ) - Remedi

Remedi is a registered charity commissioned by SYMCA to deliver Restorative Justice services for persons affected by crime in South Yorkshire. This includes arranging a direct or indirect exchange between a victim of crime and the offender.

In Q3, 1st October 2024– 31st December 2024, Remedi received a potential 616 referrals into the service, via agency/self-referrals or as a result of a sentence outcome at court, enabling Remedi to make proactive victim contact.

83 victims of crime have been personally offered RJ during this quarter, with 65 saying yes to RJ, and Remedi are still attempting to contact a further 551 cases. Remedi offer 3 proactive calls at different times of the day in most cases, with 5 attempts on all cases where the victim is deemed vulnerable as per VCOP.

Practitioners continue to hold a mix of standard, sensitive and complex and out of court disposal cases.

3. Treating People Fairly

The following interventions have taken place across South Yorkshire during this quarter:

- 16 direct (face to face) interventions, including sensitive & complex cases.
- 97 indirect messages and letters have been passed between victims and offenders.

Following the probation service reform in June 2021, Remedi have been working hard to increase referrals for our Restorative Victim Awareness Sessions. Remedi continue to complete relaunch briefings across all the NPS offices within South Yorkshire and have also implemented SPOC's within all offices in order to take a pro-active approach to increase referrals into the service, Remedi will continue this consistent approach throughout the remainder of the financial year as well as working closely with the National Probation Service leads.

RJ Service User feedback:

''Thank you so much for taking the time and effort to help our situation. The RJ process ran very smoothly, and we are very grateful that you came out to see us and listened to our side of the story. This made us feel heard and like we were being given the opportunity to get our voice across. Thank you''.

''I would like to thank the service for their support and help throughout the Restorative Awareness Session. The person working with me has been very understanding of my situation and has gone above and beyond to help me understand my actions and the impact it has had on the victims life and mental wellbeing she helped me put into writing my thoughts and feelings so I could write an apology letter to the victim which he received and I got a feedback letter from him to say he accepts my apology letter, this has now fully closed the situation in my life and I can look forward to the future I would highly recommend anyone else in a similar circumstance to seek help and advice from a support worker. They are very good at what they do and I'm glad I was given the opportunity to apologies for my actions''.

The RJ Hub is based within Snig Hill Police Station and operates working hours 9am – 5pm Monday-Friday. An answerphone facility is available out of hours and all calls will be responded to. Remedi welcome referrals for RJ from victims & offenders themselves or any professional working with those persons.
Direct contact number is 0800 561 1000 or text SYRJ to 82228.
Or via the website www.restorativesouthyorkshire.co.uk

3. Treating People Fairly

Public Engagement

Throughout Q3, (October – December) Engagement activity both online and face to face continued with events and visits covered across all four districts. The figures detailed below do not cover any additional engagement visits that were undertaken by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). During this period, we have continued to share updates and information in relation to the Mayor's priorities for Policing and Crime, in readiness and support of developing the Mayor's first Police and Crime Plan.

Overall, 23 engagement briefings were completed for the period of October - December, plus an additional 21 meetings and events. This is up 6 compared to the Q2 period. A total of 831 people were engaged with for this period, this includes 92 internal SYP officers / police staff.

- Crime prevention engagement items remain under review following the transfer of PCC functions to the Mayor whilst branding and strategic direction is determined, therefore these may be limited items at engagement events over the coming months. Staff continue to attend events and engage with partners and the public through meaningful discussion.
- Partnership working continued with Sheffield Hallam University during this period to promote and share the work of the Policing and Crime directorate and the volunteering opportunities available through the Independent Custody Visitors Scheme (ICVs). The scheme continues to develop and recruit volunteers.
- A further Faith and Community Leaders meeting was convened in November, bringing together those who were involved in the immediate discussions in the aftermath of the violent disorder in August 2024, as well as new representatives. The aim of the session was to obtain feedback and thoughts on the policing priorities as part of the development of the Mayor's first Police and Crime Plan in 2025.
- As part of ongoing engagement with communities in South Yorkshire, visits were undertaken to new organisations, religious buildings and community groups such as the Buddhist Temple and Jewish Synagogue in Sheffield, Feels Like Home group in Barnsley and Project 6 in Doncaster.
- Officers from the Communications and Engagement Team joined the Mayor on Operation Star in October. This is a rural and wildlife operation undertaken by the Motorcycle and Rural Crime Team (MARCT) within SYP which aims to tackle the likes of Off-Road Bikes (ORBs), hare coursing, badger baiting and more taking place within our rural communities.
- As we move into 2025, plans are underway to undertake visits to neighbourhood policing teams in all districts in South Yorkshire. The aim of these sessions will be to share with officers and police staff the role and remit of the Communications and Engagement team within the Policing and Crime directorate and to answer any questions following the transfer from OPCC to SYMCA. It is hoped that these visits will also aide and support future partnership working and engagement opportunities.

4. Providing Value for Money for Policing and Crime Services

Whilst working towards delivering the priorities and areas of focus within the Police and Crime Plan, all partners will need to show value for money (VFM). The plan focuses value for money on the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes. Value for Money can be broken down into core component parts to understand whether organisations are using resources economically, efficiently, and effectively.

Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness

There are two main ways currently that value for money aims to be measured; through the quarterly Budget Monitoring Report covering "economy" and "efficiency" and the quarterly Police and Crime Plan Performance Report covering "effectiveness". Both these reports are presented and discussed at the Police and Crime Panel meetings.

The high-level financial position for the Policing and Reform Directorate of SYMCA and South Yorkshire Police for the period 1 April 2025 -31 March 2025 as at 31st December 2024 is as follows:

Revenue budget forecast £6.4m surplus

- There are predicted underspends in SYMCA Policing and Reform of £0.196m and Capital Financing £1.183m, overachievement on investment income for the latter.
- The Chief Constable Budget is expected to underspend by £0.66m

Capital budget - expected to spend in full

The approved capital budget was £18.0m, at Q3 the capital programme was revised to £17.4m due to year end slippage from 2023/24, plus other adjustments. The programme is expected to spend in full.

Legacy issues are currently projecting an underspend of £4.96m, which is a combination of reprofiling and partnership costs being lower than budget. Underspends result in a lower draw on the reserves held to meet costs.

Reserves

Total reserves at 31st March 2025 are forecast to be £73.6m, of which General Reserve is £28.3m, Earmarked Reserve £37.6m and Insurance Reserve £7.6m.