

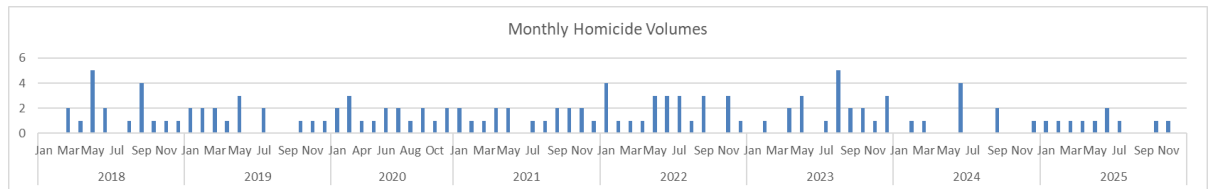
Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

Home Office crime codes and description:

0010	Murder
0041	Manslaughter
0042	Infanticide
00410	Corporate Manslaughter

Recorded crime levels

The monthly volume of homicides from January 2018 to December 2025 is shown below.



In 2025, 9 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire (compared to 15 in 2019).

In the 12 months to December 2025, South Yorkshire Police reported a rate of 6.3 homicides per million population, below with the national average (8.0 per million population).

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.

Force response to homicides

The force’s 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.

Training (DA Matters) was provided to front line officers/staff, with 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 high-risk behaviours (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 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 – April 2026

Supt Dave Cowley (Homicide, Serious Violent Crime)

Homicide Prevention encompasses a wide range of activity across several teams, departments and thematic responsibilities in South Yorkshire Police and the wider partnership. This includes but is not limited to the Armed Crime Team, the Major Crime Unit, Serious and Organised Crime, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), knife crime, the Hot Spot (Grip) team and policing the night-time economy (NTE).

In addition to enforcement and prevention activity carried out by these teams, The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) works with the Serious Violence Duty statutory partners and the voluntary community sector to coordinate activity that adopts a long-term public health approach to violence reduction.

There have been significant reductions in all key measures relating to violence in South Yorkshire over the last few years with significant reductions in the homicide rate, knife crime, knife enabled robbery, hospital admissions as a result of violence, firearms discharges and Most Serious Violence (MSV). This has been the result of concerted activity from all the departments, teams and organisations mentioned above with a response coordinated through the Homicide Prevention Board chaired by ACC Barnett.

The Government has set a challenging target to halve knife crime and VAWG in this and the next parliament and as we enter the second half of this parliament, it is anticipated that the Home Office will increase its focus on achieving these goals. In the last few months, a new VAWG strategy has been launched together with a new Knife Crime Concentration Fund (KCCF) which partly replaces the Hot Spot Action Fund (HAF / GRIP) which ended on the 31st March.

Hot Spot Action Fund (HAF / GRIP)

The Grip team continue to coordinate hot spot patrolling, problem solving and proactive policing operations to reduce violent crime and ASB. For the year to the end of February 2026 the results are summarised as follows:

- 212 Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) operations delivered, generating 7,289 hours of visible patrol.
- Hotspot patrols totalling 12189 hours of visible patrol.
- 411 arrests
- 633 stop searches (33.97 positive outcome rate)
- 531 Traffic Offence Reports (TOR)/Reported on Summons (ROS)
- 282 Police Intelligence Reports (PIR)
- 67 weapons recovered
- 'All crime' trending downwards overall across all hotspots in all districts.
- MSV trending downwards across Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield hotspots.

- GRIP problem-solving officers contributed to Op Blitz for Sheffield, Christmas and New Year saw a historic low in MSV volumes and reductions of 30 per cent and 29 per cent year on year since this work has been conducted (103 in 2023 to 51 2025).

- Work carried out in Sheffield NTE has been presented at South Yorkshire Police Problem Solving Conference and at College of Policing's Hotspot Policing and Problem-Solving seminar

- Work remains ongoing to improve Operation Sentinel – targeting predatory behaviour – with 48 officers now trained in behavioural detection.

- The new KCCF is less than half that of the HAF and the force is looking at ways to ensure that the work of the Grip team continues and is embedded into neighbourhood policing. At the time of writing there is a small inspector led team working on the implementation of the new KCCF.

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence

- NHS hospital admissions data for under 25-year-olds for assault with a sharp object; and
- Police recorded crime data on offences involving the discharge of a lethal barrelled firearm

Recorded levels

In the 12 months to October 2025, the force recorded 25 under 25-year-old admissions to hospital for assault with sharp object, a 55 per cent reduction from the baseline period (55), against a national reduction of 40 per cent.

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 Home Office definition of Knife Crime.

Force response to reducing serious violence

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:

- Grip funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis)
- Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity)
- Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)

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.

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:

- Pursue – prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality
- Prevent – preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality
- Protect – increasing protection against organised crime
- Prepare – reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place.

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.

Ongoing focus – April 2026

DCI Simon Cartwright (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)

The force continues to record positive reductions in firearms-related offences, maintaining a downward trend that has been evident since 2021.

Historically, South Yorkshire Police reported significantly higher numbers of viable firearm discharges compared to its Most Similar Group (MSG), at its peak in 2020, 85 firearms discharges were recorded. As a result, the force was

identified as one of six 'Key Gun Crime Forces' (KGCF) alongside West Yorkshire Police, Greater Manchester Police, Merseyside Police, West Midlands Police, and the Metropolitan Police Service. However, this changed in 2024 with South Yorkshire recording 25 firearms discharges, which was lower than the other key gun crime forces.

Year-to-date data reinforces this sustained improvement. In 2025/26, there were 26 firearms discharges, a significant reduction from the peak of 86 2020. However, the other KGCF have also reported significant reductions. December 2025 saw a significant increase with 6 discharges being recorded in this month. So far in 2026, only 2 discharges have been recorded, neither of which resulted in injury to any person. Offences where a firearm is seen or threatened have also reduced with a reduction from 334 in 2022 to 140 in 2025.

Proactive disruption of firearms-enabled organised crime groups and individuals linked to firearms has contributed to these results, 2025 saw the recovery of 57 illegally held firearms which was more than the 24 recovered in 2024.

In 2025 there were 5 injuries discharges, one of which was a fatality and two were life changing. Due to the work conducted nationally and locally around the conversion of blank firing weapons and targeting distributors and owners through national amnesty and manufacturers through NCA international liaison, the availability of blank firing pistols has reduced, which has had an impact on criminals being able to obtain and convert them to become viable. This has caused an increase in usage of automatic/semi-automatic weapons which are far more accurate and likely to cause significantly more serious injury. Supply routes of such weapons are currently unknown, intelligence development in this area is a key focus for South Yorkshire Police's Armed Crime Team and SOCU's. Reacting to credible intelligence of firearms possession is an ongoing workstream for ACT who continue to work with the district fortify teams to develop and act on any opportunity to recover firearms.

Proactive disruption of firearms-enabled organised crime groups has contributed to these results, with a notable increase in the recovery of illegally held firearms. In the last quarter, 3 illegally held firearms have been seized. Significant sentences have been handed down at court for offences involving firearms; with recent successes seen in Operation Pulp Alpha where the two defendants were sentenced to 30 years each for the discharge of a firearm which caused injury to the victim. Operation Treat Mike also saw significant sentences totalling 170 years for 12 nominals involved in a conspiracy to supply converted blank firers.

Activity to tackle knife crime continues to be coordinated through the partnership and significant reductions in volumes have been achieved. This is particularly the case with knife enabled robbery and the force is engaging with the National Knife Crime Working Group, Home Office team and National Knife Crime Coordination Centre to identify and promote best practice across the force.

Sceptre tactics continue to be used on a regular basis. The KCCF aims to target a small number of 'hyperlocal' hot spots of knife crime using patrol, enforcement activity, and partnership problem solving techniques. The KCCF team will report regularly to the Home Office and will be linked into the VRU at SYMCA and all key partners. The government will shortly launch a 'Halving Knife Crime Plan' which aims to take a whole system approach to reducing knife crime and achieving the government's targets.

The VRU has just submitted a delivery plan to the Home Office for 2026/27. It will continue to take a long-term public health approach to violent crime using an evidence-based approach and the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit. Funding for this year remains unchanged and encompasses a core VRU grant, money to promote the Serious Violence Duty and the Young Futures Panels. However, the Home Office anticipate that there will be a reducing budget for the two subsequent years.

The VRU has a newly appointed lead and there are two new partnership managers recently appointed. These partnership managers will have both a thematic responsibility for one of the many areas affecting knife crime, but also geographical responsibility and will link in with the Community Safety Partnerships, statutory and third sector partners in each of the Local Authority Areas. At the time of writing, there is a new Chief Inspector role being recruited as the link for both the KCCF and VRU.

Priorities set by the deputy Mayor for the year include Tackling Knife Crime, reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), reducing violence towards and involving children and young persons and preventing reoffending. The delivery plan will evolve over the year, but key interventions include the Hospital Navigators at the Northern General Hospital, A community small grants round to support local charities working to prevent violence, focussed deterrence work to reduce knife crime linked to the Habitual Knife Carriers Index and Young Futures Panels identifying risk early to prevent children becoming involved in crime and violence. There will also be work done in the education space promoting teaching materials that deal with a wide range of topics linked to violent crime.

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>The 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 with drug related homicides accounting for 78 per cent of the homicides in the county in the 12 months to December 2025, a higher proportion than seen nationally (50 per cent).</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 Organised Crime Groups (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&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&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 local meetings and to allow districts to make informed decisions around resourcing and response to the risks.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>
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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 a dedicated child exploitation team.

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 Mayor's office are working with Local Authority substance misuse commissioners to develop a conditional caution referral pathway for offenders.

Ongoing focus – April 2026

D/Supt Nikki Shimwell (SOC), DCI Gary Magnay (CCE and County Lines), DCI Mark Oughton (Drugs Markets)

South Yorkshire Police, working closely with local authorities, safeguarding boards and schools and community organisations, will continue to prioritise the prevention and disruption of child criminal exploitation (CCE) and county lines activity over the coming year. Building on existing partnership approaches, the focus will remain on identifying vulnerable children earlier and intervening before exploitation becomes entrenched.

A key priority will be strengthening intelligence-sharing between police, social care, education, youth services and health partners to better recognise warning signs such as missing episodes, school exclusion and association with known offenders. Multi-agency safeguarding hubs will continue to play a central role in coordinating timely support for at-risk children and their families.

Alongside safeguarding work, police will maintain a strong focus on disrupting drug dealers and organised crime groups who deliberately target children to move and sell drugs. Through proactive investigations, surveillance and targeted enforcement activity, officers will work to identify those recruiting or grooming young people into county lines networks. This includes closing drug lines, executing warrants, seizing drugs and cash, and building evidence to bring offenders before the courts.

Partners will also continue developing their understanding of how emerging technology and online platforms can be used to recruit and exploit children. This includes monitoring trends linked to social media, encrypted messaging apps and online gaming environments where offenders may groom or contact vulnerable young people. By improving awareness and digital investigative capabilities, police and partners aim to identify risks earlier and disrupt exploitation taking place both online and offline.

Prevention and education will remain a core strand. Police and partners plan to expand engagement with schools, parents and community groups to raise awareness of grooming tactics used by criminal networks. Youth diversion programmes and mentoring initiatives will continue to provide positive alternatives for young people who may be vulnerable to exploitation.

Overall, the coming year will see a continued emphasis on early intervention, partnership working, and robust action against offenders, helping to reduce harm and protect children and young people across South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire Police continue to support the voluntary carriage of Naloxone by officers and staff throughout the county, with new training dates for officers being organised and new recruits receiving training during their initial months. So far 1652 officers have been trained with 285 volunteering to carry the life-saving drug. There have been 13 successful applications with two in Sheffield as recently as 31st March 2026.

Illicit drugs labs continue to be of concern, with plans being developed for training to be implemented to learn the lessons of other forces in dealing with this emerging issue.

The force is working with Likewise focussing on the issue of Ketamine as part of a six-week campaign. This follows national data showing increased usage and healthcare presentations. A conference is planned for April with South Yorkshire Police attending to further assist in understanding this issue.

The force Fortify teams continue to target those who deal drugs in our county. Sheffield alone carried out 33 disruptions at the start of this year, Doncaster has seen significant seizures of Class A drugs, Rotherham have recorded significant arrests and cash seizures with Barnsley dealing with a large illicit lab producing significant amounts of synthetic drugs and taking these out of circulation.

A recent Nationwide County Lines Intensification week saw officers working with partners regionally and at all districts. 22 individuals were arrested, 27 were safeguarded with 9 visits to addresses suspected of being cuckooed.

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 September 2025 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 3.5 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively – compared to 2.9 per cent and 7.0 per cent for England and Wales.*

In the 12 months to December 2019 (baseline) there were 27,308 Neighbourhood Crimes recorded in South Yorkshire compared to 19,345 in the 12 months to December 2025, a reduction of 29 per cent.

Reductions in recorded crime volumes have been seen in Residential Burglary, Theft from Person and Vehicle Crime, and Personal Robbery.

Chart 1a: Total neighbourhood crime volume



Whilst reductions are largely maintained, the force currently records a higher rate of Neighbourhood Crime than peer forces.

Force response to reducing

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

<p>neighbourhood crime</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 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 – April 2026

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

Further analysis and planning work has been undertaken to support the start of the second phase of Operation Hawkeye. Three areas, Hexthorpe in Doncaster and Beauchief and Richmond in Sheffield have been selected for the initial phase. These three areas represent distinct differences in the profile of burglary committed and the wider prevention and problem-solving challenges, whilst representing some of the highest rates of residential burglary in the force. Problem solving plans have now been enacted in these areas and impact will be analysed. Learning from this will then be applied to other ward areas.

Operation Fortress, designed to tackle the force’s most problematic cohort of nominals committing 2 in 1 burglary is making a positive impact. The force reported at the recent Police and Crime Panel the 2 in 1 rate has fallen. Previously these offences accounted for around 25 per cent of recorded residential burglary and in the later part of 2025 and first part of 2026 represent between 8 per cent and 10 per cent of recorded residential burglary.

The force has developed an intelligence collection plan and response plan, under the name Operation Relay Mike, in an effort to bring extra focus to the problem of vehicle crime, in particular the theft of vehicles that are then broken down into parts in local ‘chop shops’. This offending has strong links to organised crime and is intended to disrupt vehicle theft supply chains and criminal infrastructure. This will be coordinated through existing tasking and tactical coordination routes.

These three examples all point to South Yorkshire Police’s approach to tackling this offending, with detailed analytical work to best understand the problem, supported by strong intelligence collection practice and robust offender management, supported by wider problem-solving plans to reduce the number of people falling victim to these crimes.

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> <p>In the 12 months to January 2026, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is 71 per cent for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 82 per cent for local victims of Domestic Abuse.</p>
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	<p>South Yorkshire Police works alongside the Mayoral office 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>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. Satisfaction can be lower for crimes where an officer doesn't attend, therefore managing victim expectation and communicating an effective final contact remain a focus.</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>

Ongoing focus – April 2026

Supt Mark James (Victim Satisfaction), DCI Melissa Johnson (Domestic Abuse)

The 12 victims' rights have been mapped and measured across South Yorkshire Police. These rights fall under Force Control Room (FCR) and Crime Support Hub (CSH), Investigations and Criminal Justice Unit (CJU). Many of these rights cross over due to their nature. As a consequence of this mapping, a gap analysis has been undertaken to assess strengths, gaps, opportunities and recommendations in relation to areas of delivery. This work will form part of an update to be delivered at the Force Performance Day Insights session on 13th April to the DCC.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have stipulated that all forces must meet the requirement to deliver against statutory Annual Data Returns (ADR). Currently 11 metrics covering 31 measures have been identified as requiring performance reporting. Work by Performance and Governance (PAG) to evolve and develop the performance reporting required to publish and deliver the performance data is almost complete. Utilising Power BI - VCOP IQR the force will be in a position – initially with Connect RMS – but after November 2026 with the new NICHE RMS to be able to assess, record, and report on performance across almost all required metrics and measures. There is a national issue with elements around rights 8 and 9 which continues to be the focus of national and local work.

Through identified key internal and external stakeholders, the force continues to progress work to ensure compliance and excellence in delivering victim rights and service under the new Act. Since the last update, working with SYMCA a newly commissioned Victim Support Service contract has been completed. This will support emerging themes and areas of focus evolving from the mapping and gap analysis around training, investigations and continued evolution of the victim journey and the national My Police Portal the Force Control Room (FCR) is implementing and embedding.

Discussions have taken place between strategic and thematic leads with portfolio heads to initiate a review of governance and potentially bring additional focus and minimise duplication across different meetings currently in existence. It is likely this will be facilitated by improved availability of performance data, and potentially a force wide “Victims Forum” replicating best practice benchmarked in other forces. Initial discussions with the Senior Command Team are underway in relation to the progression of this concept.

Work has been completed to rectify significant data reporting and transfer issues between South Yorkshire Police and Victim Support, and on-going partnership and strengthened relationships with Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) and Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services (BSARCS) continues.

The force is liaising with forces nationally that already have a “good” rating with regards to investigations and meeting victims’ rights and satisfaction to understand how their processes may differ and identify any notable practice. This work continues and has led to the identification of potential Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training and the requirement to review initial police training inputs to newly recruited officers. Consultation with the training department has taken place, and it is expected this theme will develop over coming months, especially in light of the NICHE implementation. This benchmarking has also highlighted the need to develop the forces approach to the Victim Needs Assessment at first contact by officers, work with the Niche Implementation Team is underway to address this.

In respect of improving satisfaction amongst Domestic Abuse (DA) victims, our surveys reveal that from the period December 2025 to February 2026, 83 per cent of victims were satisfied with our service. This overall rate encompasses satisfaction at first response, initial actions, investigation, follow up and treatment. In terms of the force’s commitment to improving DA service for victims, South Yorkshire Police have commenced a new initiative with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and have introduced DA clinics into districts so that investigators can upskill and enhance the quality of their investigations, with the aim of increasing the number of positive outcomes for victims.

The Joint Justice Plan has also introduced the pathfinder route for expedited case submission to CPS for appropriate DA cases to enhance victim satisfaction and improve the criminal justice experience for victims by reducing the time in which it takes to obtain advice and charge suspects. Whilst still in its infancy, it is expected to expand over the coming months to encompass more districts within the force.

The RAPID response to DA has been fully adopted in force, with a real focus on victim safeguarding, thorough investigation and partnership working. It is hoped that this too will contribute to victim satisfaction as the force endeavour to get things right for victims at all points in an investigation from initial attendance to finalisation.

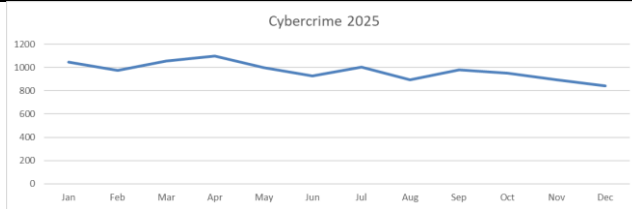
Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

- **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 11,672 offences recorded in 2025. The largest cybercrime categories are harassment, stalking and obscene publications.



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 a Digital Forensics Unit, digital evidence kiosks which are available to officers across the organisation, and a Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit which 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 – April 2026

DCI Tom Bright (Digital Investigations and Cyber)

South Yorkshire has a small Cyber Team (often referred to as the Force Cyber Crime Unit) FCCU)), whose activity is based around the 4 'Ps':

PROTECT/PREVENT

The primary focus is to deliver the Cyber Protect and Prevent message to a range of groups across South Yorkshire, both at a local level and through regional collaboration. This involves providing education, sharing key messages and helping individuals to protect themselves from becoming victims of cyber based fraud.

Between January to March 2026, 16 events have been delivered, with a total of 1014 attendees. These events have taken place across a diverse range of organisations, including community support and social groups, schools, universities and local mental health services. The feedback from events has been consistently positive, and there are plans to expand the number of events being held.

South Yorkshire Police's Cyber Team also monitor the cyber threat landscape and direct their resources to tackle any emerging threat. The Cyber Protect officer continues to support the force's upskilling around cyber-enabled VAWG offences. The Protect Officer has presented alongside the regional cyber team on several police officer and practitioner online inputs, she will deliver a one-hour PVP Masterclass session on four dates in May 2026 and she has presented at the South Yorkshire Police Violence Reduction Partnership Event (March 26). In attendance, amongst others, were victim services, mental health teams and social workers.

Arrangements to deliver training throughout the force will continue from both the Protect and Pursue team on all areas encompassing cybercrime and cyber related fraud.

The Cyber Team will continue to monitor and prevent proactive opportunities around cyber related offenders in South Yorkshire. They will work closely with schools and colleges to provide a prevent service to high-risk young people in this area.

A single Protect referral was reviewed in detail by the Cyber Team, who identified this as a fraud affecting around 100 known victims across the country, with losses valued in the millions. South Yorkshire Police are liaising City of London around the investigation and management of this crime series.

PURSUE

The investigative focus remains around identifying and disrupting cyber criminals committing offences against residents and businesses within South Yorkshire. There will be continued collaboration between regional forces and South Yorkshire Police providing an expedited service for ransomware and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) incidents.

The Cyber Team will continue to review and investigate pursue referrals received from Report Fraud. In Quarter 4 the FCCU has received 15 Pursue disseminations that are live 'Cyber' investigations. The Cyber Team log and review financial intelligence around cryptocurrency to allow the team to build an intelligence picture about how criminals are using cryptocurrency in South Yorkshire. The force will continue to robustly investigate suspicious behaviour reports from cryptocurrency platforms and aim to disrupt money laundering and freeze and seize any criminal assets linked to online criminality.

PREPARE

The Cyber Team has supported a number of ransomware incidents relating to businesses across South Yorkshire. Proactive work to assist South Yorkshire based small to medium sized enterprises (SME) identify network vulnerabilities remains ongoing. The force also collaborates with businesses, particularly in high-risk areas of manufacturing to strengthen cyber resilience and make referrals to the Local Cyber Resilience Centre.