



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

SYMCA



MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

Police & Crime Plan 2025 – 2029

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Mayoral Introduction

This is my first Police and Crime Plan as South Yorkshire's Mayor since taking on responsibility for Policing and Crime in May 2024. When I asked for the support of the communities of South Yorkshire last year, I promised to focus on those issues and challenges that are hurting people, families and businesses across South Yorkshire, every day, and to confront the legacy of lost trust and low confidence that can sometimes undermine the relationship between people and the Police.

This Plan starts to put those priorities into action; setting out what we are going to do to build a South Yorkshire where everyone feels safe and secure, whoever, wherever they may be.

This Plan sets out our commitment to put the voice of victims and communities at the heart of everything we do.



The transfer of the powers of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner into the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) that I lead has given us the opportunity to do just that; to better combine and focus our resources and approach; to better connect our work on public safety with our plans on skills and employment, public transport, health and wellbeing and the regeneration of our towns and cities.

This Plan sets out our commitment to put the voices of victims, survivors and our communities at the heart of everything we do.

Because we know that by working better together, SYMCA, South Yorkshire Police, the four councils of South Yorkshire, our businesses and entrepreneurs, along with our voluntary and community sector partners, can transform our approach to both the prevention and tackling of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The priorities of our communities are at the heart of this plan. We have consulted widely with both the public and our partners in its

development. It's clear that in South Yorkshire we face some big challenges. In the last year we have seen social unrest and public disorder that has hurt our communities, tragic instances of knife crime that have sent shockwaves across South Yorkshire and the country, and sexual violence, and particularly violence against women and girls, that remains endemic across our region.

This Plan sets out our response to these generational challenges.

We have a good foundation on which to build. The national policing inspectorate has recognised South Yorkshire Police as being either outstanding or good in most of the areas, and we know there are strong and effective partnerships already in place that connect the police, community safety and criminal justice partners.

But we do this work in the shadow of significant financial challenges and social change. While the priorities set out in the plan – and my commitment to tackling those challenges – will not change, after fourteen

years of underfunding, the financial resources we have to tackle them are more limited than I would like, and the future remains uncertain. I'm working closely with the Chief Constable and central government to address those serious financial challenges, but there is no shying away from the reality that money is tight across the public sector.

Despite the challenges we face, I know that the police and our partners will come together to address the priorities laid out in this Plan. Over the last year, I have seen first-hand the very best of South Yorkshire Police, our partners, and the spirit and resilience of South Yorkshire's communities. We all owe a huge debt to those that work each and every day to keep us safe, but the responsibility for delivering the change we need to see, lies on all of us, me most of all.

This Plan is our next step on that journey.

Mayor of South Yorkshire
Oliver Coppard

Chief Constable Introduction

I am proud to be the Chief Constable for South Yorkshire, to lead the officers and staff whose actions will contribute so much to the delivery of this plan. Our delivery will be underpinned by our core values of fairness, integrity and trust.

Over the last year my team and I have worked closely with the Mayor, and his team, to understand how our communities can be better served through the alignment of South Yorkshire Police with SYMCA. It is our duty to deliver the public's priorities as set out in the Police and Crime Plan, but many of these require a response that stretches beyond policing. I am therefore delighted that the Police and Crime Plan not only looks at what we in policing will be focussing on, it also calls on our partners to think differently and assist in tackling systemic issues. We will all achieve more by working collectively with our partners in a whole-system approach that is designed to keep people safe.

Policing nationally has a challenge to build the trust and confidence of our many and diverse communities, we are also dealing with crime that is changing in both nature and complexity whilst challenging ourselves to deliver faster, and better service to victims and witnesses.

In South Yorkshire we are doing this through an established operating model which has neighbourhood policing and a preventative, problem-solving approach at its core. Working with partner agencies, and with our communities, to tackle the issues that matter most will help us to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to build local resilience.

South Yorkshire Police is a full-spectrum police force with specialist capabilities to deal with the broadest range of policing demands. Sometimes the most serious offences are hidden from public view; they happen in private, behind closed doors or online, often targeting the most vulnerable in our society and frequently committed across the globe

from behind a computer screen or with a computer keystroke. We will continue to target those who pose the greatest threat of harm, and we are continuing to develop our specialist capabilities to meet the evolving nature of those threats.



All of this is being done in times of financial challenge; we have some challenges that are particular to us but there is also a structural deficit in the central funding of policing. Investment in policing has not kept pace with the required growth for some time. South Yorkshire Police is absolutely committed to building on and improving our services, but the financial challenges we face do not make this easy, we are working closely with SYMCA to raise and address this challenge.

South Yorkshire is a fantastic place to live, work and visit; it is fiercely proud of its heritage, and of its diverse offer to both residents and visitors today. All of us, our communities, our businesses, our partners and policing, have a role to play in creating and sustaining the conditions needed to enable South Yorkshire to thrive. I look forward to South Yorkshire Police continuing this journey in effective partnerships and see this plan as an integral part of driving that whole-system approach.

Chief Constable
Lauren Poultney



Chair of the Police and Crime Panel

Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to support the Mayor's first Police and Crime Plan.

The Police and Crime Panel exists to scrutinise the actions, decisions and performance of the Mayor in relation to how he discharges his police and crime functions. It also serves to provide both support and constructive challenge to ensure that the Mayor meets the needs of all the communities they have been elected to serve.

We fully support the approach that is set out in this Plan. Putting communities and victims at the heart of the Plan is vital to improving trust and confidence in the work of the police, community safety partners, and the wider criminal justice system.

Taking a partnership and whole-systems approach is absolutely critical, given the huge financial challenges that all agencies tasked with tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Only by coming together, and sharing information and resources, can the police and partners deliver the best possible services for the communities we all serve.

We look forward to working with the Mayor in the years ahead to help make the ambitions in the Plan a reality.

Chair of the Police and Crime Panel
Trevor Smith



Introduction

Following the Mayoral election in May 2024, all Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions, powers and responsibilities transferred to the Mayor of South Yorkshire. At the same time, all PCC assets, rights and liabilities transferred to the SYMCA.

The Mayor is now responsible for the totality of policing within South Yorkshire. This includes holding the Chief Constable to account for the operational delivery of policing, including in relation to the Strategic Policing Requirement published by the Home Secretary.

The Mayor is now responsible for the totality of policing within South Yorkshire.

This means that the Mayor has accountability to the electorate of South Yorkshire for the delivery and performance of South Yorkshire Police (SYP). The Mayor sets and shapes the strategic policing and crime objectives in consultation with the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Mayor.

The role of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is to maintain a regular check and balance on the performance of the Mayor within the context set out above.

Further information on the role of the Mayor, the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Panel can be found at: **southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore/policing-and-reform-directorate**

This significant change means that there is now an opportunity to better align the work of the police, Criminal Justice System (CJS), local government and agencies across the region, to the benefit of the whole of South Yorkshire.



But, there are also significant challenges too.

Like many parts of the UK, the levels of serious violence and knife crime are too high. Too many people are drawn into gangs, drug dealing and violence from a young age. Anti-social behaviour blights our town and city centres. Not enough criminals are being caught and punished and too many victims are being let down.

This is not an accident, but is the result of choices made by the previous Government over the last 14 years.

These choices have had a considerable impact across all parts of South Yorkshire Police. The force is currently undergoing a priority-based budgeting exercise to assess where savings and efficiencies can be achieved, to meet the current funding challenges and those of the last 14 years.

These financial challenges have also impacted on our community safety and criminal justice partners. Local authority community safety partnerships, the Crown Prosecution Service, prisons, probation, and the courts have all been affected by long-term underfunding.

But it is in our communities that the impact of these choices are felt most of all. A lack of visible policing, anti-social behaviour, dangerous motorbikes and cars on the roads, and drug use, were just some of the issues that the public have told us about.

All this means that, if the police and partners are to provide the best possible service to communities and victims of crime and anti-social behaviour, we need to work together differently.

This Plan sets out how we will do that.



Building a Safer South Yorkshire

This is the first Police and Crime Plan to be published for South Yorkshire since responsibility for policing and crime transferred to the Mayor.

This transfer brings huge opportunities for communities across South Yorkshire, and to the police and other partners, who will be working together in the coming years to deliver the priorities set out in this Plan.



These opportunities include:

- **Strengthening partnerships across South Yorkshire.** The Mayor already works closely with South Yorkshire Police, local authorities and other strategic partners in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, and is now able to build on these partnerships to develop and enhance programmes and initiatives, to increase public safety.
- **Joining up different portfolios to get better outcomes for the public.** The Mayor has responsibility and oversight for a range of areas including transport, growth, skills, and infrastructure. Each of these areas can influence, and be influenced by, changing rates of crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). By taking on responsibility for policing and crime, the Mayor can identify and drive better join-up and efficiencies across these areas.
- **Building on regional opportunities for collaboration.** With Mayors in West and North Yorkshire also responsible for policing and crime, there are new and exciting opportunities to collaborate and work more closely on issues that span the Yorkshire region.
- **Closer ties with central government.** Following the general election, there are now more opportunities for the Mayor to work with Government ministers, to both help shape national policy-making, and to help the Government deliver its ambitions.

The transfer of policing and crime to the Mayor brings huge opportunities for communities across South Yorkshire.

Our Priorities

In developing this Plan, the Mayor has carried out extensive consultation with:

- The public and with victims.
- Statutory and voluntary sector partners across South Yorkshire.
- Partners across the wider criminal justice landscape.

The Mayor has also carefully considered the national requirements determined by central government.

Feedback from the public and partners identified five overarching strategic policing and crime priorities:

1 Improving trust and confidence in the police and criminal justice system



2 Preventing and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour



3 Improving safety on all of our transport networks



4 Breaking the cycle of offending and harm



5 Tackling the most serious offences and building resilient communities



These five priorities will form the basis of all our work with the police and partners in the coming years

These strategic priorities reflect the:

- Views raised with the Mayor by victims and members of the public. This includes the feedback received through our public and victims' survey, as well as from correspondence and direct feedback received.
- Feedback from statutory and voluntary sector partners, following the strategic roundtable discussions held by the Mayor.
- Issues that South Yorkshire Police, Community Safety Partnerships, and other local partners have highlighted as key areas of concern.
- Policing and crime priorities set out in the Mayor's manifesto.
- Issues that must be addressed under the national Strategic Policing Requirement.

Underpinning these five priorities will be two cross-cutting themes:

1. Putting victims and communities at the heart of everything we do.
2. Working in partnership to improve outcomes for everybody.



About South Yorkshire

Covering 600 square miles at the centre of the UK, South Yorkshire is a unique combination of vibrant urban spaces and spectacular rural landscapes, populated by warm, welcoming, connected communities.

Within South Yorkshire 88% of the population is white, compared to 81% for England. However, this masks considerable variation beneath the headline statistics. For instance, the highest percentage of white residents in a ward in South Yorkshire is 98%, compared to the lowest which is 36%. This is a difference of 62 percentage points.

Over one fifth (21%) of the population has a disability compared to 17% for England. While South Yorkshire's age profile is similar to the English average, healthy life expectancy varies more than 20 years between our richest and poorest neighbourhoods.

The region has its challenges. Disposable household income is lower than in comparable northern mayoral combined authority areas.

Most households in South Yorkshire have total incomes between £22,000 to £45,000, with only a small number of neighbourhoods having an average household income of more than £55,000. Over half (56%) of South Yorkshire's households are deprived in one or more dimension, and 16% of our working age population have no qualifications. Our ethnic minority employment rate is ten percentage points lower than the England average, and our employment rate for those with a disability is 4.6 percentage points lower than the England average.

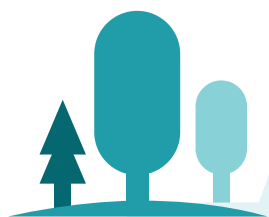
However, we are building from a place of strength. We were at the leading edge of the last industrial revolution, at the centre of the steel and coal industries. Manufacturing now makes up 12.5% of our economy, double the UK share.

What was once the site of the Orgreave coking plant and the centre of a violent confrontation between the police and striking miners, is now home to Boeing's first manufacturing facility in Europe, next door to Maclaren, Rolls Royce and other industry leaders.

We have two world-class research universities and are a leader in the Green Tech economy. We have a rich cultural history as the birthplace of football, and the host of world snooker, and the place countless world-leading musicians, artists and thinkers call home.



Covering **600** square miles at the centre of the UK's landmass, South Yorkshire is a unique combination of vibrant urban spaces and spectacular rural landscapes



600
sq miles

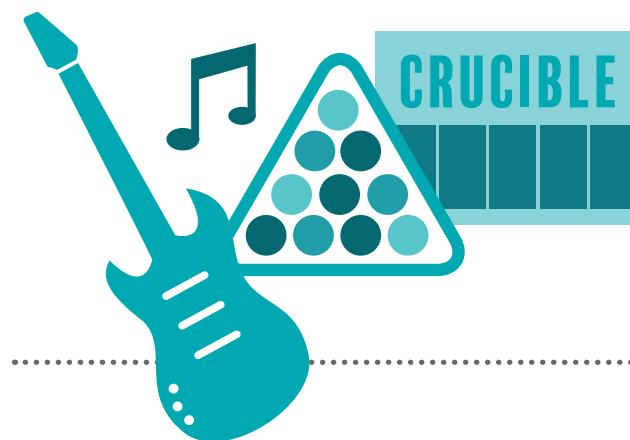


20
years



Healthy life expectancy varies more than **20** years between our richest and poorest neighbourhoods

We have a rich cultural history as the birthplace of football and the host of world snooker, and the place countless world-leading musicians, artists and thinkers call home



Most households in South Yorkshire have total incomes between

**£22,000 -
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Manufacturing now makes up **12.5%** of our economy, double the UK share

12.5%

A Partnership Plan: Working Together across South Yorkshire

By bringing the powers and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner together with those of the Mayor we can better align the work of the police, criminal justice system, local government and other agencies across the region, to benefit communities across South Yorkshire.

In developing this Police and Crime Plan, the Mayor is determined to ensure that these opportunities are realised, and that the priorities set out in this Plan align to our collective priorities for transport, economic growth and improved wellbeing across South Yorkshire.

I want South Yorkshire to be a place where people and businesses thrive. For that to happen, we must all come together to build and maintain safe and welcoming places for all our communities.

Mayor of South Yorkshire
Oliver Coppard

Whilst everyone has a role to play, the partners who will play a vital role preventing and tackling crime and ASB include: local government; health; education; social services; housing; substance misuse services; transport; Youth Justice Services; business; Community Safety Partnerships; the Probation Service; the Crown Prosecution Service; courts; and the voluntary and community sector.



A partnership approach for identifying, preventing and taking enforcement action on crime and anti-social behaviour

Early Intervention and Prevention

- Voluntary sector support and training services
- Education
- Health
- Social care
- Sports or social activities
- Community, family and peers
- Out of court disposals
- NHS England (eg Liaison and Diversion service)
- Youth Justice Service
- Faith groups
- Police and Community Safety Partnerships
- Violence Reduction Unit

Entry into the Criminal Justice System

- Victim and survivor services
- Police - investigation, arrest and charging
- Crown Prosecution Service - prosecution
- Courts - Magistrates and Crown
- Prisons and young offender institutes
- Community safety partnerships and local authorities - ASB related issues

Exiting the Criminal Justice System

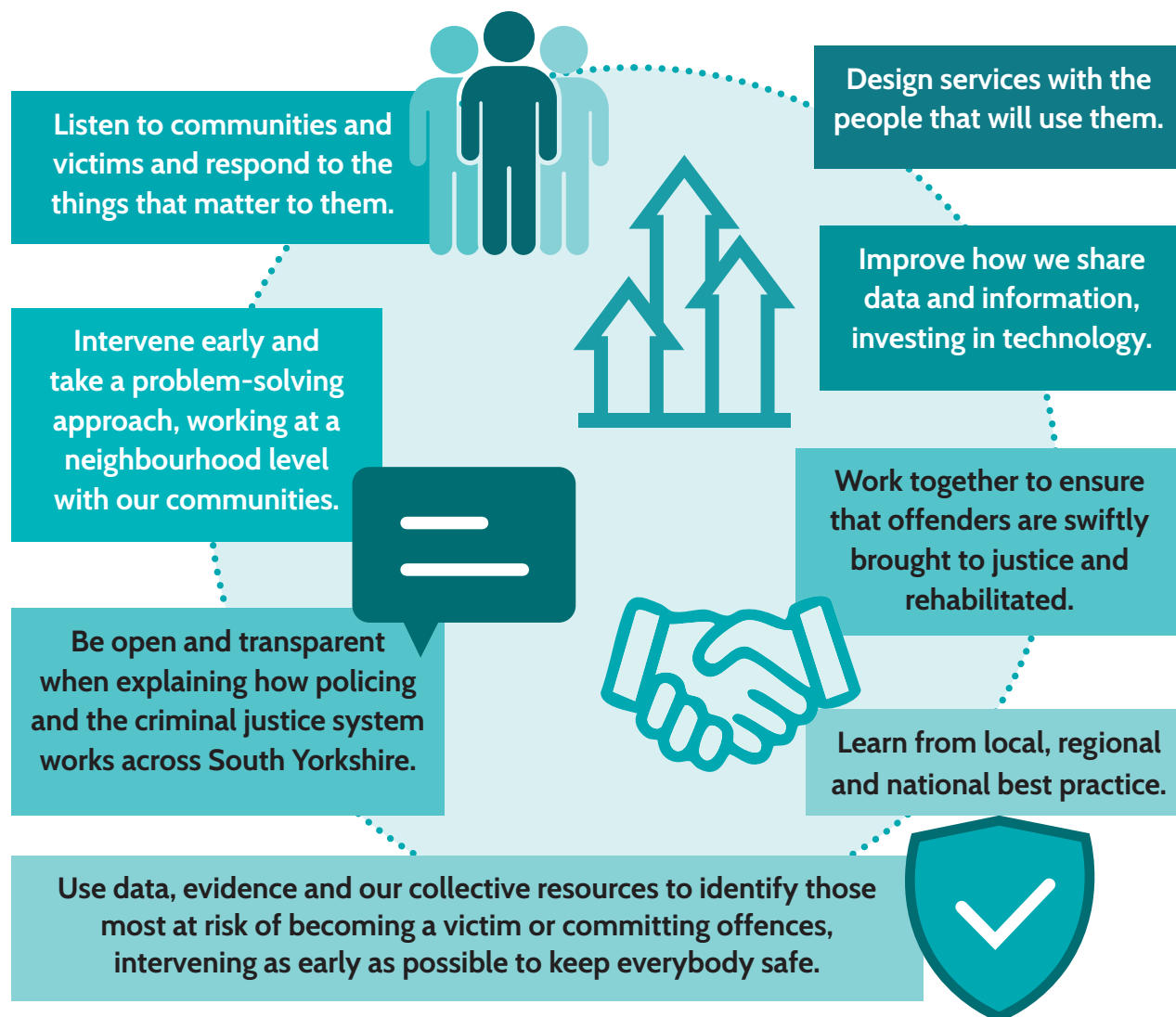
- Victim and survivor services
- Prisons - training, development and support programmes
- Probation
- Police - monitoring
- Housing
- Youth Justice Service
- Health (including mental health)
- Community, family and peers
- Substance misuse services
- Employment and benefits

A New Approach – Our Principles

In November 2024, the Mayor brought partners from across South Yorkshire together to consider how we can work together differently, building on the good work already underway to make South Yorkshire as safe as possible.

The outcome from these discussions was an agreement from all partners that there are clear opportunities to work together, to develop a “whole system” and truly transformative approach to keep people safe and prevent and tackle crime and ASB.

To make this a reality, and achieve our collective ambitions for South Yorkshire, partners agreed that we will:



We know that developing and taking forward this new way of working together will not be easy.

But, we also know that, without a new approach, neither the public nor the partnership itself will see a step-change to the challenges that all agencies, organisations and our communities have been facing over many years.

That is why this Plan focuses on the importance of the police and partners working together in a different way in the coming months and years, to ensure that they can deliver the best possible service to communities and victims of crime and ASB.



White Rose Agreement

Following the May 2024 Mayoral elections, there are now three directly-elected regional Mayors in Yorkshire representing over 4.5 million people.

All three Mayors have Police and Crime Commissioner responsibilities, with the North Yorkshire and York Mayor also having Fire Commissioner responsibilities.

The three Mayors have committed to come together in their Police and Crime Commissioner roles, and bring together the three police forces, along with the wider criminal justice system and voluntary and community sector, to:

- Tackle violence against women and girls.
- Ensure that there is good regional collaboration in respect of cross-border crime, and tackling organised crime groups.

- Develop approaches to preventing, supporting and using enforcement when necessary, to address youth crime, including taking a public health approach to crime prevention.

By working across the region, the three Mayors each have an opportunity to share organisational learning, and develop and implement solutions to those issues that are not confined to any one area.



Working with National Government

In addition to ensuring that the work of SYMCA, and local and regional partners is aligned, the Mayor is keen to ensure that any approach we take is consistent with, and supports the ambitions of, the new Government.

In her speech to the National Police Chiefs' Council and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, the Home Secretary set out her plans with regards to policing and crime, including:

- A new Police Performance Unit to track national data on local performance and drive up standards.
- A Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee to get policing back to basics and rebuild trust between local forces and the communities they serve.

- Additional central government funding for policing to support the Government's Safer Streets Mission.

These priorities align with the Mayor's priority of improving public trust and confidence in policing, community safety, and the wider criminal justice system across South Yorkshire.

In the Devolution White Paper the Government has announced an ambition for

Mayors (who have responsibility for policing), to also take on responsibility for their local Fire and Rescue Service. We will work closely and cooperatively with the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service as these national plans are developed, to consider how they should best be taken forward locally.

The Mayor and South Yorkshire Police will continue to work closely with Government to deliver their local and national commitments.



Strategic Priorities for the Next Five Years

The Mayor has agreed the five overarching strategic policing and crime priorities that we, alongside South Yorkshire Police and our partners, will focus on over the next five years:



1 Improving trust and confidence in the police and criminal justice system



2 Preventing and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour



3 Improving safety on all our transport networks



4 Breaking the cycle of offending and harm



5 Tackling the most serious offences and building resilient communities



These five priorities will form the basis of all our work with the police and partners in the coming years.

Our Priorities and How We Will Deliver Them



Cross cutting theme 1: Putting communities and victims at the centre of everything we do

To achieve this we will

- Listen to communities and respond to the things that matter to them.
- Be open and transparent when explaining how policing and the criminal justice system work across South Yorkshire.
- Design services with the people that will use them.

Cross cutting theme 2: Working in partnership to improve outcomes for all

To achieve this we will

- Intervene early and take a problem-solving approach, working at a neighbourhood level with our communities.
- Use data, evidence and our collective resources to identify those most at risk of becoming a victim or committing offences, intervening as early as possible to keep everybody safe.
- Improve how we share data and information, investing in technology.
- Work together to ensure that offenders are swiftly brought to justice and rehabilitated.
- Learn from local, regional and national best practice.

Priority 1.

Improving Trust and Confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System



Improving Trust and Confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System

South Yorkshire should be a place where everyone feels safe and secure, whoever they are and wherever they are.

Where people report crime or ASB, they expect their concerns to be taken seriously, and for the police and partners to keep them informed and updated.

But we know this doesn't always happen. Our public and community engagement activity has highlighted how some groups (in particular, women and those from minority backgrounds) can feel unwilling to report crime or anti-social behaviour to the police.

Policing relies on public support and engagement to operate effectively. Public confidence in policing can be influenced by events that take place locally, or across the wider policing service.

When His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) last inspected South Yorkshire Police in 2022, they identified clear evidence of positive activity in a number of areas which are important in building trust and demonstrate efforts in community engagement.

We will build on this, by working with the police, community safety and criminal justice partners to ensure that they continue to engage all communities across South Yorkshire, and implement a range of approaches to improve trust and confidence, including:

- Undertaking regular public and victim satisfaction surveys, and publishing the findings. Where concerns exist, we will bring partners together to better understand and address the underlying causes.
- Demonstrating that those coming into contact with the police are being treated fairly, and that complaints and concerns are treated seriously.
- Ensuring that the police and partners in the criminal justice system recognise where disproportionality exists, and that they take steps to address it.
- Demonstrating that the concerns of communities and victims are being listened to, and explaining the steps being taken by the police and partners to address the things that matter to them.
- Ensuring that the public and victims can easily access information – about how to report crime or anti-social behaviour, about their own case, how to access support, and about what is happening in their area to prevent and tackle crime.

To make this a reality, we will:

- **Work with South Yorkshire Police and partners to ensure we keep getting better at the basics.**
- **Ensure that there is regular, and ongoing public and victim engagement in respect of policing, crime and ASB issues.**
- **Ensure that reporting crime or ASB to the police and partners is as easy as possible.**
- **Ensure that people who report crime or ASB are kept updated.**

Work with South Yorkshire Police and partners to ensure we keep getting better at the basics

When people report crime or ASB, they have an expectation that their concerns will be taken seriously, and dealt with by the relevant agency – which may not always be the police.

They also expect that the tools, powers, tactics, technology and resources available to the police will be used proportionately and fairly, and where necessary the police work in partnership to solve problems.

How well they do this will impact on people's trust and confidence in the police and partners.



We will work to ensure that:

- The police and partners will respond to reports of crime or ASB in a timely manner, and keep those who report it updated.
- The police will treat everyone fairly, and with dignity and respect.
- Crimes and ASB will be investigated proportionately and appropriately. If the decision is taken not to investigate a report, then the police will provide a clear explanation for the reasons behind that decision and communicate this to the person who made that report.
- Complaints or reports of dissatisfaction with the police are dealt with in a timely manner.
- Learning and recommendations from the Mayor's Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) are understood and implemented.

- Body-worn video is used effectively as a supervision tool to assess how well the police interact with the public, and what lessons can be learned. We will ask South Yorkshire Police's independent advisory groups to undertake a review of body-worn video, in cases of stop and search.
- There are robust oversight and governance mechanisms in respect of new and emerging technologies available to the police and partners, such as facial recognition software or artificial intelligence.

- The police, community safety and criminal justice partners, including those in the voluntary sector, will work in partnership with each other to develop a whole systems approach to preventing and tackling crime and ASB. This will include sharing appropriate information wherever possible.
- The police, community safety and criminal justice partners will do everything they can to ensure that cases come to court as swiftly as possible, with accurate information to support the prosecution and court process.
- That, as far as is possible, the workforce diversity of South Yorkshire Police reflects the communities it serves across South Yorkshire.
- All police officers and staff are vetted to the appropriate level, that vetting clearance is regularly reviewed, and that complaints about specific officers are taken seriously.

The public have also said that they want to see more visible policing in their communities. Whilst this will not be easy, given the financial challenges that all police forces have faced in recent years and currently face, the new Government has committed to restore neighbourhood policing across England and Wales.

The Mayor and South Yorkshire Police will work with central Government over the coming years to enhance neighbourhood policing in South Yorkshire.

When people report crime or ASB, they have an expectation that their concerns will be taken seriously, and dealt with by the relevant agency – which may not always be the police.



Ensure that there is regular, and ongoing public and victim engagement in respect of policing, crime and anti-social behaviour issues

The public regularly say that they want to know what the police and other partners are doing in their area to tackle crime and ASB.

Where the public is better informed and feels listened to, there is often greater confidence that those in authority are taking their concerns seriously and doing their best to address them.

In many cases, the perceptions or fear of crime can be very different to the reality, but if the public are not given timely and relevant information – these concerns will continue to persist and grow.

The Mayor is committed to working with South Yorkshire Police and partners, to build on the existing neighbourhood policing presence, and ensure that the voices of victims and all our communities are heard, and that the public

understands what is happening in their area to tackle crime and ASB.

The Mayor will also work with South Yorkshire Police to ensure that victims' rights under the Code of Practice for Victims are met, including victims being regularly updated on how their case is progressing, and ensuring that those who contact the Police with a complaint or concern are provided with information on how to access support should they need it.

We will work to ensure that:

- There is a clear strategy in place for the Mayor, police, and wider criminal justice partners, to engage with all communities across South Yorkshire. This includes those whose voices are heard less often, or those who are less likely to engage with us.
- The Engagement Strategy is across multiple platforms, to reach and engage with as wide an audience as possible.

- The feedback from these engagement events is used to inform the work of SYMCA, South Yorkshire Police, and other criminal justice partners on an ongoing basis.
- There is clear and consistent communication from SYMCA, South Yorkshire Police, partners and businesses on success stories. The public and business want to hear when things have gone well, and where partners have made a positive difference in local areas.

To further improve trust and confidence in the police, we will develop and implement the UK's first Community Confidence Board. Feedback from the Board will help inform decisions about how policing is carried out across South Yorkshire.

The Mayor is committed to working with South Yorkshire Police and partners, to build on the existing neighbourhood policing presence.



Ensure that reporting crime or anti-social behaviour to the police and partners is as easy as possible

South Yorkshire Police and our statutory partners work incredibly hard to keep the public safe.

But we know there is more to do. The public occasionally tell us that they can be passed between the police and other services when they try to report concerns about crime or ASB, or that they are not kept informed of how their case or complaint is progressing.

We know that the police and partners are all working hard and are often stretched – but if the public is not clear which agency is responsible for dealing with their concerns, or do not have confidence that these concerns are being taken seriously, then trust and confidence will erode – making the work of the police and partners even harder.

We will work with the police and other partners to help people to navigate the system, particularly where there are multi-agency responsibilities, and ensure that access is as simple and inclusive as possible.

We will work to ensure that:

- South Yorkshire Police and those other partners responsible for dealing with crime or anti-social behaviour issues have in place clear, consistent and easy to access information for the public, including how to report crime or ASB.
- The public know what to expect after a report of crime or ASB is made, including how they will be updated.
- The public can easily and readily access timely and relevant information on activity to address crime and ASB.

Priority 2.

Preventing and Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



Preventing and Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

We want South Yorkshire to be a place where people are safe and protected from those crimes that can devastate lives and ruin businesses. Whilst all crimes are important, we will work with the police and partners to focus on those issues that can have a disproportionate impact on individuals, communities and businesses.

To achieve this, we will work with the Police, councils, and other partners, to better understand the drivers of these crimes; to encourage greater reporting from the public and businesses; and put efficient and effective steps in place to prevent, disrupt, and solve these crimes.

To make this a reality, we will:

- **Focus on those issues of most concern to individuals and communities.**
- **Ensure all crimes, including newer crime types are responded to properly.**
- **Focus on those issues of most concern to businesses.**

Focus on those issues of most concern to individuals and communities

Following discussions with the public and our partners across South Yorkshire, four key issues have been identified that cannot be addressed by policing alone, and which require all partners to come together, if we are to transform how they are dealt with:

- **Knife crime and violence**
- **Violence against women and girls**
- **Child sexual abuse and exploitation**
- **ASB, such as littering and graffiti that can make places feel unsafe.**

Knife Crime and Violence

Knife crime is a scourge on our communities, destroying the lives of both the victims of knife crime and those who carry knives.

We know that children can be exploited or groomed by criminals into a life of violence and abuse. Therefore, whilst we take knife crime extremely seriously, we must also ensure that the police and partners take a child-centred approach in line with nationally recognised best practice.



We will work to ensure that:

- We adopt a public health approach that protects young people from knife crime and all other forms of crime or exploitation, putting early intervention and diversion at the heart of our approach.
- Where a serious knife crime offence takes place, for example where a person is injured or killed, we will work with the police and criminal justice partners to ensure a zero-tolerance approach is taken.
- The Violence Reduction Unit will undertake a review of what works, and identify those actions that can be implemented across South Yorkshire.
- We regularly refresh our assessment of what we know about those places where knife crime and violence are more likely to take place, who is more likely to carry a knife and why.
- We work with the Chief Constable to deliver targeted hotspot policing in those areas that are a priority for violence and ASB.
- All partners play their part and that the partnership holds each other to account for our shared responsibility under the serious violence duty.
- We will provide schools and colleges with clear and consistent resources to help educate children and young people on the risks and dangers of carrying or using knives and work with teachers to ensure they are widely rolled out and understood.
- The Violence Reduction Unit will work with sentencers to provide evidence on which sentences are most effective in reducing crime and future offending.

Violence Against Women and Girls

The Government's mission to halve Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in a decade will require a significant local and national effort.

We will work with the partners, Government and the police, to ensure that every tool available is used to target perpetrators, support victims and survivors, and address the root causes of abuse and violence.

This will include: understanding and challenging those attitudes that can lead to controlling or abusive behaviour; considering the impact of social media; ensuring that support is readily available for victims and survivors of abuse; and supporting enforcement and perpetrator programmes for those who have committed domestic or sexual abuse.

We will work to ensure that:

- We engage all communities and all age groups across South Yorkshire to hear their views and ideas on how to make a difference in this area.
- We work closely with learning organisations and local councils to develop support and training on *'healthy and respectful relationships'*.
- We understand what data and evidence is currently held by the police and partners, and how it is used to prevent and tackle VAWG, filling gaps where identified.
- We align our work to prevent and tackle VAWG with the Mayor's responsibilities in respect of transport across South Yorkshire.
- South Yorkshire Police undertake a "dip-sample" of body-worn video, to assess how well officers respond when attending domestic abuse cases.
- New powers and legislation are fully considered and used to bring offenders to justice.
- We understand how well South Yorkshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service are using the stalking and harassment legislation to protect victims and tackle perpetrators.
- We understand how well South Yorkshire Police and partners are addressing VAWG in the online space. This includes *'sexting'*, *'revenge porn'*, *'deepfakes'* and the use of AI, rape threats, *'doxing'* of personal information, or any other form of online abuse or misogyny.
- Commissioned support services and perpetrator programmes are culturally sensitive.
- Work with employers as we develop the Mayor's Better Business Challenge to explore how we can offer victims the support they need at work through schemes such as White Ribbon.

- We work to understand how to deliver the Government's commitments to have domestic abuse experts in 999 control rooms, and ensure there are advocates to support victims from report through to trial.
- We work to understand how to deliver the Government's commitment to having specialist rape and sexual offences teams.

Whilst we know that gender-based violence disproportionately affects women and girls, we recognise that a significant number of men and boys can also experience the violent and abusive crimes set out in the national VAWG strategy.

This is why, as part of our activity to prevent and tackle VAWG, we will work with the Police and partners to commission a strategic needs assessment into domestic abuse and sexual offences committed against men and boys, and develop a local strategy to help prevent and tackle these crimes.



Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Each year, too many children are targeted, exploited and abused by criminals.

All partners across South Yorkshire, are determined to do everything possible to keep children safe from sexual abuse. Over the last 10 years, the approach taken by South Yorkshire Police and local authorities has been transformed. However, we are not complacent.

South Yorkshire Police and partners will be expected to ensure there is a robust and consistent approach to protecting children, including those who go missing from home or are at risk of being exploited. This work will be regularly monitored by the Mayor.

We will work to ensure that:

- Partners assess the extent to which the recommendations set out across inquiries into Child Sexual Exploitation have been fully implemented in South Yorkshire. If there are any reasons as to why a recommendation has not, or should not,

be implemented, we will ensure that this is clearly explained to the.

- South Yorkshire Police and partners have up-to-date problem profiles detailing the characteristics of those more likely to be victims.
- The voices of victims are heard when support services are commissioned so that we can be certain that they meet the needs of victims and those at risk of harm.
- The best practice approach now taken in Rotherham continues to be replicated across the whole of South Yorkshire, and that clear links are made to other child protections issues – such as those children who go missing from home, or those being exploited by criminal gangs. We will work with South Yorkshire Police and partners in taking this forward.
- We take every opportunity possible, as a partnership, to ensure that children and young people are given the best start in life. We will align the Mayor's

priorities on keeping children safe, with his other priorities such as 'Beds for Babies', 'Every Child a Reader' or the work on apprenticeships.

- Our partners in the voluntary sector have sufficient provisions in place to ensure that victims – both recent and historic – are given the support they need to come forward and report these crimes.
- Links are developed with NHS providers to best support victims experiencing mental health distress.

In all cases, the approach taken by the police and partners will be to protect the vulnerable, and pursue those who would exploit them.

South Yorkshire Police and partners will be expected to ensure there is a robust and consistent approach to protecting children. This work will be regularly monitored by the Mayor.

Anti-social behaviour, such as littering and graffiti that can make places feel unsafe

Across South Yorkshire, our high streets and shared public spaces are amongst our most cherished assets, and our town and city centres are being brought back to life.

But if they are not protected, or if people do not feel that these spaces are safe or cared about, then we can't expect those spaces and places to thrive.

We will work to ensure that:

- Our public spaces are free from anti-social behaviour – including graffiti, littering and fly-tipping, by developing South Yorkshire's first "Big Clean" initiative.
- We work with the Chief Constable to ensure a strong and visible policing presence in South Yorkshire's communities, particularly in town and city centers.
- We work with the police and the Probation Service to ensure that Community Payback schemes are used effectively to help rebuild those communities blighted by ASB.
- Monies confiscated from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, are used to help restore and rebuild communities affected by crime and ASB, for example in the "Big Clean" initiative.
- The concerns of rural communities and estates are taken seriously are taken seriously with a commitment to invest in tackling off-road bike and nuisance behaviour.
- Groups, such as Neighbourhood Watch, are supported by the police and councils to help communities keep themselves safe.



Ensure all crimes, including newer crime types are responded to properly

All crime is important and we will work together to address all types of offending whether that be long standing such as burglary, or new and changing crimes such as fraud and cyber-enabled offending.

We will work to ensure that:

- South Yorkshire Police attend all residential burglaries in recognition of the impact burglaries have on individuals and families, in terms of losing cherished possessions and compromising feelings of safety.
- A partnership Hate Crime Plan is developed, following consultation with our diverse communities.
- We develop an evidence-based approach to fraud and cyber enabled crime across South Yorkshire.



Focus on those issues of most concern to businesses

In 2024, the Mayor announced a new Plan for Good Growth for South Yorkshire, alongside the region's first Skills Strategy.

Launching the Plan for Good Growth, the Mayor said: 'it tackles the big, long-term challenges we need to overcome if we are going to deliver more jobs, more investment, and good growth; a growth model that lifts up everyone across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield'.

For this to become a reality, businesses need to feel that they can operate safely, and employees must be safe living and working in South Yorkshire.

We will ensure that farms and other rural businesses are protected and supported.

We will work to ensure that:

- The Police, community safety partners, councils and businesses work together to develop clear and evidence-based strategies for preventing and tackling retail crime and partner with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW), and the National Business Crime Centre to adopt the ShopKind campaign.
- We continue to work with the Mayor's Business Advisory Board (BAB) to help shape our thinking on issues of importance to businesses and the region's economic future.
- Businesses can easily and readily access information and advice in respect of how to report different types of crime and ASB, for example, how to report cyber-crime.
- The Police, community safety partners, councils and businesses work together to develop clear and evidence-based strategies for preventing and tackling crime and ASB committed in the night-time economy. We will work with partners to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to design-out crime, support business and the public (for example street lighting, taxi marshals or street wardens), and take enforcement action against those involved in violence or ASB.
- We bring together South Yorkshire Police, councils, and those living and working in rural communities, to develop and implement new approaches to ensure that farms and other rural businesses are protected and supported.
- We work with local authority partners to develop innovative solutions to fly-tipping in rural communities and across the region.

Priority 3. Improving Safety on All of Our Transport Networks



Improving Safety on All of Our Transport Networks

We want South Yorkshire to be a place where everyone has the freedom to move around easily around, with a choice of easy to access, safe, reliable and affordable transport networks.

We also want to ensure that our roads, streets and open spaces are free from dangerous and anti-social drivers and vehicles that can make people's lives a misery.

For this to happen, we need partners to come together to ensure that we develop long-term and sustainable approaches to reducing the number of road deaths, tackling crime and ASB on our transport networks and preventing and tackling dangerous and anti-social drivers.

To make this a reality, we will:

- **Establish a 'Vision Zero' approach to reducing road danger with our ultimate ambition to end deaths and serious injuries in South Yorkshire.**
- **Develop new approaches to tackle violence and ASB on our transport networks.**
- **Prevent and tackle dangerous and nuisance drivers.**

Establish a 'Vision Zero' approach to reducing road danger with our ultimate ambition to end deaths and serious injuries in South Yorkshire

Following the transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner powers to the Mayor, it was agreed that the strategic leadership of our South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership would transfer to SYMCA.

We consider that our roads, streets and shared spaces must be safe for everyone who uses them, or who wants to use them. By having responsibility for the Safer Roads Partnership, the Mayor is now able to bring together those partners who can have the biggest impact.

In 2023, 39 people were killed on our roads and 802 were seriously injured. Every death is a tragedy. Every serious injury changes someone's life, often forever.

The impacts aren't just on those involved in a collision, but their family, friends and the wider community, who often feel unsafe as a result.

We will work to ensure that:

- The “Vision Zero” approach, that sees every death or serious injury on our roads as preventable, is adopted across South Yorkshire.
- We continue to encourage more walking and cycling, as this provides health and environmental benefits. Over 250 of those killed or seriously injured were people walking or riding their bikes, making them our most vulnerable road users. We need our roads to be safe, to get more people to engage in sustainable transport modes, so that we all benefit.

Develop new approaches to tackle violence and ASB on our transport networks

The Mayor is determined to create a transport that gives people the freedom and choice to go to the places they want to go within South Yorkshire, as well as nationally and internationally. Our transport system will be safe, reliable, clean, green and affordable, supporting economic growth by connecting people across South Yorkshire to opportunities.

Sadly, we know there are too many cases where people, particularly women and girls, have said that they do not feel safe travelling alone on the transport network – particularly after dark.

We also know there are links between different forms of ASB (eg smoking, vaping, drug misuse, verbal abuse etc) on the transport network and fare evasion.

With responsibility for transport and policing across South Yorkshire, including control of the Supertram and pursuit of powers over the region's bus network, the Mayor will work



together with partners to ensure that people feel, and are, free from harassment or intimidation when travelling to and from home or work on all modes of transport.

SYMCA already works closely with South Yorkshire Police, British Transport Police and Local Authorities, Youth Justice Services and transport operators, and jointly commissions a dedicated Travel Safe Officer from South Yorkshire Police. This is an effective partnership which could, in future, undertake more activities, including attending local community meetings, operational working groups and safer places partnerships.

We will work to ensure that:

- There is robust and effective join-up between the Mayor's transport and public safety agendas – particularly in respect of women and girls and young people using the transport networks.
- Our quarterly customer surveys include questions on safety at the interchanges, and on journeys.
- We record all ASB and crime at our interchanges and regularly review the data with South Yorkshire Police, to identify emerging trends to develop targeted interventions.
- Partnership and governance structures are efficient and effective.
- The collection of ASB data is centralised on trams and buses, to enable a baseline to be set and monitoring of improvement to be carried out.
- We review public safety data, as part of our general business results review processes, and that we regularly publish figures relating to complaints about ASB on and around our public transport network.
- Consideration is given to how new powers that may be made in future legislation can be used to drive improvements, and to consider setting new byelaws for local authority officers to have an enforcement role in future.



Prevent and tackle dangerous and anti-social drivers

Since taking on responsibility for policing and crime matters across South Yorkshire, many residents have written to the Mayor to raise their concerns about dangerous and anti-social car drivers, motorcycle and quad-bike riders - both on-road and off-road.

This includes those who drive on the road in a dangerous manner (with a focus on those involved in the Fatal Four: speeding; driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; not wearing a seatbelt; and mobile device use), those driving dangerous off-road vehicles, as well as those who park in a dangerous and obstructive manner on pavements – forcing people to walk in the roads to get around these vehicles.

This behaviour not only threatens lives, it reduces the quality of life for communities across our region. It has been raised by members of the Police and Crime Panel, and local councillors, who receive a high number of complaints and concerns from the public.

We will work to ensure that:

- Councils, communities and partners are brought together, to develop long-term, effective and scalable solutions to address dangerous and anti-social drivers, in a joined-up way across South Yorkshire.
- Councils, communities and partners are brought together to develop long-term, effective and scalable solutions to address those who park in a dangerous and obstructive manner on pavements in a joined-up way across South Yorkshire.
- We work closely with the Chief Constable to assess what additional resources (people, technology, etc) may be needed to prevent and tackle dangerous off-road vehicles.



Priority 4.

Breaking the Cycle of Offending and Harm



Breaking the Cycle of Offending and Harm

If we are to break the cycle of those persistent offenders, whose crimes or anti-social behaviour can blight communities, we have to understand what is driving this behaviour and seek to prevent it from happening in the first place.

For this to happen, we need all partners to take every opportunity to provide support to individuals at the earliest stage – whether that is when the risk of them offending is first identified; when they first offend; on community court orders; or in the prison estate itself, before they are released and reintegrated into the community.

We also need to look at the whole criminal justice system to understand how the current system either helps or hinders those people trying to avoid or exit the criminal justice system – and then put the necessary steps in place to address what is not working well enough.

To make this a reality, we will:

- **Take an early intervention and whole-systems approach wherever possible.**
- **Build on the effective community safety and criminal justice partnerships already in place.**

Take an early intervention and whole-systems approach wherever possible

Evidence and experience tells us that there are a range of factors that impact adult and child offending, or someone becoming a victim of crime. Housing; employment; education; access to alcohol, substance misuse or mental health services; the cost-of-living crisis, societal inequality; school exclusions; the influence of social media; the lack of positive roles models; the lack of sport, arts or other social or creative activities; and adverse childhood experiences – can all have an impact on whether a person may be more likely to be a victim or perpetrator of crime, at any point in their life.

We know that the Police alone cannot resolve these underlying issues. If we are to make a real transformation to reducing crime and reoffending, then we need to take an approach where all partners come together to focus

on prevention and early intervention, as well as rehabilitation and effective treatment and support – either in the community or custodial estate.

By understanding the underlying risk factors and issues that can make a person more likely to be involved in crime or ASB, we can put systems and steps in place to take action at an early stage – to support the individual, and wider society.

We will work to ensure that:

- Partners come together to build a system that takes an end-to-end approach, seeing each interaction as an opportunity to affect a positive outcome.
- Partners take opportunities to share power and resources.
- We encourage all partners to take a trauma-informed and strengths-based approach to support and interventions, encouraging people to focus on what they can do, rather than what they can't do.

- Make sure that the right interventions are given at the right time, joining up support services so that people can access training and apprenticeships or health support before things go wrong.
- Work with local authorities and NHS partners to ensure that people with co-occurring substance misuse and mental health issues can access holistic support so that they do not need to pursue multiple avenues to get help.



- Use evidence of what works at all times.
- Listen to the needs and experiences of victims, to make sure that services work for them.
- Share data and information in a timely and effective manner.

By understanding the underlying risk factors and issues that can make a person more likely to be involved in crime or ASB, we can put systems and steps in place to take action at an early stage – to support the individual, and wider society.

Build on the effective community safety and criminal justice partnerships already in place

There are a number of criminal justice partnerships that operate across South Yorkshire.

The Mayor chairs the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), which brings together criminal justice partners (eg police, Crown Prosecution Service, probation, courts etc) from across South Yorkshire to identify local challenges and put systems in place to deliver an efficient and effective Criminal Justice System (CJS).



Each council across South Yorkshire also has responsibility for putting in place a Community Safety Partnership (CSP), which brings local partners together, to address and reduce community safety issues. Community Safety Partnerships must have regard to priorities set out in this Plan, which in turn takes account of each Community Safety Partnerships priorities.

Since the Mayor took on responsibility for policing and crime, the police and wider criminal justice partnerships have faced a number of challenges, including ensuring that the early prisoner release scheme was delivered efficiently and effectively, and responding to the disorder of summer 2024 and the subsequent pressures faced by the police, Crown Prosecution Service, courts and prison system.

We will work to ensure that:

- Partners come together to learn from what has worked well in South Yorkshire, and incorporate that learning into “business as usual” wherever possible.

- We will come together to better understand what is not working well, and why – putting in place solutions to tackle problems.
- All opportunities for collaboration, partnership working, co-locating services and streamlining governance arrangements are realised.
- We adopt a continuous learning approach evaluating our restorative justice services, the use and effectiveness of out of court disposals and pathways to diversionary services.

We recognise that this will not be easy. All CJS agencies are currently facing a significant financial and resourcing challenge, which is placing pressure across the whole system.

But partners are committed to coming together to learn from what has worked well, improve that which is working less well, and keep listening and responding positively to the feedback received from victims, witnesses and offenders themselves.

What might a whole system approach look like in South Yorkshire?

Prevention/ Early Intervention

Schools

- Offer evidence-based training, education and support on issues such as: violence prevention; healthy and respectful relationships; and substance misuse
- Take a strengths-based approach to working with children to reduce the level of suspensions and exclusions
- Provide positive activities for children – sports, arts, cooking, music etc
- Make referrals to, and share information with, social care or the police where appropriate.

Health

- Provide advice and signpost to local support services
- Offer “Navigator” schemes, for those involved in violence
- Make referrals to, and share information with, social care or the police where appropriate.

Local Authority / Community Safety Partnerships / Youth Offending Teams

- Commission and run out of school activities or safe places to play; early intervention support; perpetrator programmes; or substance misuse programmes
- Provision of housing and social care support
- Community-based schemes or initiatives
- Technology – CCTV, street lighting, etc
- Sharing local intelligence with police and partners.

Voluntary and Community Sector

- Providing advice and guidance (adult and children)
- Providing evidence-based specialist support services – eg substance misuse, violence prevention, perpetrator programmes, etc.

Police / Violence Reduction Unit

- Provide advice and education in schools
- Use Out Of Court Disposals
- Sharing local intelligence with police and partners.

Mayor / SYMCA

- Encouraging and facilitating early intervention support
- Sharing local intelligence with partners
- Making links between local partnerships
- Commissioning victim and support services.

Government

- Sharing good practice and relevant research or data to inform local practice
- Funding pilots or crime prevention programmes.

Harm Reduction and Criminal Justice Interventions

Schools

- Suspension or exclusions
- Report incidents to, and share information with, social care or the Police.

Health

- Report incidents to, and share information with, social care or the Police.

Local Authority / Community Safety Partnerships / Youth Offending Teams

- Targeting support and interventions on those who need it most (eg substance misuse or perpetrator programmes)
- Report incidents to, and share information with, social care or the police
- Sharing local intelligence with police and partners, eg 'hot spot' and 'needs assessment data'
- Use of local authority enforcement powers where appropriate (i.e sale of knives or offensive weapons.
- Effective use of community sentences.

Voluntary and Community Sector

- Providing police or court-mandated prevention or perpetrator programmes.

Police

- Referrals to other agencies, Out Of Court Disposals, arrest, investigation, charging
- Providing good quality case files to CPS
- Victims and witness engagement – Victims Code compliance
- Sharing local intelligence with police and partners.

CPS / Courts

- Prosecution - community orders or prison
- Special measures for victims and witnesses
- Victims and witness engagement – Victims Code compliance.

Prison / Probation

- Training, education and specialist programmes – in prison and in the community
- Monitoring offenders in the community
- Multi agency public protection arrangements, including Victim Liaison Service Rehabilitation Services.

Mayor / SYMCA

- Governance arrangements for police and wider Criminal Justice System partnerships
- Sharing local intelligence with partners.

Government

- New legislation as appropriate.



Priority 5.
Tackling the Most Serious
Offences and Building
Resilient Communities



Tackling the Most Serious Offences and Building Resilient Communities

We want the police and other emergency services across South Yorkshire to be prepared and ready to respond quickly and effectively in those, thankfully rare, cases where a critical or major incident is declared.

For this to happen, we need all partners to work together to identify and dismantle those organised crime groups with strong links to drugs and firearms, as well as those that are national priorities under the Strategic Policing Requirement.

To make this a reality we will:

- **Work together to identify and dismantle organised crime groups.**
- **Continue to deliver on the Government's Strategic Policing Requirements.**

Work together to identify and dismantle organised crime groups

In South Yorkshire, threats from organised crime groups (OCGs) are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. This is South Yorkshire Police's established brand for tackling organised crime, which brings policing and partners to deliver the '4Ps':

- **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 disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force undertakes mapping to establish the capabilities of and threats posed by OCGs acting in South Yorkshire. This includes mapping out firearms capabilities. Since the inception of Fortify in 2020, there has been a significant downward trend in the numbers of firearms discharges. In 2024, there were no fatalities as a result of firearms discharges.

The force has 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.

A key challenge in tackling the criminality associated with County Lines activity, is understanding the nature and scale of it.

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. 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.

Many of our partners have highlighted the links between drug use and wider criminality across South Yorkshire. Under the previous Government, Dame Carol Black was commissioned to prove a detailed set of recommendations on what can be done to

improve prevention, treatment and recovery from drug misuse. These recommendations are taken forward by the local Combatting Drugs Partnerships.

We will work to ensure that:

- Efforts continue using the '4Ps' approach to target OCGs, those illegally possessing or using firearms, or exploiting vulnerable people into serious and organised crime.
- Support for young people drawn into criminality continues to be available.
- Partners continue to come together to prevent and tackle drug use across South Yorkshire in line with the findings and recommendations set out in Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs.
- We adopt national best practice when dealing with victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, and train officers to recognise the signs.

Continue to deliver on the Government's Strategic Policing Requirements

The most recent Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) was published in 2023 and sets out the direction that all police forces must take in respect of the biggest threats to public safety, which the Home Secretary has identified. It also sets out the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats.

The national threats set out in the SPR are:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- A national cyber incident
- Child sexual abuse
- Public disorder
- Civil emergencies.

The SPR places a duty on the Mayor to ensure that South Yorkshire Police contributes appropriately to these national strategic aims. Other partner organisations (such as the Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service, NHS, National Crime Agency, and Local Authorities) will also contribute to the SPR's requirements.

The SPR is managed by South Yorkshire Police within the appropriate business area, with oversight through the portfolios of the Senior Command Team leads. Strategic Risk Assessments consider and assess the threats within South Yorkshire, and any emerging issues which can then be appropriately escalated and mitigated.

The extent of local delivery is determined within the SPR, and there are a number of collaborative policing requirements in place with partner agencies such as Counter Terrorism Unit, National Crime Agency, Regional Organised Crime Units, National Police Chief's Council and the National Police Coordination Centre.

We will work to ensure that:

- The Mayor reports annually on the steps that the Chief Constable and he have taken in respect of the SPR.



Finance and Resources

The funding the Mayor receives for policing and crime comes from national and local taxation. Most of this funding is given to the Chief Constable for the day-to-day running of South Yorkshire Police.

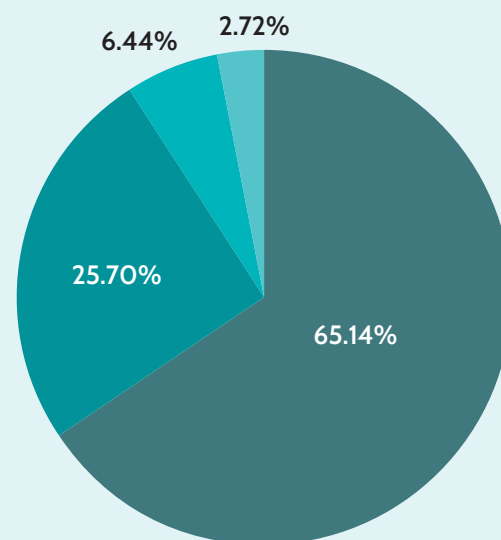
The remaining funding is used to commission services that support victims and aim to deliver the strategic priorities set out in this Plan. This will include using evidence-based approaches to ensure that those who are most likely to be victims of crime are prioritised, to ensure maximum value for money.

Finally, the funding is also used to ensure that the Mayor receives policy, governance and oversight support, in respect of policing and crime issues, by the staff within SYMCA's Policing and Reform Directorate. This will include ensuring that the priorities in this Plan are delivered and monitored.

Every year, the Mayor sets a budget for policing. Most of the funding for South Yorkshire Police comes from the central Government Police Grant, but money also comes from the policing element of the

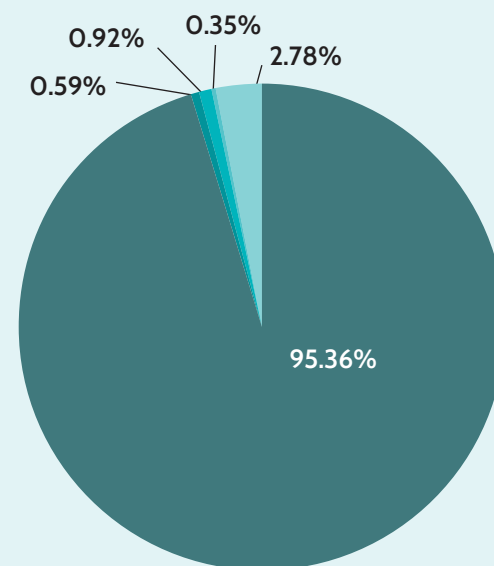
Council Tax (known as the Police Precept). The charts below show where funding comes from, as well as what the money was spent on in 2024/25.

Funding 2024/5



Central Gov Grant External Funding
Local Taxation Reserves

How the Money is Spent 2024/25



Legacy Costs (net) Police & Reform
Capital Financing South Yorkshire Police
Partnerships & Commissioning

Looking Ahead

The overall policing budget for 2025/26 is £358.4m. This is funded from the Home Office grant (73%) and precept (27%).

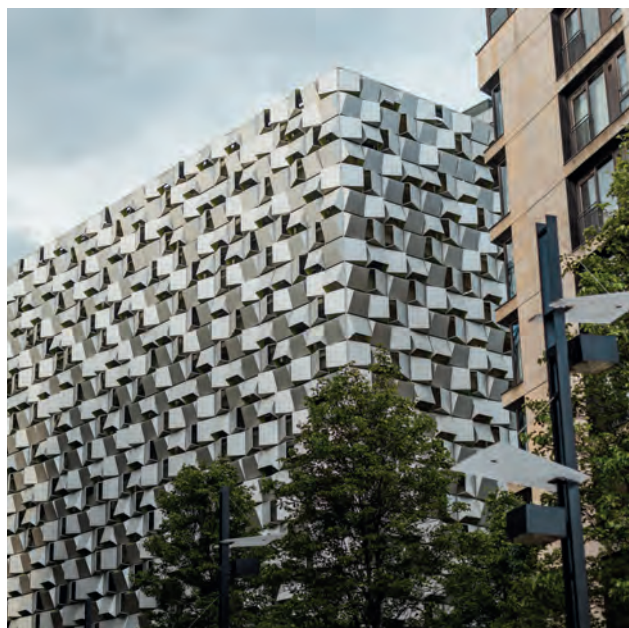
The majority (90%) of the policing budget is made up of staff costs. South Yorkshire Police employs 5,242 full-time equivalent people, of which 2,959 are police officers, 2,182 are police staff, and 101 are Police Community Support Officers (as at December 2024).

Non-pay is therefore only 10% of the overall policing budget. As police officers are protected, any significant savings will impact on the number of police staff, who provide vital support functions.

South Yorkshire Police needs continued investment in specialist equipment from guns, to horse boxes, drones through to specific tech-hardware and software. As there are limited suppliers in some of these markets, this can lead to the force facing challenges around procurement and driving the best prices.

Whilst funding has increased by approximately 6% overall, much of this is ring-fenced to the national insurance increase and officer numbers, and so is offset by an associated increase in costs. In addition, staffing costs are expected to grow by around £61m by the end of the decade, representing a 20% increase.

What this means in practice is that South Yorkshire Police will continue to face significant funding challenges in the years ahead.



Governance and Accountability

The Mayor is responsible for *'holding the Chief Constable to account'* for the delivery of an efficient and effective police service. The approach to this locally is through *'high support, high challenge'*. The focus of work in this area will include:

- (i) Performance trends over time
- (ii) Performance comparisons to most similar forces and the national picture
- (iii) The resources allocated to a particular area (by local authority area and across South Yorkshire)
- (iv) Demand and projected future demand
- (v) Impact on public/ victims/ partners
- (vi) Innovation and tech solutions
- (vii) Current and future risks and opportunities.

Whilst not an exhaustive list, areas of scrutiny will include:

- Delivery against the Police and Crime
- Confidence in policing
- Budgets and resources
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Force performance
- Violence reduction
- Legacy issues (including Orgreave, Hillsborough and Child Sexual Exploitation).

In addition to meetings with South Yorkshire Police, the Mayor also Chairs, or is represented at:

- **The Local Criminal Justice Board** - which brings together criminal justice partners (eg police, CPS, probation, courts etc) from across South Yorkshire to identify local

challenges, and put systems in place to deliver an efficient and effective criminal justice system.

- **The Countywide Community Safety Forum** – which brings together the four community safety partnerships to share best practice and relevant information and intelligence, to improve services locally and across South Yorkshire.
- **The Countywide Combatting Drugs Partnership** – which brings together the four combatting drugs partnerships and other relevant partners to share best practice, and relevant information and intelligence to improve services locally and across South Yorkshire.

These governance meetings ensure that the partnership approach to tackling crime and ASB, set out in this Police and Crime Plan can be agreed and achieved collectively.

Scrutiny and Performance

The Mayor's Policing and Reform Directorate has in place a Comprehensive Performance Framework, that monitors and manages a wide range of both quantitative and qualitative

measures and indicators to measure progress in achieving the priorities set out in this Police and Crime Plan.

Additional assurance activity is undertaken through attendance at police force and partnership performance meetings, as well as attendance at senior level Board meetings.

The table below includes the headline measures, which form part of the wider performance framework:

| Priority | Success Measure | |
|--|---|---|
| Improving Trust and Confidence | Percentage of people who say that the police do a good or excellent job | Percentage of victims satisfied overall with the service they received from SYP |
| | Percentage of people who say that the police are dealing with things that matter in their local area | |
| | Percentage of people who would report crime or ASB to the police or their Community Safety Partnership team | |
| | Percentage of current workforce by gender and ethnicity | Average time taken to answer calls (101 and 999) |
| Preventing and Reducing Crime and ASB | Percentage change in overall levels of police recorded crime | Percentage change in overall levels of police recorded ASB |
| | Percentage change in overall levels of neighbourhood crime | First time entrants to the criminal justice system (age 10-17) |
| Improving Safety on All Transport Networks | Number of people killed or seriously injured on South Yorkshire's roads | |
| Breaking the Cycle of Offending and Harm | Proportion of offenders who re-offend (18+) | Proportion of offenders who re-offend (Age 10-17) |
| Tackling the Most Serious Offences | Percentage change in the level of recorded knife crime | Percentage of rape crimes with a suspect charged and summonsed by the police |
| | Hospital admissions - assault | Hospital admissions - sharp objects |

Police and Crime Panel

The work of the Mayor in delivering his policing and crime responsibilities is reviewed and scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel.

The Panel is made up of 13 people – ten councillors from the four districts in South Yorkshire, plus three independent members of the public.

The role of the Panel is to support and challenge the Mayor on how he discharges his statutory duties and the decisions he makes.

The Panel also provides both support and constructive challenge to ensure that the Mayor meets the needs of all the communities he has been elected to serve.



Keeping updated

More information about the Mayor's work in respect of policing and crime, can be found at: southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore/policing-and-reform-directorate

More information about the work of the Police and Crime Panel, can be found at: barnsley.gov.uk/services/south-yorkshire-governance/south-yorkshire-governance/south-yorkshire-police-and-crime-panel/



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