SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA
MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

Policing & Public Safety Annual Report

2025/26



Foreword

Joint foreword from Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and Kilvinder Vigurs, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

We are pleased to present this Annual Report, which brings together the collective achievements of partners across South Yorkshire during 2025/26 in delivering the priorities set out in our Police and Crime Plan. This report demonstrates the strength of collaboration, the progress we have made together, and our shared commitment to creating safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

At the heart of this work is our One South Yorkshire Approach. Community safety is not the responsibility of any single organisation; it depends on effective partnership working across policing, local government, the criminal justice system, public services, businesses, the voluntary sector and, most importantly, our communities themselves. We would like to thank all those who have contributed their expertise, dedication and leadership throughout the year.



The examples highlighted within this report demonstrate how partnership working continues to deliver meaningful outcomes. From tackling anti-social behaviour, serious violence and rural crime,

to strengthening road safety, supporting victims of crime, and investing in early intervention and prevention, we are making a tangible difference to the lives of people across South Yorkshire.

A particular focus has been ensuring that our communities feel safe and proud of the places where they live, work and spend time. Through initiatives such as the Rural Crime and Road Safety Partnership and the Big Clean Project, partners have worked together to improve neighbourhoods, address concerns raised by residents and create environments that are welcoming and resilient.

We know that when communities are cared for and valued, confidence grows and opportunities for crime and disorder are reduced.

Alongside driving improvement, a key part of our duties is to ensure robust accountability and transparency across policing and criminal justice services.

During the year, we strengthened our scrutiny arrangements through the introduction of new public scrutiny boards while reinforcing existing governance structures. These forums provide an important opportunity to examine how services are performing, ask challenging questions and ensure that learning is translated into meaningful and lasting improvements.

Our first public scrutiny sessions focused on issues of significant importance to the public and police, including Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls. These discussions reinforced the importance of maintaining high standards, learning lessons from experience and ensuring organisations remain accountable to the communities they serve.

While progress has been made, we recognise that significant challenges remain. Issues such as knife crime, violence and exploitation continue to impact individuals, families and communities. Through our revitalised Violence Reduction Unit and partnership programmes, we are strengthening support for young people, expanding prevention initiatives and addressing the underlying causes of harm. Early intervention remains one of our most powerful tools, helping young people lead safer, healthier and more positive lives while building stronger communities for the future.

We would also like to recognise the vital services that support victims and survivors across South Yorkshire. Listening to the experiences of victims remains central to shaping our approach and ensuring that services respond effectively, compassionately, and consistently. Our ultimate goal is not only to support those affected by crime but to reduce harm and prevent victimisation in the first place.

This report reflects the dedication and commitment of partners, frontline staff, volunteers, and community organisations across South Yorkshire. Their collective efforts continue to improve outcomes for residents and demonstrate what can be achieved when we work together with a shared purpose.

While there is more to do, there is also much to be proud of. We are confident that by continuing to build on our strong partnerships and maintaining our focus on prevention, accountability and community engagement, we can create a safer, fairer and healthier South Yorkshire for everyone.

Oliver Coppard
Mayor of South Yorkshire

Kilvinder Vigurs
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime South Yorkshire

Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029

A key responsibility of the Mayor and my role as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is to develop and publish the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire. The Plan sets out the priorities and objectives for policing, community safety and criminal justice partners across the region. We also have an important role in overseeing and supporting the delivery of these priorities, working collaboratively to improve outcomes for victims and communities across South Yorkshire.

Developed with input from the public and partners, the Plan is shaped around five overarching strategic priorities that reflect the issues that matter most to communities and guide a coordinated, partnership led approach to keeping South Yorkshire safe.

The plan was developed following extensive public and partner consultation, with input from local communities, victims, policing professionals and partner organisations, the Plan sets out commitments to make sure that South Yorkshire is a safe place to live, learn and work.

This Annual Report gives an overview of the progress of all policing and crime partners across South Yorkshire against achieving the outcomes of the Plan as well as a look at the finance and resources used for policing and other commissioned services.

More information can be found on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority website here: **southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore_policing-public-safety**

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**

Underpinning these 5 priorities are two cross-cutting themes:

- **Putting victims and communities at the centre and**
- **Working in partnership.**

Working in partnership to deliver Police and Crime Plan priorities

Scrutiny Board and Community Confidence Board

Local Criminal Justice Board and Subgroups

Countywide Community Safety Forum

Serious Violence Executive Board

South Yorkshire Mayoral Homelessness Task Group

Youth Justice Management Boards

Independent Ethics Panel

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

Yorkshire & Humber Rehabilitation Partnership

South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership

Joint Internal Audit Committee

Countywide Combatting Drugs Forum

2025/26 at a glance

2.7% reduction in overall recorded crime (excl. fraud).

13% reduction in recorded neighbourhood crime.

Police Workforce

Police Workforce*	2025/26	2024/25
Police Officers (FTE)**	3020.6	3026.5
Police Staff (FTE)	2135.0	2202.5
PCSOs (FTE)	110,1	99.0
Specials (Headcount)	71	64
Other volunteers (Headcount)	61	72
Cadets***	41	97

*Source: Office For National Statistics
**FTE Full Time Equivalent
***SYP data

80%
Expenditure on workforce

£3.4m
Grants to support victims

£
356.8m
Total Police Budget including:

£2.7m
Other spend on commissioned activity

£4.4m
Other grants
(Violence Reduction Unit and Hotspot Policing)

£147,000
Grants to address perpetrator behaviour

Independent Custody Visits

60 Visits

134 Detainees seen

230
Engagement Visits

2025-26

April	Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 published
May	Kilvinder Vigurs appointed Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime
June	Deputy Mayor's First Police and Crime Panel Meeting
July	Deputy Mayor's visit to SYP's Serious Organised Crime Team
August	Deputy Mayor hosts the Faith and Community Leaders Meeting
Sept	Deputy Mayor chairs the first Public Scrutiny Board meeting
Oct	South Yorkshire Retail Crime Consortium
Nov	SYP Anti-Social Behaviour Symposium
Dec	South Yorkshire Veteran's Workshop
Jan	Public consultation on annual police precept
Feb	Deputy Mayor chairs 'We are South Yorkshire' event
March	Launch of rural crime initiative

Supporting victims across South Yorkshire

Putting victims at the centre of everything we do.

Investment in Victim Services

£3.4m
Grants invested to support victims of crime

VICTIM SUPPORT

Multi-crime victim support service. Commissioned and delivered across South Yorkshire.

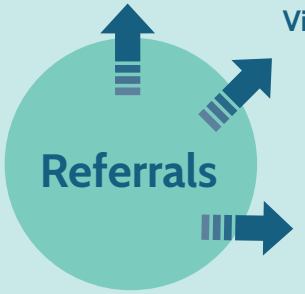
South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partnership

Support Commissioned Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) and Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) services for adults and children

Victims supported

1,912
ISVA service

18,951
Victim support



545
Adult SARC

Impact & Satisfaction

My ISVA gave me confidence to carry on with my life

70%
Victims satisfied with their overall experience with the Police.

They helped me feel safe and protected

I felt heard, supported and empowered

Working with Victim Services



Services for victims promoted through

- Schools and colleges
- Community meetings
- Open Days
- Partnership Events

If you are a victim of crime and need support, please visit our website here:

southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/supporting-victims



Priority 1

Trust and confidence

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

The Police and Crime Plan prioritises improving trust and confidence by placing victims and communities at the centre of decision-making. It focuses on strengthening relationships through fairness, transparency and meaningful engagement, particularly with under-represented groups. Delivering this ambition requires strong partnership working to provide consistent, high-quality services and tackle the root causes of crime.

'During my first year as Deputy Mayor, I have been absolutely committed to going out to talk to people and communities. You can read things, but you can't feel the emotions people have unless you meet them face to face. A sample of this activity is reflected in the following pages.'

2025/26 Overview

April 2025
- Mayor's first Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire published

May 2025
- Appointed Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

June 2025
- Attend 1st Police and Crime Panel
- Attend Yorkshire Local Councils Association meeting
- Join South Yorkshire Police's (SYP's) Anti-Social Behaviour Hotspot Patrols

July 2025
- Visit to SYP's Serious Organised Crime Team
- Join SYP's Operation Duxford
- Visit to Doncaster Council's Domestic Abuse Team
- Attend Advisory Group and Local Area meetings in Sheffield

August 2025
- Visit to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Team
- Visit to SYP's Force Control Room (responding to the public)
- Hosted the Faith and Community Leaders Meeting

September 2025
- Host the SY Serious Violence Executive Workshop
- Chair the first Public Scrutiny Board meeting
- Visit with Councillors in Arbourthorne

October 2025
- Attend the South Yorkshire Retail Crime Consortium
- Attend meeting with residents regarding off road bikes in Rotherham
- Attend Barnsley rural crime meeting
- Support to Jewish communities following attacks

November 2025
- Take part in Call Coppard on BBC Radio
- Attend the SYP Anti-Social Behaviour Symposium
- Visits to Aspire Gym supporting young people
- Attendance at Doncaster rural crime meeting.

December 2025
- Visit to Madina Masjid Mosque, Sheffield
- Attend the Police Race Action Plan Advisory Group
- Support the South Yorkshire Veteran's Workshop

January 2026
- Visit to Barnsley's child sexual assault & exploitation team
- Join SYP officers on ASB & Serious Violence GRIP (1) patrols, Rotherham
- Visit the safety camera partnership team

February 2026
- Chaired the 'We are South Yorkshire' Event, Rotherham
- Visit to the Integrated Offender Management Teams
- Visit to Doncaster Rape and Sexual Assault Counselling Service

March 2026
- Rural Crime Initiative Launch
- Host the Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Event
- Visit to the Independent Domestic Abuse Service
- Join councillors and SYP on a walkabout in Crookes

Case study

Engaging with Children and Young People: We are South Yorkshire – Generational Engagement in Doncaster

The “We Are South Yorkshire” event at Doncaster College brought together partners, stakeholders and young people to explore generational engagement and better understand the issues that matter most to younger residents. The event aimed to create opportunities for young people to influence decision-making and showcase the benefits of further education.

One of the main highlights was the active role played by Doncaster College students, who were involved throughout the day as hosts, facilitators and contributors. Students provided refreshments as part of their vocational learning, facilitated sessions demonstrating confidence and leadership skills, showcased opportunities available through further education, and shared their experiences of the challenges and opportunities facing young people today.

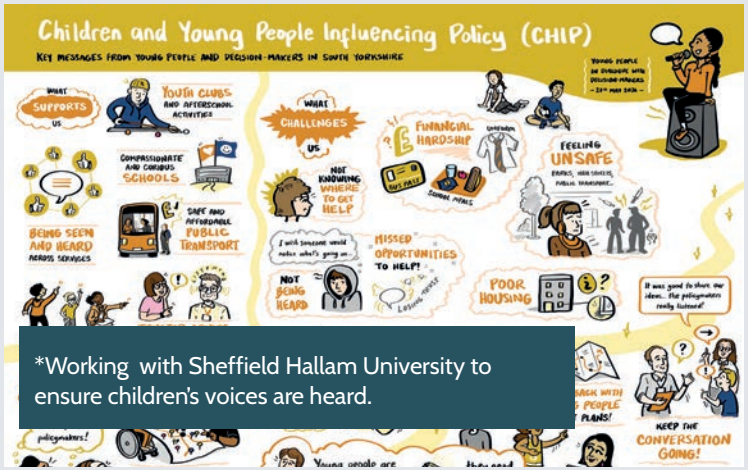
By placing young people at the heart of the event, attendees gained valuable first-hand insight into issues such as transport accessibility, democratic participation and regional governance. The event demonstrated the importance of meaningful youth engagement and has already led to young people working with SYMCA departments on areas including policing and crime as well as transport and active travel.







Engaging with our partners, communities and service providers during the year



*Working with Sheffield Hallam University to ensure children's voices are heard.

*Artwork produced by Laura Sorvala as part of the Children and Young People Influencing Policy (CHIP) research project led by Prof Helen Lomax and Prof Sally Pearse at Shefield Hallam University'



Joining Young People at the Lifewise Centre – focus on Safer Roads.



Visit to HOPIAN: Charity supporting adults, young people and children affected by Domestic Abuse & Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham



Visit to Wybourn Works Project in Sheffield. Supporting marginalised young people into work



Reducing Reoffending Roundtable Event

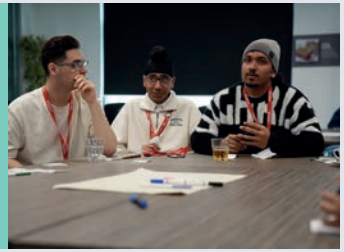


Faith and Community Leaders Meeting – Group Workshop



Visit to Titans Community Foundation – a safe, supportive environment where young people can grow, learn, and thrive in Rotherham.

Engaging with communities across South Yorkshire





Key activities and achievements

- I reintroduced the Public Scrutiny Board to enable direct public involvement in holding South Yorkshire Police to account and have expanded this approach further through the introduction of Community Confidence Boards.
- New technology has been introduced into the Police contact centre which allows more opportunity for the public to interact with the Police in a way that suits them. In January, South Yorkshire Police were the first force to launch the national My Police Portal which introduced a two way messaging service for victims to liaise directly with their investigating officer.
- I continued the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) scheme during 2025/26. The scheme, run by SYMCA's Policing and Public Safety Directorate, involves random checks being made on police custody suites in South Yorkshire by independent custody visitors (ICVs) who are recruited from members of the public. ICVs make sure that detainees are being treated fairly and in line with statutory guidance. Any issues found are reported back to SYP for addressing through regular meetings. If you live in South Yorkshire and are interested in becoming an ICV please check our website: **southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore-policing-and-reform-directorate-icvs**



Visit to SYP's Force Control Room

- Strengthening my oversight of fair treatment in police custody further and to provide additional confidence for the public, I piloted an Independent Custody Scrutiny Panel in January. The Panel brought together professionals from organisations across South Yorkshire who are independent of the police to review custody processes. The role of the panel is to provide assurance to the public that people detained are treated lawfully, fairly and with respect. Particular attention was given to the experiences and outcomes for children, women and people from ethnic minorities and those who may be vulnerable. Following the successful pilot a further meeting of the panel has been scheduled for 2026/27. More information can be found on our website: **southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/explore_policing-and-reform-directorate-sy-icsp**

During the year, two new members were recruited to my Independent Ethics Panel. The Panel is made up of individuals who are independent of both South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). The Panel provides independent oversight and assurance on a range of important policing issues, including the use of police powers, complaints handling, vetting, organisational culture, equality and diversity, and the ethical implications of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The Panel shares its findings with me, and these are monitored with South Yorkshire Police to ensure that any necessary improvements are implemented and that policing remains fair, ethical and accountable. Some of the Panel's work during the year included:

- Police culture, equality and diversity – The Panel held several focus groups with police officers and staff as part of its Culture and Equality and Diversity work programmes. These discussions explored how employees experienced South Yorkshire Police's efforts to create a positive workplace culture. The Panel also held a dedicated session to examine progress against the force's Police Race Action Plan.
- Vetting and complaints scrutiny – A Panel member carried out a series of dip-sampling exercises to review the force's decision-making processes for vetting applications and complaint handling. The findings were largely positive, and any issues identified were raised directly with SYP's Professional Standards Department for consideration and action.
- Members of the Panel attended SYP's Use of Force and Stop and Search Independent Scrutiny Panels and were able to report back on their findings which were positive but with some feedback to strengthen processes further.
- Digital technology and ethics – The Panel agreed a new work programme focused on digital technology and innovation. This will help ensure that ethical considerations are embedded within SYP's digital governance arrangements. The Panel also provided input into the development of the force's new Digital Ethics Strategy.



Visit to Shepcote Lane Custody Suite

Performance and outcomes

Public satisfaction with the police in S. Yorkshire is the same as it is nationally but the percentage of people who think the police deal with local concerns is slightly lower, something I am aiming to address. Victims of crime are satisfied overall with their experience. People using the police contact centre receive a good level of service overall, although at times of peak demand people may wait longer to contact 101.

PUBLIC SATISFACTION

46.3%

of people in S. Yorkshire think police do a good or excellent job.

National comparator

49.1%

April 2025 to March 2026

Source: Office For National Statistics.

40.7%

of people in S. Yorkshire think police deal with local concerns.

National comparator

48.2%

April 2025 to March 2026

Source: Office For National Statistics.

VICTIM SATISFACTION

70%

of victims (all crimes) were satisfied with their overall experience with the police.

(Stable compared to previous year 24/25)

Source: South Yorkshire Police.

67%

of ASB victims satisfied with police action

(stable compared to previous year 24/25)

Source: South Yorkshire Police.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

230

Engagement visits made

April 2025 to March 2026

60

Independent Custody Visits

134

Detainees seen

April 2025 to March 2026

CONTACTING THE POLICE

999 calls

263,351

received

2 seconds

Average answer time

April 2025 to March 2026

Source: South Yorkshire Police.

101 calls

335,471

received

1m 45s

Average answer time

April 2025 to March 2026

Source: South Yorkshire Police.



Priority 2

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Preventing and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

This priority is about working to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by focusing on prevention, early intervention, and strong partnership working. Through neighbourhood policing, problem-solving approaches, and targeted activity in high-harm areas, the aim is to address the root causes of crime, support vulnerable individuals, and tackle repeat offending—helping to create safer, more resilient communities across South Yorkshire.

Key activities and achievements

- Over 10,000 additional hours of high-visibility patrols were undertaken across South Yorkshire during the summer as part of South Yorkshire Police's (SYP's) targeted interventions in the Safer Streets Summer Initiative. This focussed particularly on Anti-Social Behaviour and increasing safety in town centres and local high streets. More information about the initiative is included later in the report.
- Additional work took place throughout 2025/26 focussing on anti-social behaviour including work on researching and producing SYP's new South Yorkshire Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan. The plan commits SYMCA and SYP to engage and work closely with councils, community safety partners, businesses, voluntary organisations, and local peopleto shape responses to ASB based on their experiences. The plan also focusses on supporting repeat victims of ASB. The plan was officially launched on 1st April 2026, and actions and outcomes will be closely monitored during the coming year.
- There has been a range of activities carried out to intervene early and prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) including working with partners to close premises where there was potential for current behaviours and practices to escalate to CSEA and raising awareness for school pupils on internet safety. Operation Makesafe continued to run throughout the year: identifying city centre hotels which failed to tackle suspicious behaviour linked to CSEA and undertaking awareness raising, providing feedback and identifying and supporting changes to processes where needed.



Discussions at the SYP Anti-Social Behaviour Symposium

- SYMCA's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), part of the Policing and Public Safety Directorate, continued to lead South Yorkshire's public health approach to preventing and reducing violence. During the year, the VRU worked with partners to support delivery of the Serious Violence Duty and introduced the Safer Knife Replacement Scheme. Working with children's homes, the scheme replaced pointed knives with rounded-blade alternatives to reduce the severity of knife-related injuries. Building on this work, further activity is underway to support young knife offenders and promote knife replacement in households affected by domestic abuse. Further examples of the work of the VRU are included within this report.

There has been a range of activity undertaken during the year to tackle the anti-social use of off road bikes. I know from speaking with communities that anti-social use of vehicles, including off-road bikes, blights neighbourhoods. This includes bikes being used to commit crimes, both in rural and urban area including distributing and dealing drugs and damaging livelihoods and spaces. South Yorkshire Police continued to prioritise the anti-social and illegal use of off-road bikes through its specialist Motorcycle and Rural Crime Team (MARCT) but they cannot tackle off-road bikes alone, it requires a South Yorkshire wide partnership approach. Examples of partnership activity during the year included:

- Launch of the rural crime initiative including drones being given to farmers to catch evidence of offenders on their land.
- Online intelligence gathering from social media platforms and offenders.
- Hundreds of children educated on the dangers of off-road bikes through the Lifewise Safety initiative.
- Joint operations with bordering forces to intercept offenders.
- Rural engagement events open to the public.
- Joint working with councils and housing providers to utilise ASB powers around tenancy enforcement for offenders.
- Regular patrol of identified heritage sites across South Yorkshire.

We are working hard to bring offenders to justice, but we know we are stronger with our communities help and continue to urge people to report incidents to the police.

Case study

The Launch of the Rural Crime Initiative

Rural communities across South Yorkshire have long raised concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour, including theft, trespassing, off-road bike misuse and issues affecting public rights of way. In response, a programme of rural crime meetings brought together residents, farmers, landowners, South Yorkshire Police and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to discuss local challenges and identify solutions.

These meetings, which continue quarterly across all four districts, provide residents with opportunities to raise concerns directly with police and decision-makers. Feedback from communities highlighted the need for stronger crime prevention measures and greater support for rural areas.

As a result of this engagement, SYMCA secured more than £400,000 to support a new Rural Crime Initiative. Funding has been used to help communities improve security through measures such as CCTV, improved fencing and security infrastructure, vehicle and equipment protection, property marking and other locally identified crime prevention projects. The initiative has delivered practical improvements while strengthening relationships between rural communities and South Yorkshire Police. Regular engagement and visible action have increased confidence that local concerns are being listened to and addressed, demonstrating the positive impact of collaborative working across South Yorkshire.

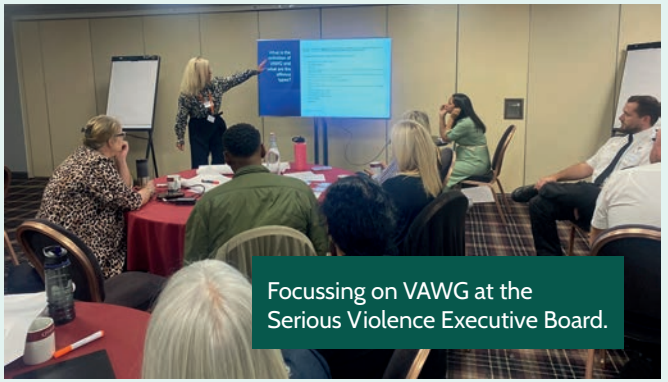
Key activities and achievements

I continued to focus on work to address violence against women and girls (VAWG) during the year.

- We have been successful in encouraging more women and girls to have crimes against them to be investigated by focusing on public engagement and communication. There has been a focus on online violence against women and girls through the #Knowmore campaign and crime in public places through the #Nomore campaign. This led to increased numbers of online violence against women and girls' crimes and stalking and harassment crimes to be investigated and victims/survivors being supported.
- I was pleased to be able to speak at the Barnsley White Ribbon event. White Ribbon Accreditation provides organisations with a structured approach to create positive cultural change. Becoming accredited shows an organisation's commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls through promoting gender equality, raising awareness and ensuring that men as well as women are part of the solution.
- Violence against women and girls and trauma informed training has been delivered to over 1500 frontline response, custody and force control room staff over the last 12 months.
- The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Independent Advisory Group has continued to grow and play an important role over the past year. Bringing together people from diverse communities and backgrounds, the group has helped shape key areas of work, including improving understanding of violence against women and girls and ensuring support services better meet the needs of survivors of sexual violence. Its approach has been recognised nationally as an example of good practice.



Speaking at the White Ribbon Event in Barnsley



Focussing on VAWG at the Serious Violence Executive Board.

- Work continued during the year in combatting fraud and cyber-enabled crime across South Yorkshire. This is an area where Partnership working both regionally and nationally is essential. A primary focus during the year has been on prevention and supporting women and girls subject to online offending.
  - During the year, we have been able to provide education, share key messages and help individuals to protect themselves from becoming victims of cyber based fraud. Events have taken place across community support and social groups, schools, universities and local mental health services. The feedback from events has been consistently positive, with plans to expand the number of events being held into the coming year.
  - We were able to support the Regional Organised Crime Unit to deliver pro-active activity focusing on upskilling those who support victims of cyber-enabled violence against women and girls (VAWG) offences. SYP has presented alongside the regional cyber team on several police officer and practitioner online training events. Further presentations were delivered at the South Yorkshire Police Violence Reduction Partnership Event. In attendance, amongst others, were victim services, mental health teams and social workers. A total of 935 SYP officers and staff took part in the Technology Facilitated Abuse Workshop during 2025/26. Across Yorkshire and the Humber over 900 practitioners have been able to take part.
- I have continued to provide important services to support victims of crime across South Yorkshire, including wide ranging support through our multi crime support service delivered by the charity "Victim Support". The service provides tailored, trauma-informed support to people affected by crime, helping them regain safety, confidence and control. During the year, the victim support service continued to raise awareness of their services across South Yorkshire with partners and the public including with schools and colleges, community meetings and open days as well as attending partnership events. This is an important aspect of the service, helping to ensure that as many victims of crime as possible are aware of the support available and can access it when needed.

Case Study

AB, a victim of sustained racial abuse, harassment and criminal damage, was assigned a personal victim support caseworker. The caseworker was able to ensure AB received emotional support, safety planning, advocacy with police, wellbeing interventions, counselling referrals and co-ordinated support from partner agencies. Through regular contact and a person-centred approach, the caseworker helped reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, build resilience and ensure AB's rights were upheld. AB said that as a result he felt heard, supported and empowered, reporting improved mental health, renewed confidence in the future and the ability to move forward with his life.

Essential support to victims of sexual violence has been provided through our commissioned Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) service and the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for adults and a separate service for children – Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service (CSAAS)

- The ISVA service provides independent confidential practical help and emotional support to adults and children who have experienced sexual harm at any time in their lives. Feedback from those who have used the service during the year is overwhelmingly positive:
- I am aware that during the year, increased demand and prolonged criminal justice processes have meant people waiting for an ISVA for longer than I would like. I've taken immediate steps to make sure victims are still supported if they are waiting an ISVA and am working urgently to provide funding and more ISVAs over coming months.
- The SARC service offers free confidential healthcare and compassionate support for anyone who is the victim of sexual assault or rape. There is a separate service for children which is part of the safeguarding unit at Sheffield's Children's Hospital. There is also positive feedback:



Visit to Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Service (BSARCS). BSARCS is one of the members of the SY Sexual Violence Partnership which runs the Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service across South Yorkshire.

My ISVA was able to give me confidence to carry on with my life when I felt really low. Having a person that I could speak to without being judged was the best support.

Being able to contact someone whenever I needed support was really helpful, so I didn't feel alone.

They helped me feel safe and protected and nothing to worry about or stress.

The staff I saw were exemplary

Parent: **Couldn't ask for better service, thank you all so much. Child service user: thank you you've all been great**

More than anything it felt that my ISVA was looking out for me and was on my side

Safer Streets Summer Initiative 2025

As part of an initiative to crack down on anti-social behaviour (ASB) and to drive down retail and street crime in local high streets and town centres during the Summer of 2025, Mayoral Authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners worked with partners across their areas to develop and deliver local action plans. In South Yorkshire, South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and partners collaborated to produce a joint plan, which was approved and signed off in June 2025.

This coordinated approach delivered positive results, with 55 arrests made during July directly linked to the initiative. Alongside this, partners across South Yorkshire's districts undertook a range of activities, including:

Barnsley

- Operations were conducted in the town centre involving police and council wardens to tackle vagrancy and ASB in the town centre.
- Youth outreach and Youth Justice Teams undertook targeted youth support in areas where young people want to engage. This included sessions in parks, places and open spaces throughout summer providing diversionary street-based activities, information advice and guidance.

Doncaster

- Weekly Pop-ups with City Centre Council and Police Teams were consistently held at key city centre locations, including market area and Frenchgate Shopping Centre.
- Police community engagement, including a weekly engagement stall at Doncaster market, Child Criminal Exploitation awareness events and a joint operation with immigration focusing on illegal working.
- Doncaster City Council undertook environmental ASB activity including, vegetation clearance, jet washing of bins and surfaces, and removal of 28 graffiti instances contributing to a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming city centre environment.

Rotherham

- Rotherham ASB & Noise Nuisance Out Of Hours Patrols monitored ASB locations in and around Rotherham Town Centre.
- Bespoke CCTV Columns were installed at Vicarage Lane and Minister Gardens and other CCTV units were upgraded.

Sheffield

- SYP held multiple events to engage with the city centre community and welcome new summer university students.
- The Sheffield City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team, SYP Modern Slavery Team, the SYP Off Road Bike Team and Immigration held a joint Ebike and Modern Slavery Day of Action.

Performance and Outcomes

Recorded crime fell during 2025/26, continuing a downward trend that is also reflected across neighbourhood crime. Residential burglary remains a priority for local communities, and it is encouraging that recorded offences have decreased during the year.

Recorded sexual offences increased. While any such offence is unacceptable, this rise may partly reflect our continued partnership efforts to raise awareness and encourage victims of these crimes to come forward. Increased reporting helps ensure victims can access the specialist support they need.

Reports of anti-social behaviour to the police also increased and this remains an area of focus for the coming year. Meanwhile, police action taken outcomes have shown a gradual improvement across a range of crime types, and victim satisfaction levels have remained stable compared with last year.

Police Recorded Crime and Police Action Taken Outcomes: Source: Office for National Statistics

Police Recorded Crime & ASB:

April 2025 to March 2026 compared to April 2024 to March 2025

All crime (excl fraud)
-2.7% reduction

Neighbourhood crime
-13% reduction

Residential burglary
-20.6% reduction

Sexual offences
5.2% increase

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
7.0% increase

Police Action Taken Outcomes:

April 2025 to March 2026 compared to April 2024 to March 2025

Sexual offences
0.2% percentage point increase (Action taken outcome)

All crime
1.0% percentage point increase (Action taken outcome)

Neighbourhood Crime
0.4% percentage point increase (Action taken outcome)

Residential burglary
0.7% percentage point increase (Action taken outcome)

Supporting victims:

April 2025 to March 2026

18,951 Referrals to Victim Support

1,912 Referrals to Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy Service

545 Referrals to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre for adults



Priority 3

Transport Networks

Improving Safety on all our Transport Networks

Under this priority I want to reduce road danger and casualties – focussing on safer driving behaviours (e.g. speeding and drink/drug driving) and I want to improve safety and perceptions of safety for all travellers. It is important too that crime and ASB on transport networks is addressed. A partnership approach to tackle this priority is key and so I am strengthening partnership working to ensure alignment with policing with local authorities, transport providers and road safety partnerships to deliver co-ordinated action.

Key activities and achievements

The strategic leadership of the Road Safety Partnership moved across into the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority during 2024/25 and following my appointment as Deputy Mayor, I took up chairing the Board, focusing on reinforcing the partnership approach to road safety.

Much of the work during the year has involved developing a new Strategic Action Plan based around 4 layers: Safe Roads, Safe Road Users, Safe Vehicles and Safe Speeds. Several workshops were held to develop and agree the action plan and working groups established.

During the year several operations were conducted focussing on road safety including:

- **Operation Dark Nights:** Introducing the hotspot policing approach to policing and applying it to road safety. This included using numerous roadside checkpoints to implement roadside eyesight tests with drivers expected to read a registration plate from 20 metres.
- **Operation Drive Insured:** identifying uninsured vehicles and taking them off the road. We supported SYP to land a grant which allowed further activity as part of Operation Tutelage working with the Motor Insurer's Bureau which compares automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) data with information from the Motor Insurance Database (MID) to identify drivers who do not have insurance. Uninsured drivers are around 5 times more likely to be involved in a collision that results in someone being killed or seriously injured.

Operation Drive Insured

90 cars taken off the road in one week

- Participated in the National Police Chief's Council's "fatal 4 – young drivers" campaign achieving the following outcomes:

Fatal4 Campaign	
Driver offences	**102**
Rider offences	**4**
Speeding	**32**
Mobile phone (& other distraction)	**22**
Seatbelts	**14**
Drug tests	**5** positive out of **26**
Alcohol breath test	**3** positive out of **67**

- The Travel Safe Initiative has continued to focus on addressing crime and nuisance behaviour on transport networks, with activity targeted in areas where evidence shows repeated issues. For example, where individual shelters or clusters of shelters experience ongoing damage or vandalism, the partnership has engaged directly with local communities. Leaflets and targeted emails encourage residents to share information—confidentially if needed—via the Travel South Yorkshire website, South Yorkshire Police or Crimestoppers. This approach has contributed to several successful prosecutions.
- Work at Barnsley interchange won Best Alliance / Partnership at the National Transport Awards 2025. The project was launched in response to a rise in crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and brought together transport bodies, the local authority and police partners. Funding was secured to deliver enhanced CCTV and public address systems, increased town centre patrols, and a dedicated rapid response ASB team.
- Work commenced on a new Travel Safety Partnership Strategy which is using evidence to make sure future activity is focused on what works, informed by data, and delivered collaboratively to make transport networks safer for everyone including vulnerable groups. Some of the national evidence being used to develop the strategy shows that 54% of female transport network users aged between 18-34 had experienced sexual harassment or unwarranted behaviour. A considerable number of those who feel unsafe on public transport networks are disabled and fewer than one in seven users reported their most recent negative experience to the police or transport staff.





Priority 4

Breaking the Cycle of Offending and Harm

The aims of this priority are:

- To focus on early intervention to prevent people becoming involved in crime, anti-social behaviour or victimisation.
- To tackle the underlying causes of offending, including poor mental health, substance misuse, housing, education and employment issues.
- To strengthen partnership working across policing, health, education, local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide coordinated support and reduce reoffending through effective rehabilitation, diversion, restorative approaches and support for successful reintegration of offenders into communities.

Key activities and achievements 2025/26

During the year I ensured that our Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was able to continue to focus on crime prevention and early intervention opportunities. From preventing the social factors of serious violence (the 'causes of the causes'), to early identification of those who are at risk of serious violence and appropriate interventions to address this.

- The Hospital Navigator Service, based at Northern General Hospital and commissioned by the VRU, was offered to 505 patients affected by violence or trauma, with support focused on early intervention, safeguarding and connecting people to longer-term services. Independent evaluation found the programme had a small but significant effect on reducing future violence-related hospital admissions.
- The VRU allocated £504,826 for community-led violence prevention projects, supporting initiatives focused on knife crime prevention, violence against women and girls, mentoring, positive activities and diversionary opportunities for young people. The allocated funding was for activity across 2025/26 and into 2026/27. Details of those organisations awarded funding can be found here: Violence Reduction Fund 2025 | Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)
- The VRU funded trauma-informed training for 1,983 professionals across South Yorkshire, helping staff in education, health, policing and community services better understand the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. This work is helping organisations embed trauma-informed practice [1], improve support for vulnerable children and adults, and intervene earlier to prevent violence and harm.

I took up the role of Chair of South Yorkshire's Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) as soon as I was appointed Deputy Mayor. The LCJB is an important partnership board bringing together senior leaders from various criminal justice agencies to coordinate, improve, and streamline the local delivery of justice for victims of crime. My appointment as Chair provided an opportunity to review and refresh the strategic aims and objectives of the Board. Key activities for the Board during the year:

- Planning events were held to look at developing work programmes for the short to medium term which will address local and national priorities and issues in criminal justice. The discussions focussed on victims' experiences, criminal justice effectiveness and efficiency, children and young people and rehabilitation and reducing re-offending.

- I hosted a second event with criminal justice partners to review victims' and survivors' experience of their criminal justice journey. Partners shared improvements they had made since the first event last year and identified further changes needed to improve victims' experiences. The event also highlighted South Yorkshire's selection as a Pathfinder area for an enhanced Crown Prosecution Service offer for victims with the greatest need.
- Probation partners continued to oversee Community Payback, where offenders serving community sentences carry out unpaid work that benefits local communities. Projects included clearing rubbish and debris near to people's homes, helping create a community garden in Beighton, working with Sheffield City Council to maintain and improve parks and green spaces and working with Natural England to make the countryside more accessible across South Yorkshire. Local people can nominate projects for support from Community Payback – more information here: **gov.uk/nominate-community-payback-project**
- The LCJB's Whole System Approach Group developed a guide to help commissioners and service providers design gender-specific, trauma- informed support for women. The group worked extensively with women with lived experience to shape the guide which aims to improve knowledge of and access to early support tailored to women's needs, thereby helping to prevent women entering the criminal justice system.

I was able to strengthen our response to domestic abuse by investing in behaviour change interventions for perpetrators. Working with all four councils in South Yorkshire, SYMCA took the lead commissioner role in the re-commission and contract management of the "Inspire to Change" programme. The programme supports individuals who have caused harm in their relationships to understand, address and change their behaviour.

I continued to lead a partnership with the Probation Service to provide a Restorative Justice Service in South Yorkshire. The Restorative Justice Service helps set up communication between those harmed by crime and those responsible for causing the harm. The aim is to give victims an opportunity to let those responsible know the full impact of the offence. It also allows people committing offences the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions and break the cycle of crime and offending.



Visit to Remedi who deliver the Restorative Justice Service in South Yorkshire

Performance and Outcomes

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Adult re-offending

+1.6% ↑

Percentage point increase

Child re-offending

+2.0% ↑

Percentage point increase

Children in the criminal justice system for the first time

-12% ↓

reduction

Ministry of Justice proven re-offending statistics. Latest data as of July 2026 (Comparing July 22 – June 23 cohort with July 23 to June 24 cohort)

Year ending Dec 24 to Year ending Dec 25

Restorative Justice Case Study

This case involved a dispute between a pub landlord and a customer. Following an argument, the customer was asked to leave and subsequently caused damage to the premises by smashing several windows. A Community Resolution Order was issued, requiring the offender to pay compensation. The victim was initially doubtful about repayment but welcomed the offender's apology. Through restorative justice discussions, both parties agreed to a six-month payment plan. The victim expressed satisfaction with the outcome and felt the matter had been resolved appropriately, enabling those involved to move forward.

Victim feedback

I did not expect to receive payment, let alone an apology. I was grateful that the matter was managed on our behalf and concluded.



Priority 5

Tackling the most Serious Offences and Building Resilient Communities

This priority focuses on tackling the most serious crimes and protecting communities from harm. Its focus is on identifying and disrupting organised crime groups, including those involved in drugs, firearms and county lines activity. It focuses on preventing vulnerable people, particularly young people, from being drawn into criminal exploitation, supporting victims of exploitation, tackling drug-related harm through partnership working, and improving responses to modern slavery and human trafficking through prevention, protection and enforcement activity. The priority also includes oversight of the national Strategic Policing Requirement.

South Yorkshire Police and partners continued develop their approach in the field of the 'Clear Hold Build' (CHB) initiative which is a multi-agency strategy for tackling organised crime in a locality. Positive partnership working took place this year in Woodhouse and Upperthorpe in Sheffield and Edlington in Doncaster. This methodology seeks to remove serious and organised criminal activity in an area (clear), have visible neighbourhood policing and enforcement activity (hold) and works with local communities and organisations to strengthen resilience and public places (build).

Drug Seizures

Heroin	**42.1**kg	Cannabis	**4.7**kg
Cocaine	**12.8**kg	Other class A	**0.6**kg

Warrants	**29**
Arrests	**54**
Charges	**20**

Safeguarded
12
Adults and children

While it is important to recognise that serious and organised crime causes significant harm to communities, and that even one incident involving firearms or the supply of illegal drugs is one too many, there have been some notable enforcement successes during the year.

- Three firearms and 39kg of class A drugs recovered from Sheffield, with 3 men pleading guilty at court to conspiracy to supply
- A converted firearm was recovered in Sheffield plus 10 rounds of ammunition together with the seizure of 1.5kg of heroin and £75,000 in cash and crypto currency. One person is charged and on remand, a further five are on bail.
- Following a firearm discharge in Rotherham, a shotgun was recovered and two men sentenced to six years imprisonment.
- A large scale Ebay vehicle fraud was discovered in Doncaster with two men each receiving a 2.5 year custodial sentence.

Custodial Sentences
30 offenders
164 years total

Cash seized
£165,395

I am pleased that partners across South Yorkshire have continued to work together to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. During the year, South Yorkshire Police chaired the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) Partnership Group, bringing together law enforcement, local authorities and other agencies to share information, intelligence and good practice. Partners worked strategically and operationally to address emerging issues, including exploitation in the food delivery sector and improved support for victims. Guest speakers also helped strengthen awareness and understanding of modern slavery across member organisations. Further information is available at **southyorkshire.police.uk/modernslavery** or via the **Modern Slavery Helpline** on **08000 121 700**.

I have overseen the work being undertaken in preparation for the implementation of the Mayor's Big Clean initiative. This is a key partnership project, taking account of the good work already undertaken in South Yorkshire which focusses specifically on our local communities. By partners coming together, the intention is to reduce visible indicators of crime and anti-social behaviour in key locations, help communities feel safer and improve the overall image of South Yorkshire for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Performance and outcomes

Source: Office for National Statistics

Level of Police recorded most serious crime:

April 2025 to March 2026
compared to
April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Office for National Statistics.
Police Recorded Crime

Offences involving firearms

6.8% ↑

increase

Drug offences

-1.4% ↓

reduction

Knife crime

-1.8% ↓

reduction

Serious crime outcomes:

Offences involving firearms

21.7%

Action taken rate

(England and Wales average 20.8%)

Drug offences

54.1%

Action taken rate

(England and Wales average 64.3%)

Knife crime

18.1%

Action taken rate

(England and Wales average 18.1%)

The Strategic Policing Requirement: Assurance Statement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the Home Secretary's view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter those threats. The latest SPR was published in June 2023. The seven threats identified:

- **Violence Against Women and Girls**
- **Terrorism**
- **Serious and Organised Crime**
- **A National Cyber Incident**
- **Child Sexual Abuse**
- **Public Disorder**
- **Civil Emergencies**

In developing the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029, due consideration was given to the Strategic Policing Requirement. The Chief Constable of South Yorkshire is responsible for having due regard to both the Police and Crime Plan and the Strategic Policing Requirement when exercising their functions, and the Mayor / Deputy Mayor holds the Chief Constable accountable for doing so through a governance and assurance framework.

Several key assurance arrangements in 2025/26 allowed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to have regard to the SPR including Scrutiny Board meetings and regular update meetings with SYP's Senior Command Team. Policing and Public Safety Directorate officer attendance at key force performance meetings, such as at the monthly Force Performance Day and at District and Specialist Team Quarterly Performance Review meetings, as well as at various Boards and Partnership meetings provided further assurance.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor participated and received relevant updates from SYP and partners in respect of their work as part of the Local Resilience Forum, which is a multi-agency partnership. The forum is made up of representatives from all the local organisations required to plan and prepare for local incidents and emergencies including those that might originate nationally but have a local impact.

Examples of other activities and outcomes in respect of the areas included in the SPR are detailed within the annual report including violence against women and girls, child sexual abuse and serious and organised crime.





Finance and Resources

Finance and Resources

In 2025/26 South Yorkshire's Police Fund operated with a budget of £356.8 million, of which £354.4 million (98%) was allocated to the Chief Constable to deliver policing services for the region.

How the Police is funded

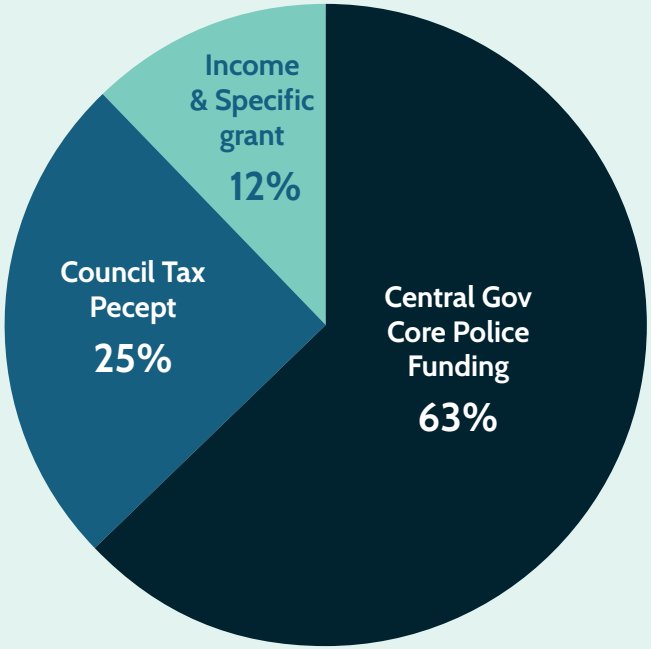
Police forces are funded from a combination of grant allocation received from central government and additional funding raised locally through the Council Tax precept.

This core funding is complemented by specific grants, which sit outside the core funding settlement. In 2025-26, the most significant grants related to the Police Uplift Target, Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and the Pension Grant, with smaller grants provided by central government and other organizations for specific policing activity.

South Yorkshire Police also generate income within the permissible limits set out in national guidance, while the Mayoral Combined Authority manages borrowing and cash investments which have generated financial returns.

In 2025/26, South Yorkshire residents contributed £101.4m (28.4%) to the budget. The annual police settlements issued by the Home Office are predicated upon year-on-year increases in council tax. Increases in central government grants alone are insufficient to keep in line with inflation.

Within the context of national funding challenges and legacy costs, related to the Hillsborough disaster and Child Sexual Exploitation, the Mayor decided to increase the precept for 2025/26 by the maximum permissible level; the equivalent of £14 for Band D properties. This was in accordance with the funding assumptions set by the Home Office, and with the support of the Police and Crime Panel. It represented an increase of 5.58% and resulted in a Band D council tax precept of £265.04 (£251.04 in 2024/25) – the fifth lowest amongst Police Forces.



	£m
Central Gov Core Police Funding	255.4
Council Tax Precept	101.4

	£m
Income	17.5
Specific Grants	25.3
Investment Income	5.3

Financial performance

The 2025/26 budget was supported with £5.25m expected draw from reserves. This was mitigated during the year through a combination of higher than forecast Treasury income and lower than expected borrowing costs (£2.9m surplus). South Yorkshire Police has spent 99.9% of their budget, with a minor £0.3m underspend.

Reserves exist to provide financial resilience, but they can only be used once. Avoiding their depletion is a significant success, and a testament to the Deputy Mayor's and Chief Constable's joint commitment to, as far as possible, manage financial pressures without undermining front line services to our citizens.

We are grateful to central government for their support following the identification of historical accounting errors. These were identified upon the transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner functions to the Mayor and have now been subject to an independent report by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy which has since been published in July 2026. **southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/news/article/cipfa-report-publication**

In addition to the long-standing support provided to South Yorkshire with legacy costs, central government provided cash flow support in 2025/26 and permitted South Yorkshire Police to expense their own share of legacy costs over an extended period. These interventions were instrumental in achieving a balanced budget outturn in 2025/26 and eliminating the planned draw on reserves. By its exceptional nature, the support is not expected to be reoccurring, although we will continue to work closely with the Home Office.

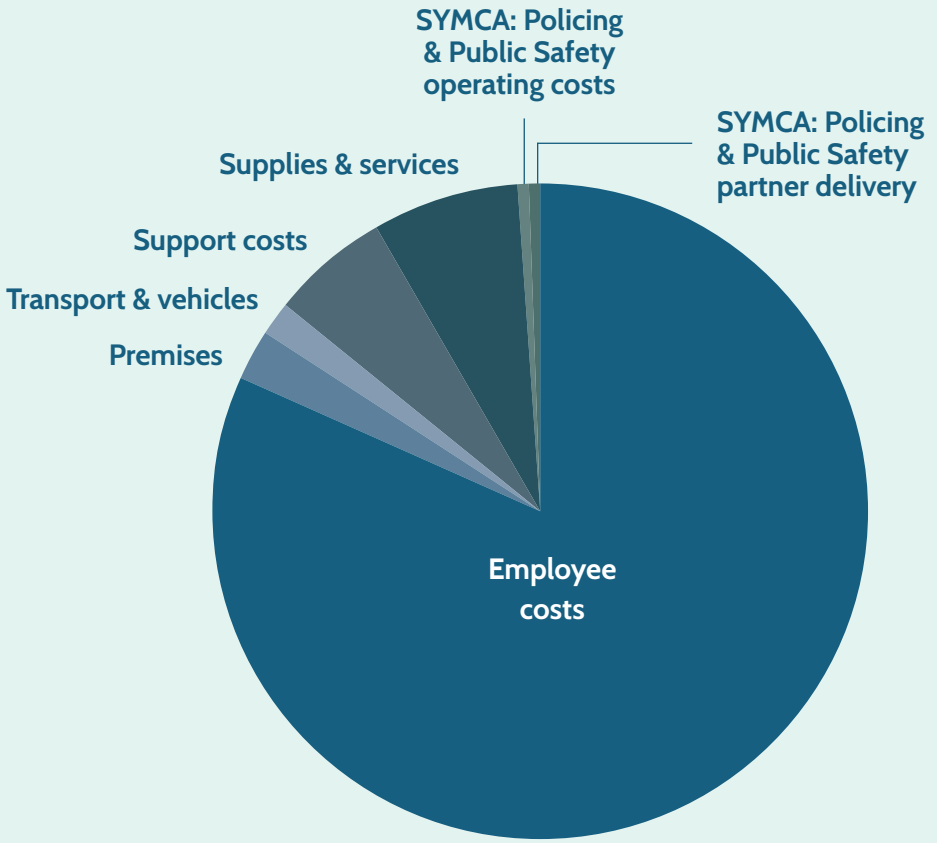


	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Variation £000
Office of the SYMCA	5,255	4,396	(859)
Capital Financing Costs	(2,310)	(5,301)	(2,991)
MRP	4,659	5,591	932
Budgets under the control of the SYMCA	**7,604**	**4,686**	**(2,918)**
Chief Constable	354,491	354,150	(341)
Budget delegated to the Chief Constable	**354,491**	**354,150**	**(341)**

How the Funding is spent

Over 80% of the expenditure is on the South Yorkshire Police's employee costs. In March 2025, there were 3,054 Police Officers relative to South Yorkshire's 3,060 Police Uplift Target set by the Home Office, with 116 Police Community Support Officers and 2,353 Police Staff. In addition, the Force is supported by 71 Special Constables, 41 Police Cadets, 54 other volunteers and 15 Community Assessors.

	£m	%
Employee costs	322.3	81.0
Premises	9.8	2.5
Transport & vehicles	6.7	1.7
Support costs	24.9	6.3
Supplies & services	30.8	7.7
SYMCA: Policing & Public Safety operating costs	2.1	0.5
SYMCA: Policing & Public Safety partner delivery	2.3	0.6

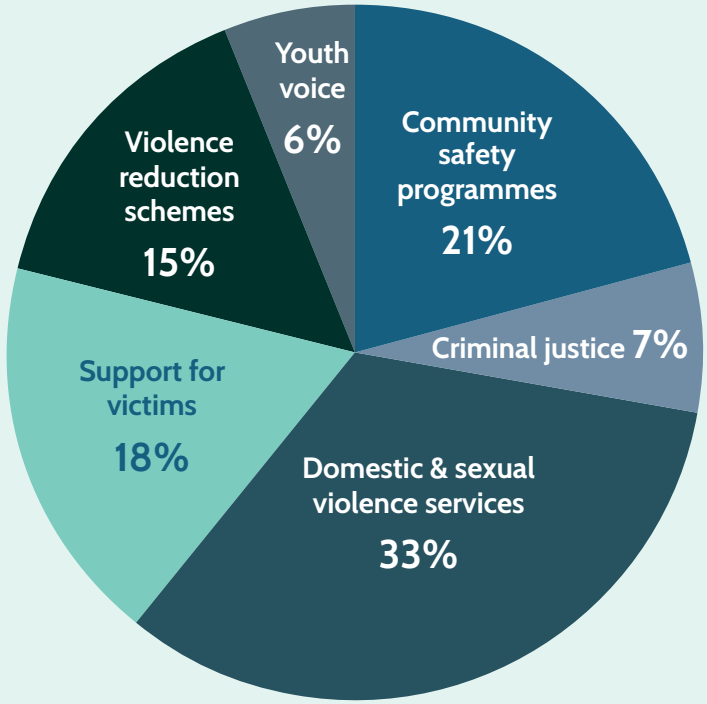


Grant funding available to meet the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee was utilised in full by the Chief Constable, increasing the size of Neighbourhood Policing teams by 62 full time equivalents during the year, strengthening community ties and resulting in more visible policing.

How the Mayor's retained budget is spent

Whilst modest relative to operational budgets, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor play a key regional role in commissioning services to support Community Safety and Domestic & Sexual Violence services across South Yorkshire. They also lead the Violence Reduction Unit's work across the region to prevent and reduce violence using a public health approach, focusing on early intervention, community engagement, and tackling root causes.

In 2025-26, we successfully delivered over £10m of projects funded by £8m of grants, principally from the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office, along with £2.3m from the Police Fund. This delivery was made up of:



	£m	%
Employee costs	322.3	81.0
Premises	9.8	2.5
Transport & vehicles	6.7	1.7
Support costs	24.9	6.3
Supplies & services	30.8	7.7
SYMCA: Policing & Public Safety operating costs	2.1	0.5
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SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA
MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield
United Kingdom
S1 2BQ

Tel: 0114 220 3400
Website: southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk
Email: policingandpublicsafety@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk