

Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

Home Office crime codes and description:

0010	Murder
0041	Manslaughter
0042	Infanticide
00410	Corporate Manslaughter

Recorded crime levels

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



The volume of Homicides in South Yorkshire has reduced since 2018/19. In the financial year 2024/25, 9 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire (compared to 22 in 2018/19).

In the 12 months to September 2024 South Yorkshire Police reported a rate of 9.9 homicides per million population, in line with the national average (8.7 per million population).

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

Force response to homicides

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

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

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

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

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

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

Training (DA Matters) was provided to front line officers/staff, with a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability, supporting intervention. The force Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment team review all medium and high-risk DA incidents, providing a specialist secondary risk assessment. They conduct research to identify high-risk behaviours (coercive control, stalking/harassment or recent separation) which are sometimes seen as precursors to DA homicides.

High-risk domestic incidents are referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which delivers information-sharing, safety planning for victims and their children, and manages behaviour of perpetrators. The force-wide Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meeting focusses on repeat perpetrator behaviour through engagement or enforcement.

	Prevention solutions are available to protect DA victims including phones, SmartWater forensic marking, and Buddi Tags, which can be monitored via GPS. Civil Orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Stalking Protection Orders are used to good effect to protect victims, supported by a dedicated DVPO team. District-based DA teams provide consistency of quality investigations for all high-risk DA crimes.
Ongoing focus – September 2025 Supt Dave Cowley (Homicide, Serious Violent Crime)	
Following the murder conviction in the Harvey Willgoose case, knife crime continues to be a focus for both Homicide Prevention and violent crime reduction. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and SYMCA have developed a draft knife crime plan to address the wider causes of knife crime and the Learn Sheffield teaching materials on knife crime continue to be promoted for use in schools by the deputy Mayor. The VRU has also funded a continuation of the ‘knives take lives’ media campaign targeted towards young people. The VRU and SYMCA are in the process of recruiting new VRU partnership managers as permanent SYMCA employees. Their role will include working with the four community safety partnerships to identify local violence reduction needs and opportunities through engagement with communities, partners and the voluntary community sector. They will also assist in the creation of local violence reduction strategies and plans. South Yorkshire Police continue to hold a quarterly Homicide Prevention Bord chaired by ACC Barnett which focusses on the delivery of homicide prevention measures in line with the force strategy. All key departments and districts are present including the Armed Crime Team and Major Crime. At the time of writing, firearms discharges remain at a very low level and the force’s homicide rate is consistent with the national average which is a reduction compared to the previous few years. Each district also has a monthly Most Serious Violence (MSV) meeting which focusses on the investigation, detection and prevention of violent crime including focussing on repeat offenders and those on the habitual knife carriers index. Sheffield is working with the Local Authority to improve its domestic abuse multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) processes and the force is engaged with the national MARAC review.	

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence	
NHS hospital admissions data for under 25-year-olds for assault with a sharp object; and Police recorded crime data on offences involving the discharge of a lethal barrelled firearm	
Recorded levels	In the 12 months to March 2025, the force recorded 35 under 25-year-old admissions to hospital for assault with sharp object, a 36 per cent reduction from the baseline period (55), against a national reduction of 37 per cent. Internally, Knife Crime and Most Serious Violence (MSV) datasets are also reviewed to support understanding and focus activity. The force is working with the National Data Quality Improvement Service to support the data capture against the Home Office definition of Knife Crime.
Force response to reducing serious violence	The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception. Clear interdependencies exist with the following: - Grip funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis) - Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity) - Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention)

	The Grip team undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality and reduce knife-crime offending. Local policing teams and specialist teams such as licensing also operate in response to violent offences and proactively work to reduce night-time economy offending. Profiles have been delivered to understand the impact of Covid on demand and resourcing needs and profiles delivering against thematic areas are delivered throughout the year. Taking learning from analytical products, the GRIP team work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective. The force has an established brand for tackling organised crime, this operation brings together the four districts and Crime Services in a stand against Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and routine sharing of content externally and internally which builds on the four Ps: • Pursue – prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality • Prevent – preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality • Protect – increasing protection against organised crime • Prepare – reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place. OCG threats are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force has undertaken mapping to establish the level of firearms capabilities across the OCGs residing in South Yorkshire.
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Ongoing focus – September 2025

DCI Sam Blakemore (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)

The range of Operation Sceptre tactics to counter knife crime continue to be used, with enforcement, prevention and engagement activity across the force supported by all key districts, departments and partners. The NPCC Knife crime Lead has recently obtained funding to establish a national centre for knife crime which will coordinate and develop best practice to tackle knife crime working with the Home Office, statutory and third sector partners, technology firms and academia.

The Grip team continue to support high visibility patrolling, problem solving and proactive policing operations across the county focussing activity on 20 hot spots for violence and anti-social behaviour (ASB). This work is helping to achieve reductions in violent crime and ASB. They are also linking in with City neighbourhood policing teams and statutory partners to deliver the Safer Streets Summer campaign directed by the Home Office. This campaign aims to reduce violence, ASB and retail crime in our towns and cities.

The VRU and SYMCA are now finalising the Community Small Grants round applications to support the voluntary and community sector run projects tackling violent crime in local communities. The focus for these projects will be reducing knife crime, reducing VAWG offences, sporting activities to diverting youths away from violent crime, coaching and mentoring, and initiatives to tackle racial disproportionality in serious youth violence. At the time of writing, 22 organisations have been identified to share £400k of funding. It is expected that activities relating to these grants will start in September and run for a full 12 months.

In respect of armed criminality, the previous national measures update remains appropriate, and the focus is unchanged. The force continues to see positive reductions in the number of firearms offences committed.

Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines

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

Recorded crime levels	The ONS dataset shows the proportion of homicide victims and suspects that were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the homicide. The force submits all homicide reports to the Home Office, and the reports include notification of those identified to be drug related. This is captured by the officer in the case with the information known at the point of submission. The
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	majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs with drug related homicides accounting for 57 per cent of the homicides in the county in the 12 months to September 2024, a similar proportion than seen nationally (53 per cent). Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces.
Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines	The force focus continues in the disruption of drugs supply and county lines. The force has worked to significantly increase drug expert witness capability, providing greater support to drug-related prosecutions, and assisting the process through the criminal justice system. Operational activity links to the work of the Armed Crime Team and district Fortify Teams with a high proportion of mapped Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) primarily linked to drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines are monitored (<i>Reduce Serious Violence section</i>). The force employs a SOC Co-ordinator who attends the monthly regional SOC Co-ordinators forum chaired by a Home Office representative and regional county lines leads, facilitating wide sharing of intelligence, emerging threats, and notable practice. The forces Fortify Management Group scrutinises and tasks against the top SOC threats for each of the four districts, in turn informing the Multi Agency Regional Tactical Operational Meeting (MARTOM) where the top SOC threats across the region are discussed. Level 2 activity around force SOC threats is governed through covert Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TT&CG) chaired by the SOC thematic lead. The SOC-IT team is responsible for undertaking SOC System Tasking process for OCG Management, reviewing the threats and geographic impact of each OCG with the relevant LRO to inform future demand scanning. MoRiLE scores for OCGs are used during various TT&CG meetings to aid decision making in terms of resources, including whole force and covert meetings. In addition, the districts/departments receive a summary of their OCG's in risk order after each full round of SOC System Tasking to aid local meetings and to allow districts to make informed decisions around resourcing and response to the risks. Each district has proactive Fortify teams varying in numbers commensurate with the size, demographic and SOC threat within the district, equipped with the appropriate tools with which to undertake their roles. The force Serious and Organised Crime Strategy sets out the direction for the force. The purpose of the strategy is to outline the vision for tackling and reducing SOC, set the objectives the force is trying to achieve over the period and the steps that will be taken to deliver this. The strategy has six specific objectives aligned to the 4Ps Pursue, Prepare, Protect and Prevent, these being reducing vulnerabilities; developing our capabilities; improving problem solving; developing strategic partnerships; promoting communications and engagement; and demonstrating effective governance and compliance. A key challenge in tackling the criminality associated with County Lines activity (often linked to drugs), is understanding the nature and scale of activity. As a result, the force works with partners to raise awareness across the communities; proactively engage with young people who may be vulnerable for targeting by offenders; supporting those who have been victims of exploitation; and investigating and charging offenders with their criminal acts. A quarterly county-wide Child Exploitation Group (incorporating County Lines activity) continues to evolve to improve partnership working and information sharing, along with highlighting best practice and addressing any operational issues. The National Police Chief's Council Vulnerability Tracker is fully embedded across the force and utilised within MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meetings. This supports the identification of victims for both CSE and CCE, providing a risk score and profile. District PVP teams locally conduct regular MACE meetings, and all Districts have a dedicated child exploitation team.

	In addition to submitting safeguarding referrals, partners also play a key role in prevention work, for example through drug awareness education or through deferring children from youth violence. The work of the Violence Reduction Unit supports the delivery of some commissioned interventions, and the force works with to refer individuals for substance misuse programmes, under schemes such as the Custody Navigator programme, and Liaison and Diversion. Additionally, the force and Mayor's office are working with Local Authority substance misuse commissioners to develop a conditional caution referral pathway for offenders.
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Ongoing focus – September 2025

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

The force participated in county lines intensification week commencing 23rd June. Over the weeks activity the following was achieved

- Three deal lines were identified and closed
- 24 arrests were made
- £30,000 cash was seized under the proceeds of crime act
- 102 people safeguarding including one national referral mechanism
- an estimated £2200 worth of Class A drugs recovered.

Media were invited to observe a high-profile collaboration of officers from South Yorkshire Police, British Transport Police and local authority colleagues focusing on Sheffield Railway Station, providing an opportunity to deliver positive messages and demonstrate the forces commitment to tackling exploitation.

From a prevent perspective, training was delivered to local hotels and Air BNB hosts. #lookcloser (Children's Society Exploitation campaign) posters were delivered to retail outlets across the force.

On 25th June 2025 the force hosted it's first "Language Matters" seminar in partnership with The Children's Society. The event was a success with over 100 participants from across the partnership accessing the training to learn more about the impact our language has on children and young people affected by exploitation.

A copy of Christina Gabbitas's lyric and poetry book "Listen Up!" was delivered to every secondary school in South Yorkshire. Christina's school workshops on county lines and knife crime have received national recognition. During engaged writing sessions at the workshops, children and young people with lived experience of exploitation have contributed poems and lyrics that have been collated to form the book.

South Yorkshire Police have successfully bid for Home Office "surge" funding to tackle Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines. The force has been awarded a total of £43, 217 which will be shared across the force districts and force intelligence.

Asset recovery funding has also been awarded to enable Christina to deliver a county lines session in a selected school in each district. Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) data is currently being examined to identify the schools that will benefit the most.

In respect of drugs markets, naloxone training continues, and the focus remains as per the previous national measures report.

Measure: Reduce neighbourhood crime

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

Recorded crime levels

The CSEW data to September 2024 reported that the *percentage of adults in South Yorkshire who have been a victim of at least one personal crime or have been resident in a household that*

	<i>was a victim of at least one household crime are 2.6 per cent and 9.8 per cent respectively – compared to 3 per cent and 7.9 per cent for England and Wales.</i> In the 12 months to December 2019 (baseline) there were 27,308 Neighbourhood Crimes recorded in South Yorkshire compared to 22,704 in the 12 months to December 2024, a reduction of 17 per cent. Reductions in recorded crime volumes have been seen in Residential Burglary, Theft from Person and Theft of/from Vehicle, whereas Personal Robbery has seen an increase (4 per cent) Chart 1b: Total neighbourhood crime volume <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for Chart 1b: Total neighbourhood crime volume</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total Neighbourhood Crime Volume</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>27,308</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>26,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>21,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>22,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024</td> <td>22,704</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Whilst reductions are largely maintained, Theft of Vehicle is an increasing challenge, and the force currently records a higher rate of Residential Burglary, Robbery and Theft from / of Vehicle than peer forces, and a similar rate of Theft from Person offences.	Year	Total Neighbourhood Crime Volume	2019	27,308	2020	26,000	2021	20,000	2022	21,000	2023	22,000	2024	22,704
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Force response to reducing neighbourhood crime	Prevention activity undertaken by neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) is the backbone for long-term delivery of crime reductions. The force analysts have identified wards with the highest rates of neighbourhood crime. The NPTs apply an evidence-based policing approach to develop local problem-solving plans for these areas. Bespoke neighbourhood policing training has been developed for NPT officers; the first force to achieve officer accreditation by Skills 4 Justice. This work is supported by effective communications with the public and the force continues to deliver media campaigns for emerging neighbourhood crime types to ensure the public is alert to any local themes of criminality, and where possible undertaking preventative action. Intelligence Analysts produce bi-weekly patrol plans for each district, using crime and incident records, incoming intelligence, and analytical profiling to review the modus operandi of the latest burglary reports, support local officer awareness, investigative consideration, target-hardening activity and public-facing crime prevention messaging. Prior neighbourhood crime offenders under imminent prison release are also notified to local officers. This is further supported by a monthly vehicle crime and robbery analysis document. District investigation teams are responsible for the investigation of these offences, management of suspects and offenders. All teams are dedicated to improving the quality of initial scene attendance, evidence capture and investigation to improve action taken outcomes and reduce offending. Resulting from the development of NPT structures and investigative focus, the force is in a strong position to focus on the continued delivery of reductions in neighbourhood crime.														
Ongoing Focus – September 2025 Ch Supt Pete Thorp (Serious Acquisitive Crime), Insp Matt Wood (Neighbourhood Policing)															
The force is seeing a continued challenge in relation to two in one burglary and the subsequent theft of motor vehicles. In response, the force is developing a proactive subject focused pursue plan supported by problem solving activity. This named operation, Operation Fortress will seek to coordinate the force approach to ensure that every opportunity is taken to apprehend and disrupt those responsible. Initially this will focus on a small cohort of nominals that meet the operational criteria set out and will see a joined up cross border approach being taken to pursue these individuals. Operation Fortress will adopt some of the problem-solving approaches undertaken successfully around the challenges seen in residential burglary, utilising hot spot data and taking a nuanced approach to deliver tailored safeguarding and preventive advice to those most likely at risk of falling victim to such offences, in wider															

cocooning activity. South Yorkshire Police are seeking to make use of targeted digital media campaigning to support this.

Recent reporting through the force performance day showed a strongly decreasing trend across most areas in relation to neighbourhood crime and a 15 per cent reduction on the previous 26 month daily average seen in July. DCPD reporting shows a 29 per cent decrease in residential burglary the last 12 months (data to April 2025) when compared to the 2019 baseline.

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

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

Recorded satisfaction levels	There is no local comparison available against a national measure, but the force has locally invested to undertake victim feedback surveys to support an understanding of service delivery. Since June 2016, the Home Office has required forces (as part of annual data return requirements) to survey victims of Domestic Abuse. Victim feedback is important to the force to understand where improvements in service can be made. In the 12 months to February 2025, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is 72 per cent for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 78 per cent for local victims of Domestic Abuse.
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	South Yorkshire Police works alongside the Mayoral office to deliver the victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. The force seeks the views of members of the public across South Yorkshire who have been recent victims of domestic burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking, vulnerable victims and anti-social behaviour victims. Whilst the force usually receives positive feedback for the initial response to incidents, and treatment of victims by officers, the main areas for improvement are in the updating of victims by the officer and keeping victims informed of the investigation progress. Satisfaction can be lower for crimes where an officer doesn't attend, therefore managing victim expectation and communicating an effective final contact remain a focus. Compliance against the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP), including an assessment of the force's delivery of enhanced service where appropriate, and delivery of the communications plan is coordinated through the strategic group. It is difficult to understand compliance without a manual review of the investigation, to ensure that the correct people have been identified as being entitled to an enhanced service and whether they receive this service or not. As a result of review, changes were made to the referrals process to better support the identification of victim vulnerability.

Ongoing focus – September 2025

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

Plans focus on a holistic approach to victim experience which delivers improved satisfaction as a consequence of improved service delivery. South Yorkshire Police is developing a seamless approach to victim contact, investigation and criminal justice experience to transform the force's understanding and delivery of a victim experience.

Vision statement

To embed a victim focused culture throughout South Yorkshire Police, where all victims are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect in line with the Victims' Code. We are committed to delivering timely, transparent, and consistent support that empowers victims, places their needs at the centre of our service, and ensures their voices help shape a policing response they can trust and have confidence in.

Key deliverables in support of the vision:

- Map and understand the victims' journey across all aspects of service delivery.
- Identify key performance measures and indicators throughout key aspects of the journey.
 - Prepare for and support delivery of the new Victims Code (Victims and Court Bill currently in the House of Commons)
 - Strengthen governance incorporating relevant aspects within the force Investigations Governance Board (tactical and strategic).
 - Work in collaboration with and in support of Criminal Justice Victims and Witness service delivery.
 - Draw upon and make use of learning from regional and national forces.
 - Work with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) around the Victim Transformation Programme – particularly in relation to the Criminal Justice Unit partnership pilot on this within the Yorkshire and Humber Region.
 - Deliver clarity around the Enhanced Service through technology utilising video and Digital Solutions workstreams to support.

Nationally, the Home Office has reached out to volunteer forces to understand and identify gaps in how drug testing on arrest could better support victims of Domestic Abuse (DA). The proposition is that improved data collections will better identify DA offences where the perpetrator has tested positive and to offer workshops on appropriate referral routes to reduce recidivism.

Over the last three months (to July 25) satisfaction for Domestic Abuse victims has remained stable at 85 per cent. Follow up continues to be the aspect of service with the lowest rate of satisfaction but this has also remained stable at 61 per cent.

Rotherham are still working towards the implementation of RAPID and a video has been shared internally via the Intranet for staff to understand the ethos of these principles.

The Joint Justice Plan (JJP) pilot is potentially launching on the 1st of September 2025 within South Yorkshire (following on from the launch in other regions). Real Time Case Conversations (RTCC) will form a vital part of the pilot with a view to reducing the time it takes to get cases to the first hearing from the offence date, better serving the needs of victims and improving the likelihood of a more positive outcome for victims of DA. These provide the opportunity for officers and prosecutors to discuss cases over Teams to improve efficiencies through reduced case action plans and escalation and will allow for timely case progression, thus serving to improve victim confidence.

Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

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

Recorded	The datasets nationally identified are not currently available at a local level. On a quarterly basis, the force provides data returns to the region which feeds a national performance report to the NPCC Cybercrime Programme Board. Recorded cybercrime offences have continued to increase in recent years, with just under 11,000 offences recorded in 2024/25. The largest cybercrime categories are harassment, stalking and obscene publications.
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	Cybercrime 2024/25 Tackling this criminality is widespread across a number of operational areas.
Force response to reducing cyber crime	There is an increasing digital footprint within criminality and the force has taken steps to support officers in undertaking cyber-dependent or cyber-enabled investigations. Despite this, keeping pace with the rate of technological advancement adopted by offenders is a challenge. Cybercrime is a cross-cutting theme within the force Control Strategy, and the approach to cybercrime mirrors the 4P strands of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. The force has a dedicated Cyber Protect Officer who is responsible for supporting the delivery of the Protect strand in relation to cybercrime. This officer works extensively with local businesses and public groups to support prevention messaging and circulate emerging issues across media platforms. Key to this work is the early intervention in place to deliver ‘cyber choices’ input for children considered to be at risk of cyber offending. The force has a Digital Forensics Unit, digital evidence kiosks which are available to officers across the organisation, and a Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit which specialises in the investigation of complex cyber-dependent offences. The Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit also works to support the wider Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU), the National Crime Agency, and other force Cyber Crime Units as required. Digital Media Investigators across the force work to support local officer knowledge and capability. Street Skills training, reaching all frontline response and NPT officers, includes cyber-crime input. The force has an internal intranet page dedicated to cybercrime to provide an information support for all officers. This includes the force’s Little Book of Cyber Scams, and links to the Met Police mini videos on various cyber scam topics. ISO 17025 is the international standard applicable for all laboratories performing calibrations and/or tests. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national body with responsibility for assessing organisations that provide these services. In 2019, the force gained accreditation in the physical capture and preservation of data from computer related devices and in Autumn 2020 completed an extension to scope the capture and processing of data from mobile devices. The force recognises the need to continually improve the resources and training to respond to and prevent cybercrime and is committed to continued investment in digitally capability.
Ongoing focus – September 2025 DCI Anna Sedgewick (Digital Investigations and Cyber)	
South Yorkshire police response to Cybercrime has a nationally led, regionally managed, and locally delivered approach. The objectives of South Yorkshire Police Cybercrime unit are • Understand the demand. • Develop the workforce to allow staff to develop and improve skills within a cybercrime environment. • Focus on victims by providing advice to all victims, provide support to victims and understand the needs and concerns of the victims. • Ensure partnership working with Regional Organised Crime Unit and City of London Police. • Disrupt offenders through early intervention.	

The main focus will be delivering the Protect and Prevent message to various groups within south Yorkshire at a local level and with regional collaboration. Nine events have already been organised including schools, social care, NHS services, foster care services and various social groups. There are another 25 other events yet to be organised.

The ongoing focus will remain the targeting of those groups which are the most vulnerable and at risk of being victims of cyber related offending.

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

The Cyber investigation team will continue to review and log financial intelligence around cryptocurrency to allow us to build an intelligence picture about how criminals are using cryptocurrency in South Yorkshire. The force will continue to robustly investigate suspicious behaviour reports from Cryptocurrency platforms and aim to disrupt money laundering and freeze and seize any criminal assets linked to online criminality.

The Cyber investigation team will monitor daily the cyber threat landscape and direct their resources to tackle any emerging threat. Part of this is joining a new AI working group run by TARIAN to share new emerging risk and threats and to share investigative practices with all forces in this new rise in criminal use of technology.

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

The cyber team will continue to monitor and pursue proactive opportunities around cyber related offenders in South Yorkshire. They will work closely with regional forces to provide a Prevent service to high-risk people in this area.

Preparations are being made to assist regional forces in Cyber Switch up. This is a regionally managed event/competition for young people under 18 years of age to take part in a number of cyber competitions. The main focus of this is to promote opportunities in cyber career paths and deliver a prevent message to the children of the region. Events are in the process of being organised in schools and youth services to promote this.