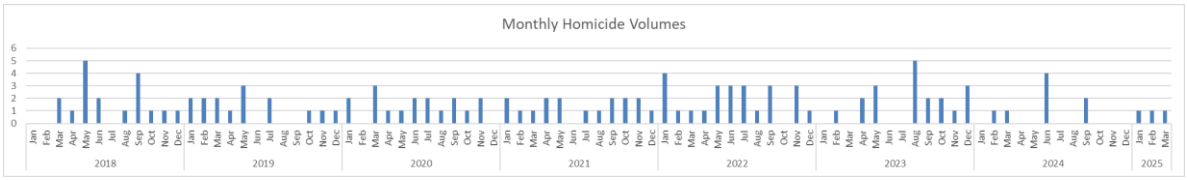
Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

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 – July 2025
Supt Dave Cowley (Homicide, Serious Violent Crime)

Following the tragic death of a child in South Yorkshire, knife crime has been a focus for both Homicide Prevention and violent crime reduction. The force launched the 'knives take lives' media campaign targeted towards young people and a successful Sceptre week of intense activity took place in May to tackle knife crime.

The range of Sceptre tactics were used, with enforcement, prevention and engagement activity across the force supported by all key districts, departments and partners. Knife Crime saw a five per cent reduction in investigation volumes last year which is the fourth highest reduction in the country.

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.

All districts now have most serious violence (MSV) meeting structures that focus on MSV to ensure the response, investigation and prevention activity is appropriately resourced and coordinated, leading to improvements in investigation quality, particularly for knife enabled robbery. A Habitual Knife Carrier index is now embedded, and Sheffield are linking this to a focussed pilot that will be supported by the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

The VRU is also supporting knife crime work across the county and has just completed contracted work with Learn Sheffield to provide all schools with a consistent, well researched and effective set of teaching materials on knife crime. Several online events have already taken place to promote these within schools and this workstream is linked to Exercise Oak Apple which is a table-top exercise for school leaders, promoting best practice to counter the threat of weapons in schools.

This year the VRU and SYMCA have launched a Community Small Grants round 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. It is expected that activities relating to these grants will start in September and run for a full 12 months.

The VRU will also be working with Doncaster Children's services to pilot Youth Futures Partnership Prevention Panels. This work is aimed at identifying children ages 10 to 17 who are at risk of becoming involved in crime. The panels will aim to work with existing statutory and third sector provision and divert the young person away from crime. The aim is to develop the initiative this year with panels commencing by the end of October, then to roll out this initiative across the county in 2026/27.

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 January 2025, the force recorded 45 under 25-year-old admissions to hospital for assault with sharp object, an 18 per cent reduction from the baseline period (55), against a national reduction of 35 per cent. Internally, Knife Crime and Most Serious Violence (MSV) datasets are also reviewed to support understanding and focus activity. The force is working with the National Data Quality Improvement Service to support the data capture against the Home Office definition of Knife Crime.
Force response to reducing serious violence	The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception. Clear interdependencies exist with the following: • Grip funding (intelligence-led local visible policing, focused by hot spot analysis) • Problem-Solving Hub (problem-solving partnership plans, with funding to support activity) • Violence Reduction Unit (using a public health approach to violence reduction and prevention) The Grip team undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality and reduce knife-crime offending. Local policing teams and specialist teams such as licensing also operate in response to violent offences, and proactively work to reduce night-time economy offending. Profiles have been delivered to understand the impact of Covid on demand and resourcing needs and profiles delivering against thematic areas are delivered throughout the year. Taking learning from analytical products, the GRIP team work alongside neighbourhood policing teams to ensure problem-solving plans are targeted and effective. The force has an established brand for tackling organised crime, this operation brings together the four districts and Crime Services in a stand against Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and routine sharing of content externally and internally which builds on the four Ps: • Pursue – prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality • Prevent – preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality • Protect – increasing protection against organised crime • Prepare – reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place. OCG threats are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force has undertaken mapping to establish the level of firearms capabilities across the OCGs residing in South Yorkshire.
Ongoing focus – July 2025 DCI Sam Blakemore (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)	
In respect of armed criminality, the force continues to see positive reductions in the number of firearms offences committed. As per previous updates this has been an ongoing trend since 2021. In previous years, the force had recorded a high number of viable firearm discharges and is one of the six current 'Key Gun Crime Forces', along with West Yorkshire Police, Greater Manchester Police, Merseyside Police, West Midlands Police, and the Metropolitan Police Service. The number of discharges has significantly reduced and the	

force is recording amongst the lowest number of viable discharges across its peer forces. The data for the year to date continues to show clear reductions in armed criminality in South Yorkshire over the last four years. In 2024 there were 25 firearms discharges in total, compared to 42 in 2023 (and as high as 86 discharges in 2020). In the first six months of 2025 (to 17 June 25) there have been 6 discharges recorded - the lowest volume recorded in the same period of the last six years.

Viable discharge incidents are accurate at the time of writing, based on the information available, with some NABIS examination reports / classification reports still awaited. 'Viable firearms discharge' is the terminology for describing an incident where ballistic evidence was recovered from the scene, or where evidence at the scene (such as damage, injury, or multiple independent witness accounts) corroborated the discharge of a viable firearm (i.e., a gun/rifle, not an air weapon or any other type of non-lethal barrelled firearm).

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 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 (*Reduce Serious Violence section*). 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.

Ongoing focus – July 2025
D/Supt Nikki Shimwell (SOC), D/Supt Pete Quinn (CCE and County Lines), DCI Mark Oughton (Drugs Markets)

The force is once more participating in county lines intensification week which commenced on 23rd June. A range of prevent and pursue activity is planned across the force area including a high-profile collaboration with British Transport Police, supported by Grip funding. The initiative will see a high visibility presence at Sheffield train station intended to identify and where necessary, safeguard persons using the rail network to move controlled drugs. Local media will be joining the initiative, and results will be available in the next update.

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.

The force will host it's first "Language Matters" seminar on 25th June 2025 in partnership with The Children's Society. Arranged and facilitated by South Yorkshire Police, this online event is available to police and partners who want to learn more about the impact our language has on children and young people affected by exploitation.

Asset recovery funding has been awarded to support the purchase of Christina Gabbitas's lyric and poetry book "Listen Up!". 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. 80 books have been purchased with the aspiration of making book available to every secondary education premises in South Yorkshire. At the time of writing, books are being sent to head teachers with an ask from the force strategic lead to make it available to pupils in school.

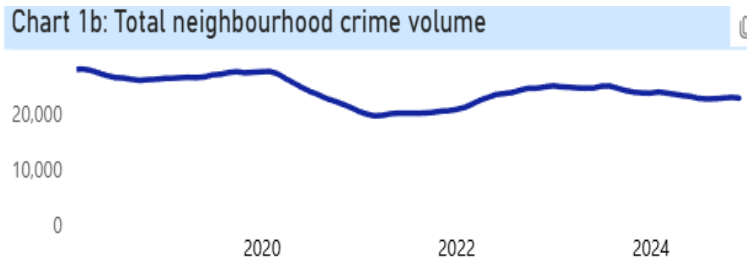
Asset recovery funding has also been awarded to enable Christina to deliver a county lines session in a selected school in each district. Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) data is currently being examined to identify the schools that will benefit the most.

South Yorkshire Police have now secured office space within the Regional Scientific Service premises and as a pilot are now testing cannabis material to remove this from the forensic pipeline. What this in effect means, is that Class A drugs will be tested quicker meaning Criminal Justice timetables are improved for speedier justice. The project has seen excellent initial returns in the amount of cannabis they are testing.

Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) funding was used to host a drug focused continued development day at Niagara for the force with partners attending. This was to benchmark ongoing work in Sheffield with a process which demonstrates the value of the drug line and the total amount of controlled drugs being sold through the line without the recovery of any product. The day was attended by all districts, and this is now embedded within the Fortify teams as a tool they can use to fight drugs crime. The force continues to prioritise those drugs lines which form the greatest risk to our communities to ensure we invest resources effectively and efficiently.

Naloxone training continues within force with nearly 75 per cent of staff eligible having received training on the use of the drug. Carriage is voluntary and there has been a positive uptake of those officers choosing to carry to combat drugs overdose. There have been three successful applications in the force area since implementation. Training continues with the completion of a video package to further deal with myths surrounding the drug use and consequences.

The risk of synthetic opioids in our county is being monitored through drugs testing and the drugs death protocol. With the four Local Authorities, South Yorkshire Police continue to build the response plan to the threat of synthetics entering the drugs supply chain with a tabletop exercise for all partners being run in the near future.

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 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.* 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)  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.
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 – July 2025
Ch Supt Pete Thorp (Serious Acquisitive Crime), Insp Matt Wood (Neighbourhood Policing)

Burglary
The previously referenced scanning pilot in Sheffield remains in its infancy and it is likely that the impact of this will not be seen until the next round of National Measures reporting. This pilot is based on established good practice in Doncaster and further sharing of this practice has been completed with all districts.

The force continues to look at learning opportunities to understand how to best improve its range of outcomes for victims. The thematic lead for burglary now chairs the regional neighbourhood crime meeting and attends the national burglary meeting. Several forces have been identified including Northumbria and Durham as offering good opportunity and visits are due to be made.

The force is considering how to further improve the use of forensic opportunities, such as more speculative searches being completed, and the Forensic Opportunities Tracking System (FOTS) alerting neighbourhood crime teams when forensic opportunities are identified at scenes. This approach will complement the scanning role of the Detective Sergeant in the Neighbourhood Crime teams in addition to a 7-day review process for all burglary offences, to ensure evidential opportunities are not lost and that focus is on quickly apprehending offenders.

Robbery
South Yorkshire Police are working to ensure that monthly analytical products around robbery and knife enabled robbery are being used effectively in local district governance processes to ensure local trends, risk and offending are identified promptly to enable a joined-up response. As the force works to review its crime allocation model, the ownership of knife enabled robbery offences will be considered to maximise investigative opportunity and risk.

The thematic lead is currently working with the Violence Reduction Unit to prepare the force response to a planned wider national week of action focused on knife enabled robbery offending.

Recent changes in national crime recording standards will see an increase in the recording of robbery offences previously recorded as shoplifting offences. Audit work is being undertaken to ensure these changes are embedded in the workforce.

Vehicle Crime
Work continues to build an accurate understanding of stolen vehicle deposition sites, with the previous Operation Lorry Alpha initiative being expanded to link data recorded on the force vehicle recovery system and produce accessible mapping products through PowerBI.

The force is developing plans to bid for funding to support the vehicle crime national week of action – Operation Alliance 2 in September and will seek to build on the successes seen in a recent Operation Duxford in Rotherham.

The force continues to remind officers about the availability of the newly trained stolen vehicle examiners and additional key reader technology. Both these points will support the forces response in the coming months to the recovery of stolen vehicles, vehicle parts and keys and the disruption of chop shop activity which supports much of the organised criminal elements of vehicle crime.

Work is ongoing with crime scene managers, the vehicle recovery team and the force control room to look at reducing the volume of recovered stolen vehicles released without forensic examination. In addition, cases involving theft of vehicles which are recorded in some way on film or digital media are being reviewed to ensure no evidential opportunities are lost prior to filing.

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 – July 2025 Ch Insp Johnathan Greaves (Victim Satisfaction), DCI Melissa Johnson (Domestic Abuse)	
The national Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan was launched at the end of 2024 and will aim to increase the number of DA perpetrators charged and convicted at court through a joined up whole system approach with the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), courts, and DA support services. Several meetings have been held with CPS and other forces, to ensure a consistent approach is adopted regionally. The Joint Justice Plan event was attended by South Yorkshire Police representatives to ensure a full understanding of its impact and to ensure that	

the force is aware of the potential issues that may arise from the implementation, in an effort to mitigate any risks posed. A meeting was held with the head of the force's Criminal Justice Unit to understand the next steps and to consider a communication strategy to front line staff about what Joint Justice Plan means for them.

There is ongoing work in place to support the continued training provision for Domestic Abuse following from the major training programme of DA Matters which started in 2020/21, supporting learning for frontline officers and staff.

The Rotherham district continue to work towards the implementation of the RAPID (Respond, Arrest, Prevent, Investigation, Detain) principles and a comms pack and relevant training is being developed with partners and subject matter experts to ensure all Rotherham officers are trained in these principles as part of a pilot around the approach to DA. The process will include ensuring that that the metrics around this are appropriately measured to understand its effectiveness, for example changes in arrest rates, positive outcomes, GOODSAM for Clare's Law and DVPN. This remains in the development phase; it is anticipated that this will be launched at the start of October 2025 following a full day input on the pilot for all sergeants and SPOCs for the RAPID initiative in September. Further training will then be provided to all teams through briefings prior to launch. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) are engaged with this pilot and will assist with training, communications and prevention and partnership opportunities. CPS are also engaged and have offered support with training. Performance will be monitored at regular intervals following the launch of the pilot including response times for DA incidents, outcomes, DVDs, DARA, DASH and SDASH.

Police charging for DA is being trialled by police forces in the Northwest (Merseyside and Cheshire) and some Welsh forces. As part of this pilot, police are permitted to charge some DA cases within a set criteria, which differs slightly to the current two-stage process set within CPS guidelines. South Yorkshire Police await the results of these trials to understand their effectiveness before a decision will be made as to local application and rollout. Although not specifically for DA cases, the implementation of CPS Teams channels for file failures/police force-CPS communication should positively impact the timeliness of CPS charging decisions.

Overall victim satisfaction from DA victims remain high and stable at 80% satisfaction, with 95% of victims satisfied with the initial response, 86% satisfied with the initial actions and 88% satisfied with the treatment they received. It remains the areas of keeping victims informed in which satisfaction can be improved.

Ongoing work to support victims is centred around compliance with the Victim's Code. A new technology solution is to be implemented to automate essential information being sent to the victim such as access to information around the victims' journey and the journey of a crime investigation. It will also allow the victim to access all the support services that are available to them. Further work planned this year will allow for two-way communication through a victim portal between the investigating officer and the victim, allowing easier updates. This implementation is ongoing and is planned for a go live date in Q3 2025.

During the last three months the force have migrated from paper-based information to an online offering. Whilst this is not suitable for all victims or crime types, for most it offers a more convenient, accessible and consistent offering of crucial information. This information is available in ten different languages to support the needs of our communities. Calling cards for officers with QR codes are being printed so that they can be left with victims so that they can access the information if required. This has now been launched, with associated communications to officers. The plan is to roll this out further to any areas that public will have access to, including posters at enquiry desks and for notice boards around police buildings.

The identification of vulnerability for officers attending incidents and work around the initial Victim Needs Assessment is ongoing. A training programme has been undertaken across new recruits to upskill them as to the requirements and its importance. Work has been completed that will ensure that every victim of crime receives a Victim Needs Assessment and that this is recorded on their investigation. This will allow for correct and appropriate referrals to be made for victims so that they receive the support and help they need. This will also allow officers to correctly identify those who are eligible and require an enhanced service, which includes enabling more frequent updates being made available for a victim.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">

- **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)**

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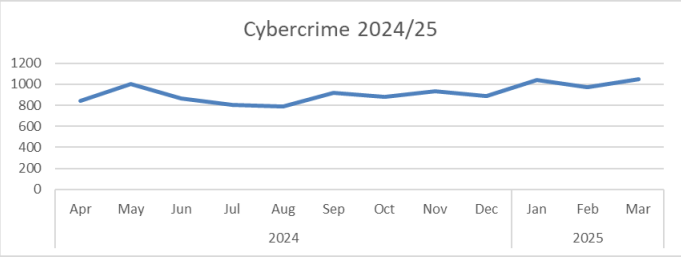
<tr><td>Recorded</td><td>The datasets nationally identified are not currently available at a local level. On a quarterly basis, the force provides data returns to the region which feeds a national performance report to the NPCC Cybercrime Programme Board.

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.

Tackling this criminality is widespread across a number of operational areas.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Force response to reducing cyber crime</td><td>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.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Ongoing focus – July 2025
DCI Anna Sedgewick (Digital Investigations and Cyber)</td></tr>
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There has been a consistent approach to the investigation and disruption of cybercriminals by the Cyber Investigation team. An integral part of this is building a local and national intelligence picture which has allowed the force to put in place disruption tactics, including targeting criminal digital assets for seizure.

Within the latest quarter, the Cybercrime team has continued joint working with financial investigators around Defence Against Money Laundering (DAMLs) involving cryptocurrency, securing a second freezing order for a crypto platform totalling £19,000 and, in the process, identifying and disrupting criminals using exchange accounts with a £3 million turnover which is money derived from online scams.

Detective Constables in cyber are currently supporting and enhancing the force's cyber intelligence capacity. Positive results have been seen within cyber fraud incidents and this has allowed the Cyber team to support the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) on courier fraud investigations by quickly collecting and analysing data. The Cyber team have undertaken proactive work on a number of historic and current investigations and suspects have been identified who are be believed to be using digital platforms to launder money from organised crime as a result of cyber scams. Detective Constables from the Cyber team continue to support PIP2, PIP2 supervisors and new recruit training by delivering various training sessions around Cybercrime, Cryptocurrency and Cyber investigations.

South Yorkshire has seen joint working between Cyber Detective Constables, protect officers and partners at the NEBRC (Northeast Business Resilience Centre) to deliver a series of interventions and advice around further protecting schools from ransomware attacks. Over the last quarter the South Yorkshire Police protect team have organised 22 engagement events around South Yorkshire across different types of organisations and audiences, these include:

- Tech facilitated stalking and harassment inputs co-delivered with Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (YHROCU) delivered to police officers and staff around the region.
- Cyber choices and Cyber protect input for the National Autistic Society School in Rotherham which was attended by 65 staff members and a second session now scheduled in September to cover the remainder.
- Escape room sessions with colleges across the county, including Thomas Rotherham, Harrison College Doncaster and Longley College Sheffield.
- Sheffield United Football Club college students – three sessions held with 55 students attending.
- Barclays Business Event held at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield
- Fraud and Cyber Ambassador Day which involved a training session delivered to SPOCs within South Yorkshire Police (CID, Response, NPTS & PCSOs etc.) to help support them deliver their own advice and engagement in relation to cyber and fraud
- A number of sessions held with banks for members of the public
- Age UK sessions for vulnerable adults

A number of events have already been organised with schools, social care, NHS services, foster care services and various social groups, with further events 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, allowing the force 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 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 area encompassing cybercrime and cyber related fraud.