

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 over 1600 front line officers/staff - it included 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 any high-risk behaviours such as 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

	<p>behaviour of perpetrators. The force-wide Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meeting focusses on repeat perpetrator behaviour through engagement or enforcement.</p> <p>Prevention solutions are available to protect DA victims including Tecsafe 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.</p>
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Ongoing focus – April 2025

Supt Dave Cowley (Homicide, Serious Violent Crime)

South Yorkshire Police have been notified that they are to receive three grants from the Home Office to tackle violent crime across the county. These are the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) grant – £2.12M, the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) grant - £120K and the Hot Spot Patrol grant £1.97M. This will ensure the continued delivery of the Violence Reduction Unit work and the Hot Spot response work currently in consultation with the Home Office to agree delivery plans.

Although not agreed at the time of writing, the plans will include the following elements:

VRU Grant

- Continuation of the Hospital Navigators Project to support victims of violent crime through existing partnerships.
- Continuation of the Custody Navigators projects to divert young people away from committing violent crime.
- A small grants round to support local charities with their initiatives to divert young people away from violent crime. The focus will be on delivery to tackle knife crime, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) offences, using sport to divert youths away from violent crime, coaching and mentoring and interventions to tackle racial disproportionality in serious youth violence.
- A grant will be given to the four Local Authorities to support their own local Violence Reduction plans. This will include youth engagement work to capture their views on how violence can be reduced.
- There will be various comms campaigns supported by VRU funds including an amplification of the force 'Knives take Lives' campaign.
- Learn Sheffield will roll out their school lesson plans on knife crime to all schools.
- The force is also planning to pilot a rounded knives exchange scheme that has been introduced elsewhere in the country. The aim is to provide less dangerous knives to high-risk individuals and reduce risk of serious offending.
- There will also be continued funding for the post of South Yorkshire Police tactical VAWG lead.
- Evaluation of the above activities with academic institutions.

Serious Violence Duty (SVD) Grant

This will be used to promote joint working with the statutory partners to the serious violence duty, to pay for a SVD project manager, a homicide prevention rapid review officer and to promote better information sharing between South Yorkshire Police and the four Local Authorities.

The Hot Spot Patrol grant

This will be used to continue the established hot spot patrol work to prevent public space violence and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Work has already been completed to map the hot spots with reference to knife crime and the delivery plan includes the following

- Hot spot patrolling in accordance with established protocols. ASB patrols to include Local Authority support.
- Partnership problem solving work violent crime reduction work on all identified hot spots
- Coordination of SCEPTRE knife crime enforcement using tactics approved by the National Knife Crime Working Group
- Communication campaigns to promote the above work

- Support for the local delivery of tried and tested proactive policing operations including Sceptre, Skorpion, Sidewinder, Sentinel and Basic Mike open land search technique.
- Work with the Home Office and University College London to promote training and Evidence Based tactics and evaluation of the above work

Work will continue with the Armed Crime team to tackle high risk habitual knife carriers, and the use of the index developed last year will also continue. The next national Sceptre week will run from the 19th to the 25th of May and work is already ongoing to plan the force response through district and departmental single point of contact (SPOCS). The knife crime lead has recently developed a South Yorkshire Police knife crime plan adopting the national strategy. The plan has involved some national benchmarking activity and has identified priority actions for the next 12 months.

The force Homicide Prevention lead is working with Corporate Communications to produce an overarching Communications strategy to encompass all the known factors that contribute to homicide and homicide prevention linking in with all the relevant teams and departments.

Measure: Reduce Serious Violence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>In the 12 months to September 2024, the force recorded 55 under 25-year-old admissions to hospital for assault with sharp object, consistent with the baseline period (55), against a national reduction of 34 per cent.</p> <p>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.</p>
Force response to reducing serious violence	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) <p>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.</p> <p>The National Problem Solving and Crime Prevention Programme is based in South Yorkshire Police, with a focus of events around tackling serious violence, supporting a repository, in which the force engages fully to learn from this beneficial insight.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p>
<p>Ongoing focus – April 2025 DCI Sam Blakemore (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)</p>	
<p>It is noted that the under 25 hospital admissions has returned to baseline levels but this is set against a reduction in other forces. Work is ongoing to understand our own data and the reductions achieved elsewhere. However, without access to the raw data this remains challenging. These are relatively small numbers of cases and the causes will be addressed through the SYP knife crime delivery plan and the VRU partnership knife crime plan. The Hospital Navigator project is designed to ensure that there is multi agency engagement with victims of violent crime with a view to addressing the causes and supporting the victim.</p> <p>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.</p>	

In previous years, the force has seen a significantly higher number of viable firearm discharges than its most similar group (MSG) and South Yorkshire Police 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. In 2024, this position has altered significantly and now South Yorkshire Police has the lowest number of viable discharges in the MSG.

The data shows clear reductions in armed criminality in South Yorkshire over the last four years. In 2024 there were 25 firearms discharges, down from a high of 86 in 2020. There have been none to date in 2025.

In late 2024, the armed crime team further increased its remit to include ownership of investigative matters related to any burglaries involving firearms, recoveries of prohibited firearms, and all criminal firearm discharges, not just those linked to known organised crime groups.

In respect of injuries and fatalities relating to firearms offences, so far there have been no serious injuries relating to firearms in 2025. There were also no firearms related homicides in South Yorkshire during 2024.

The armed crime team works hard to identify information and develop this leading to activity to recover illegally held firearms and has over the past four years successfully recovered a large number of firearms from the hands of criminals in South Yorkshire.

Blank-firing pistols have been legal to buy in the UK, and nationally there has been a rise in the conversion of these into Section 5 firearms. Dependent on use, an unconverted blank firing pistol can be considered imitation firearms under the Violent Crime Reduction Act (2007).

In 2023, South Yorkshire Police recovered 97 converted blank-firing pistols (CBF) used by organised crime groups to further their criminal activity. This related to Operation Treat Mike which is an ongoing operation into multi-operation CBF factories. Two trials have already concluded, with six convictions. A further trial is currently underway in commencing in January 2025.

With 56 further recoveries that year, 2023 saw a total of 153 viable firearms recovered. 26 viable firearms were recovered during 2024, and five so far in 2025.

While this is lower than in previous years, it is believed to be a clear indication that the robust response and proactive approach are having the desired effect of reducing the availability of illegal firearms in South Yorkshire.

Measure: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines

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

Recorded crime levels	<p>The ONS dataset shows the proportion of homicide victims and suspects that were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the homicide. The force submits all homicide reports to the Home Office, and the reports include notification of those identified to be drug related. This is captured by the officer in the case with the information known at the point of submission. The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs with drug related homicides accounting for 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).</p> <p>Substance misuse treatment for adults is not held by police forces.</p>
Force response to disrupt drugs supply and county lines	<p>The force focus continues in the disruption of drugs supply and county lines. The force has worked to significantly increase drug expert witness capability, providing greater support to drug-related prosecutions, and assisting the process through the criminal justice system. Operational activity links to the work of the Armed Crime Team and district Fortify Teams with a high proportion of mapped OCGs primarily linked to drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines are monitored (<i>Reduce Serious Violence section</i>).</p>

	<p>The force employs a SOC Co-ordinator who attends the monthly regional SOC Co-ordinators forum chaired by a Home Office representative and regional county lines leads, facilitating wide sharing of intelligence, emerging threats, and notable practice.</p> <p>The forces Fortify Management Group scrutinises and tasks against the top SOC threats for each of the four districts, in turn informing the Multi Agency Regional Tactical Operational Meeting (MARTOM) where the top SOC threats across the region are discussed. Level 2 activity around force SOC threats is governed through covert Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group (TT&CG) chaired by the SOC thematic lead.</p> <p>The SOC-IT team is responsible for undertaking SOC System Tasking process for OCG Management, reviewing the threats and geographic impact of each OCG with the relevant LRO to inform future demand scanning.</p> <p>MoRiLE scores for OCGs are used during various TT&CG meetings to aid decision making in terms of resources, including whole force and covert meetings. In addition, the districts/departments receive a summary of their OCG's in risk order after each full round of SOC System Tasking to aid local meetings and to allow districts to make informed decisions around resourcing and response to the risks.</p> <p>Each district has proactive Fortify teams varying in numbers commensurate with the size, demographic and SOC threat within the district, equipped with the appropriate tools with which to undertake their roles.</p> <p>The force Serious and Organised Crime Strategy sets out the direction for the force. The purpose of the strategy is to outline the vision for tackling and reducing SOC, set the objectives the force is trying to achieve over the period and the steps that will be taken to deliver this. The strategy has 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 Protecting Vulnerable People teams locally conduct regular Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings, and all Districts have a dedicated child exploitation team.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Additionally, the force and Mayors office are working with Local Authority substance misuse commissioners to develop a conditional caution referral pathway for offenders.</p>
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Ongoing focus – April 2025

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

The force remains focused on the disruption of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). In October 2024, the Serious and Organised Crime portfolio was subject to inspection by HMICFRS. The full report is still awaited and expected in spring 2025. A working group has been created to address the initial findings and track progress against these to ensure a robust position of progress on receipt of the report.

March 2025 data shows South Yorkshire Police manage 65 identified active Organised Crime Groups (OCG). 44 have a primary threat of drugs, of which 8 also have a threat of County Lines and 14 have a threat of firearms. The force Fortify partnership is responsible for tackling organised crime at both tactical and strategic level. Strong partnerships exist and this was recognised in the inspection.

South Yorkshire Police continue to lead the way nationally in the field of the 'Clear Hold Build' (CHB) initiative focused on tackling organised crime in a locality. Three projects have shown much success at tackling serious and organised crime and anti-social behaviour in the communities; with the most recent in Woodhouse, Sheffield currently moving through the Hold phase into Build.

In November 2024, the force participated in the national week of intensification for county lines. The week saw officers and staff from across the force collaborating operationally with the shared objective of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, pursuing offenders, and increasing preparedness in our communities. Over the weeks activity South Yorkshire Police made 19 arrests connected to county lines and closed four "deal" lines. 112 people were safeguarded, and seven national referral mechanism referrals were submitted. £5700 cash was seized together with approximately £3390 worth of class A drugs and over one million counterfeit cigarettes. Suspected offenders were disrupted via the seizure of six vehicles and 20 mobile phones.

In addition to enforcement activity, co-ordinated multi-agency visits were conducted at suspected cuckooed address and Local Authority children's accommodation. Educational visits were conducted at hotels and local business and officers visited schools and colleges to raise awareness among staff and young people of child exploitation and county lines.

The next week of action is planned for the week commencing 23rd June 2025 and plans are already underway to try and top the success seen in November. In the meantime, the force continues to make good use of analytics to identify lines, pursue offenders and safeguard children and vulnerable adults that become the victim of exploitation.

Drug markets underpin a host of organised crime; linked to serious incidents of violence, anti-social behaviour, and neighbourhood crime. The impact of the drug market on families of those involved is significant and places a burden on health and social care providers.

The force continues to work with partners in the Combatting Drugs Partnerships to break drugs supply, deliver a world class treatment and recovery system and achieve a generational shift in demand for recreational drugs. This partnership continues to monitor the impact of synthetic opioids on drugs markets and force representatives have recently attended a debrief exercise in Humberside. A tabletop exercise is being planned to test this response as a collective.

A new Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths (DARD) coordinator has been appointed, working closely with stakeholders to ensure all parties have up to date information. The Drugs and Alcohol related Death (DARD) panels are now in place and the Local Drugs Information Service (LDIS) are embedded, with information being shared on a regular basis.

Drugs Expert Witnesses (DEW) are now embedded within the Regional Forensic facility at Calder Park, Wakefield and are testing cannabis plants to remove them from the forensic pipeline and to provide efficiencies and quicker returns on other drugs submissions.

In Sheffield, the Fortify team will act as a drugs focus desk, offering advice to investigating officers who have access to the spectrometer machine, allowing for testing of some drugs in force for timely intelligence.

The force continues to use innovation with the analytical algorithm and has recently shared good practice throughout the force area and region. This has resulted in tougher sentences and increased Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) orders. The Drugs Line Prioritisation Tool also focusses on the drugs lines with the highest risk, this has an impact on sentencing and future POCA offences.

Force training has begun in the use of Naloxone, over half of the force are now trained with a significant amount of officers volunteering to carry the life-saving drug. There have been three successful administrations of the drug thus far. This training will include inputs of lived experience of drugs use to break down barriers and build relationships.

South Yorkshire Police have increased focus around Asset Recovery, the team focuses on work under the Proceeds of Crime Act to remove illicit finances from the criminal world. The current total removed from organised crime for the year 2024-2025 sits at £677,693.

This is invested back into community projects and innovation to tackle serious and organised crime through the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) funding board.

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.**

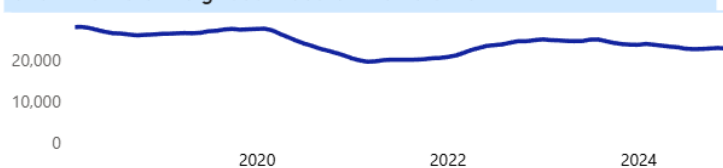
Recorded crime levels

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)

Chart 1b: Total neighbourhood crime volume



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

	<p>burglary reports, support local officer awareness, investigative consideration, target-hardening activity and public-facing crime prevention messaging. Prior neighbourhood crime offenders under imminent prison release are also notified to local officers. This is further supported by a monthly vehicle crime and robbery analysis document.</p> <p>District investigation teams are responsible for the investigation of these offences, management of suspects and offenders. All teams are dedicated to improving the quality of initial scene attendance, evidence capture and investigation to improve action taken outcomes and reduce offending.</p> <p>Resulting from the development of NPT structures and investigative focus, the force is in a strong position to focus on the continued delivery of reductions in neighbourhood crime.</p>
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Ongoing Focus – April 2025

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

Burglary

The force has seen reductions in the reports of residential burglary, with the first months of 2025 showing the lowest levels of reporting for several years. Despite these positive reductions, there are some ongoing challenges to increase the action taken rates for offending.

Reductions are driven by the problem-solving approach adopted under Operation Hawkeye and previous changes in regards the monitoring of cocooning activity and utilising nudge theory principles to support the public to take their own crime prevention measures.

The force plans to sustain this activity in addition to further work to ensure the understanding of offending patterns and risk that exist around key nominals, which should see improvement in action taken rates.

Doncaster have been adopting a process which involves the wider scanning of all reported home burglary offences to ensure that investigative opportunities are not missed, and wider offending patterns are better understood. This approach is showing early signs of promise with action taken rates for the first months of 2025 increasing.

The focus is now to adopt this model as a formal pilot into Sheffield, the district which sees over 40 per cent of reported home burglaries reported in South Yorkshire. Should this pilot evidence the success anticipated, consideration will then be given as to how this model can be adopted across the force.

Robbery

The force continues to engage with the Home Office in regards knife enabled robbery as one of 7 identified task force forces. Positive practice has been identified for South Yorkshire Police in relation to the prompt time charging decisions are reached in these types of cases. In addition, following a call to practice from the College of Policing, the force Robbery Action Plan and the monthly analytical document have been identified as good practice.

The ongoing focus in relation to robbery remains engaging in the Home Office task force and continuing to evolve the force response based on wider sharing of practice.

Vehicle Crime

The force is adopting an operation to map the deposition sites of stolen vehicles more effectively. This is vital to the ongoing challenge in developing detailed intelligence profiles of offending to allow further operational activity to take place. The name of this operation is Lorry Alpha.

The force is training additional officers as stolen vehicle examiners and has purchased 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.

Measure: Improve satisfaction among victims, with a particular focus on victims of DA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse (CSEW) • Victim satisfaction with the police (CSEW) 	
Recorded satisfaction levels	<p>There is no local comparison available against a national measure, but the force has locally invested to undertake victim feedback surveys to support an understanding of service delivery. Since June 2016, the Home Office has required forces (as part of annual data return requirements) to survey victims of Domestic Abuse. Victim feedback is important to the force to understand where improvements in service can be made.</p> <p>In the 12 months to 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.</p>
Force response to improving victim satisfaction	<p>South Yorkshire Police works alongside the Mayors office to deliver the victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. The force seeks the views of members of the public across South Yorkshire who have been recent victims of domestic burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking, vulnerable victims and anti-social behaviour victims.</p> <p>The Victim Satisfaction Strategy 2021-2024 refers to several factors which aim to improve victim satisfaction across the force. 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. Two other areas which can result in negative feedback are satisfaction levels where an officer did not attend, and those instances where the victim was not provided with the victims' booklet (or a link to the online version).</p> <p>Compliance against the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP), including an assessment of the force's delivery of enhanced service where appropriate, and delivery of the communications plan is coordinated through the strategic group. It is difficult to understand compliance without a manual review of the investigation, to ensure that the correct people have been identified as being entitled to an enhanced service and whether they receive this service or not. As a result of review, changes were made to the referrals process to better support the identification of victim vulnerability.</p> <p>DA Matters training was provided to over 1600 front line officers and staff in 2020/21. This included a focus on the importance of risk assessment, and identification of additional vulnerability to support intervention, supporting the victim service. A network of DA champions continues to operate across the force to support ongoing local delivery and looking for ways to improve the service provided.</p>
Ongoing focus – April 2025 Ch Insp Johnathan Greaves (Victim Satisfaction), DCI Jim Horsfield (Domestic Abuse)	
<p>Ongoing work is around ensuring that officers comply with their responsibilities that are stated within the Victims Code. New IT is to be implemented that will 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 investigation officer and the victim, allowing easier updates.</p> <p>During the last three months the force have migrated from paper-based information to victims, to an online offering. Whilst this is not suitable for all victims or crime types, for most it offers a more modern, easier to access and more joined up offering of crucial information. This also means that any updates that need to be made are made in one and does not require the reprinting of material. This information is available in ten different</p>	

languages. 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.

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. IT works have recently been completed that will ensure that every victim of crime receives a Victim Needs Assessment and that this is recorded on the 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 change to IT will also allow officers to correctly identify those who are eligible and need an enhanced service and will in turn receive one, including more frequent updates to their investigations.

The ongoing work and focus have shown a significant improvement in overall satisfaction for the previous quarter as detailed below.

Overall: Overall satisfaction significantly increased

- Overall (77 per cent, 510 victims) and attended (85 per cent, 256 victims) satisfaction significantly increased.
- Non-attended satisfaction (68 per cent, 254 victims) remained stable.
- Follow up and Treatment have also significantly increased to 73 per cent (254 victims) and 87 per cent (510 victims) respectively.
- All other aspects of service remained stable.

Burglary: No change

- Overall (83 per cent, 163 victims), attended (86 per cent, 147 victims) and non-attended satisfaction (56 per cent 16 victims) remained stable.
- All aspects of service remained stable.
- Follow up satisfaction is the lowest aspect of service at 73 per cent (147 victims).

Vehicle: Overall satisfaction significantly increased.

- Overall (68 per cent, 164 victims) and attended (81 per cent, 26 victims) satisfaction significantly increased.
- Non-attended satisfaction (65 per cent, 138 victims) significantly increased.
- All aspects of service remained stable.
- Actions taken satisfaction is the lowest aspect of service at 58 per cent (164 victims).

Vulnerable: Overall satisfaction significantly increased.

- Overall (80 per cent, 148 victims) satisfaction significantly increased.
- Attended satisfaction (86 per cent, 72 victims) and non-attended (74 per cent, 76 victims) satisfaction remained stable.
- Initial contact and actions taken have also significantly increased to 91 per cent (116 victims) and 79 per cent (148 victims) respectively.
- All other aspects of service remained stable.
- Follow up had the lowest satisfaction at 75 per cent (71 victims).

Hate: No change

- Overall (77 per cent, 35 victims), attended (82 per cent, 11 victims) and non-attended satisfaction (75 per cent, 24 victims) remained stable.
- All aspects of service remained stable.
- Actions Taken satisfaction is the lowest aspect of service at 77 per cent (35 victims).
- It should be noted that the figures for hate crime victims are based on a small sample size

The force continues to progress the use of conditional cautioning for appropriate standard risk DA cases and is working with Cranstoun, the provider of the existing voluntary DA perpetrator programme. Recent figures (March 27th, 2025) showed 25 Cautions so far with C-DAIR Condition (Cranstoun domestic abuse interventions and resolution). Although room for improvement, this is still positive in comparison to many other forces.

Domestic Abuse Risk Assessments (DARA) for front line officers is now embedded following the transition from The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment Assessment (DASH) to DARA.

The national DA 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.

A self-assessment document was completed by professionals from across DA within South Yorkshire and has been submitted to CPS for next steps.

A Joint Justice Plan event is scheduled for May 2025 at Ryton where two representatives from South Yorkshire Police will attend to ensure that the force is fully prepared for the next phases of this implementation.

Discussion continues nationally around 'DA Specialists' in Control Rooms which is being planned by the new Government and is currently being trialled using Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) in control rooms by a number of forces.

A trial is being prepared in Rotherham for a consistent approach (RAPID principles) for DA using good practice from another force that indicated significant results. This trial will be reviewed as it develops and if successful may be appropriate for adoption within the other districts.

The initiative focusses on 5 key pillars in dealing with Domestic Abuse. These are –

- **R**espond (responding to DA without delay)
- **A**rrest (arrest where there is a power to do so. We will be suspect focused from the outset)
- **P**revent (Prevent further offences through robust safeguarding plans – a victim centred approach with a focus on partnership working and children)
- **I**nvestigate (Investigate crime effectively)
- **D**etention Clock (considered use of the clock to build strong cases and secure charges wherever possible)

This proposal has been positively received by local partners and CPS.

The next steps before launch will include current preparation of communications for officers and staff, training of Single Points Of Contacts within teams across district and wider training for all officers/staff around the approach to DA.

The ambition of the initiative is as follows –

- Reduce the response times to DA incidents
- Increase arrest rates
- Increase positive outcomes
- Increase the use of appropriate safeguarding tools including DVPN
- Bring consistency across teams in dealing with DA
- Increase victim satisfaction
- Reduce victim attrition
- Reduce conduct and complaint matters
- Deliver a consistent message with police and partners who are able to articulate Rotherham's response to DA.

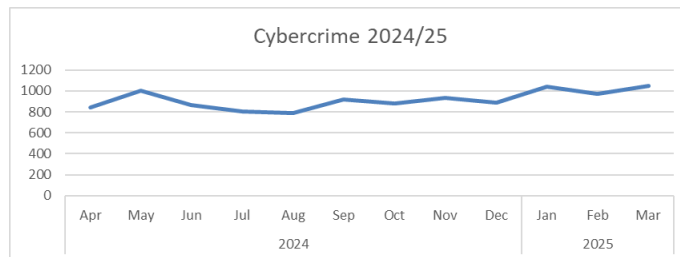
Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

- **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.



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 invested in a Digital Forensics Unit, digital evidence kiosks (available to officers across the organisation) and a Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit (specialises in the investigation of complex cyber-dependent offences). The Digital Intelligence and Investigations Unit also works to support the wider Yorkshire and Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU), the National Crime Agency, and other force Cyber Crime Units as required.

Digital Media Investigators across the force work to support local officer knowledge and capability. Street Skills training, reaching all frontline response and NPT officers, includes cyber-crime input. The force has an internal intranet page dedicated to cybercrime to provide an information support for all officers. This includes the force's Little Book of Cyber Scams, and links to the Met Police mini videos on various cyber scam topics.

ISO 17025 is the international standard applicable for all laboratories performing calibrations and/or tests. The United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) is the national body with responsibility for assessing organisations that provide these services. In 2019, the force gained accreditation in the physical capture and preservation of data from computer related devices and in Autumn 2020 completed an extension to scope the capture and processing of data from mobile devices. The force recognises the need to continually improve the resources and training to respond to and prevent cybercrime and is committed to continued investment in digitally capability.

Ongoing focus – April 2025

South Yorkshire police response to Cybercrime has a nationally led, regionally managed, and locally delivered approach. The objectives of our 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.

South Yorkshire Police has a resolute team of pursue officers and a protect/prevent officer who deal with cybercrime. The pursue officers are dedicated to the investigation of cybercrime whilst the protect/prevent officers' primary role is engagement with the communities and businesses in South Yorkshire to deliver advice aimed at reducing the risk of them becoming a victim of cybercrime.

All cyber investigations are reviewed by the pursue officers to identify any positive lines of enquiries and opportunities for disruption. The protect officer uses a variety of engagement methods including bespoke victim engagement or larger scale events and presentations. In the last 13 months there has been 1203 cyber related crimes reported with financial loss of £19,000. The main offending type is social media hacking.

Between January and March 2025, 32 engagement events were held by the cyber protect officer to raise the awareness of cybercrime and provide practical advice on how individuals and businesses can protect themselves from being a victim that will ultimately assist in reducing cybercrime. National protect campaigns are supported and there is a dedicated social media page that the Force Cyber Crime Unit utilise to circulate not only the national messaging but any local protect messaging also.

The engagement events range from presentations within schools to events reaching out to the over 60's. The coverage for the events is wide reaching and there is engagement across all sections of the communities. The force remains determined to tackle cybercrime whether that being Computer Misuse Act offences or cybercrime in other areas such as stalking and harassment, violence against women and girls or other linked offending such as crypto currency related crime.

South Yorkshire Police has recently seen its first cryptocurrency account freezing orders, which were obtained under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in February 2025. An account freezing order uses civil legislation to freeze funds which are believed to be either criminal property or intended to be used for a criminal purpose. The account freezing orders have a combined total of £926,710. Enquires remain ongoing in relation to these account freezing orders.

The force is also seeking to recruit cyber volunteers to support the force Cyber Crime Unit. The volunteers would be sought to support both pursue investigations and the protect work undertaken. The cyber volunteers programme is part of the National Cyber Crime strategy, and the force are aiming to launch the programme over Spring 2025.