

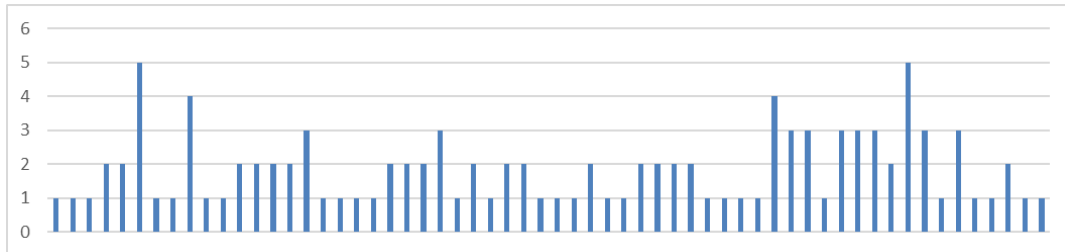
Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

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 2024 is shown below.



The volume of Homicides in South Yorkshire has increased since 2019/20, albeit a reduction on volumes in 2018/19. In 2023/24, 18 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire, with a rate of 13.1 homicides per million population, above that of the national average (9.5 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.

The majority of the homicides within South Yorkshire have a flag applied linking them to drugs.

Force response to homicides

The forces 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.

With a positive action approach to Domestic Abuse (DA), the force arrest rate remains high in comparison to rates nationally. 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 behaviour of perpetrators. The force-wide Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) meeting focusses on repeat perpetrator behaviour through engagement or enforcement.

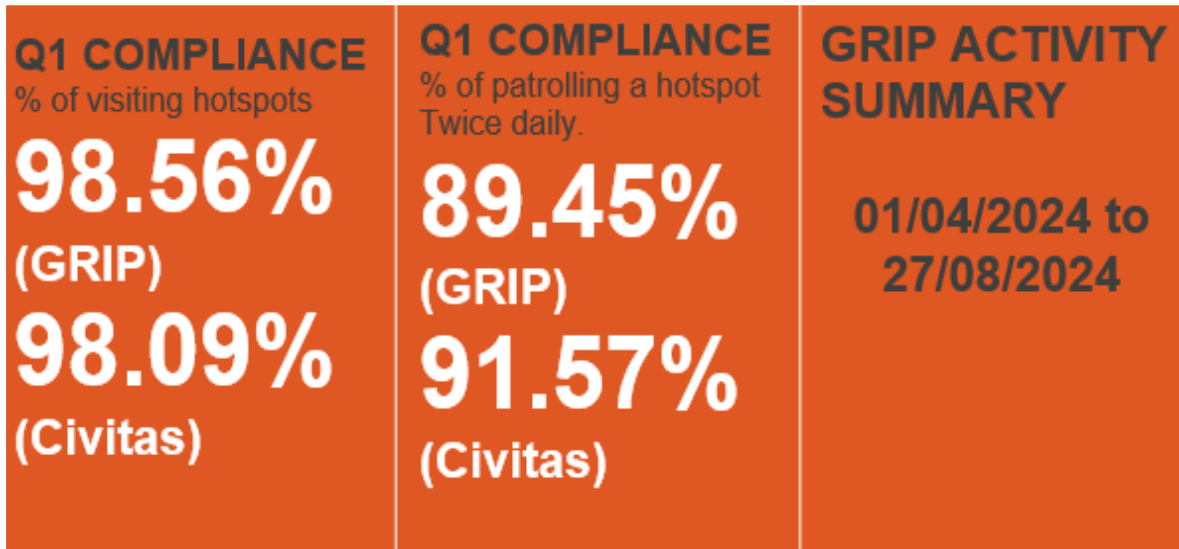
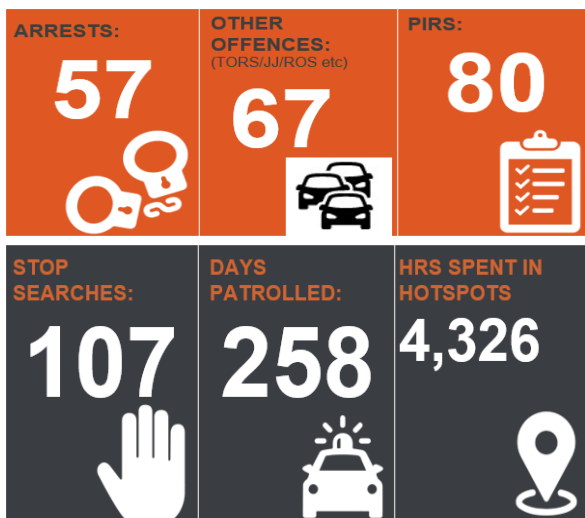
Prevention solutions are available to protect DA victims including Tecso phones, SmartWater forensic marking, and Buddi Tags, which can be monitored via GPS. Civil Orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO) and Stalking Protection Orders are used to good effect to protect victims, supported by a dedicated DVPO team. District-based DA teams provide consistency of quality investigations for all high-risk DA crimes.

Ongoing focus – September 2024

Supt Dave Cowley (Homicide, Domestic Abuse, Serious Violent Crime)

The amalgamation of the Grip and CIVITAS team into the Hot Spot Response Hub has been fully implemented and an additional member of staff has been recruited to assist the wider team. The hot spot and problem-solving work continue to deliver reductions in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Most Serious Violence (MSV) both in the hot spot areas and more widely within districts. The majority of the hot spots focus on night-time economy (NTE) areas and transport hubs which has been the focus of the patrol and problem-solving activity.

The updated results are displayed below for April to August and show high compliance rates for the patrols and over 4326 hours of patrol in the hot spots. This is a slight reduction on previous years due to the reduced joint funding. Police and Local Authority staff are now carrying out the patrols.



A coordinated zombie knife and machete surrender scheme is being launched for the South Yorkshire area ahead of the change in law around these weapons. From 24th September 2024, it will be illegal to own zombie-style knives and machetes as they are added to the list of dangerous prohibited items already banned.

The force has successfully procured the Visibeat app. This type of app was recommended to be used by the Home Office for all Grip/ASB hot spot forces over the last two years and designed to replace existing GPS devices.

The WalkSafe app went live in July 2024 for the first time across all South Yorkshires Town and City Centres.

The GRIP Team have been coordinating force wide teams to arrest nominated suspects responsible for the violent disorder in the Mavers area in August this year. As of 13th September, 138 people have been arrested in connection with the large-scale disorder and 80 people have been charged.

Work continues to procure NTE street wardens within the force area. Delays within the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) brought about by the move from OPCC to SYMCA have unfortunately delayed this process and the Hot Spot Response Hub will continue dialogue to resolve this issue.

Carver St road closures have continued since July 2024. More recently, West Street protected paved area/closing drop off bays have been introduced around specific licensed premises on this road.

The Sheffield MSV meeting is now up and running in addressing the top risked Habitual Knife Carrier Index and MSV nominals within their district. Nominal ownership has been adopted by Ch Supt Henderson, to include response teams, Neighborhood Policing Teams (NPT) and everyone appropriately responsible in between these teams i.e., Fortify/CID and particularly the use of youth offending services. This demonstrates a district led determination in prioritising South Yorkshires most violent suspects.

The Habitual Knife Carrier Index which identified individuals using crime and intelligence data is continuing to be rolled out across the force with recent work completed in Rotherham led by the Hot Spot Response Hub.

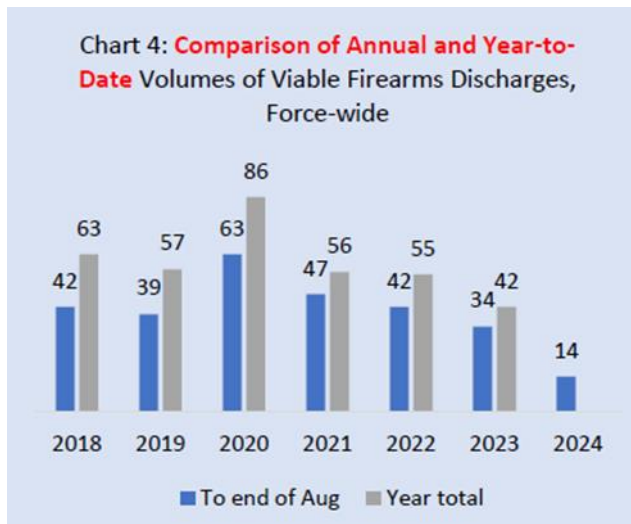
The next national Sceptre week is scheduled for 11th to 17th November and will be coordinated via the Hot Spot Response Hub.

Following the change of government, it is anticipated that the Safer Streets mission to halve Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) offences and halve knife crime will require additional work and focus from the force. Det. Superintendent Cowley already sits on the national knife crime working group led by Cdr Stephen Clayman and in addition to the zombie knife surrender scheme and banning of zombie knives, a new aggravated offence of knife possession with intent to cause fear of violence is expected to be created. Work is going on nationally to limit the availability of dangerous knives online and further develop evidence-based interventions to reduce knife crime.

The force continues to coordinate homicide prevention work and serious violent crime prevention work through the Homicide Prevention Board chaired by ACC Hayley Barnett. This meeting brings together the VRU, districts and key departments that contribute to homicide prevention across the force. The VRU and hot spot response team are taking the opportunity to benchmark other forces and review their own delivery plans in order to develop a joined-up strategy to tackle knife crime across South Yorkshire.

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>Reductions have been seen for Under 25-year-old admissions to hospitals for assault with sharp object since the baseline period, aligned with a national reduction. However, the latest data to March 2024 shows this is increasing.</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 HO 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 – September 2024 DCI Tony Slater (Armed Criminality), D/Supt Dave Cowley (Serious Violent Crime)</p>	
<p>The number of firearms discharges remains at its lowest in the past six years. Up to the end of August 2024 there has been a 59 per cent reduction in the number of firearms discharges compared to volumes recorded to the end of August 2023.</p> <p>The highest number of discharges recorded over the last six years was in 2020, the year the Armed Crime Team was launched. In comparison to 2020, the year-to-date reduction in 2024 is over 75 per cent.</p> <p>South Yorkshire is classified as one of the of the six key gun crime forces and are ranked third highest nationally for firearms discharges. However, due to the reductions in 2024 the force is now ranked sixth out of the six key gun crime forces. Whilst the force work in continuing to reduce the number of firearms discharges in 2024, GMP, Merseyside and West Yorkshire have all seen an increase in 2024 to date.</p>	

There have been no fatalities as a result of firearms discharges in 2024, and three incidents involving injury, none of which were life threatening.



The National Crime Agency (NCA) define a Linked Series Firearm (LSF) as 'any firearm that has been identified through ballistic analysis to have been discharged in more than one incident'. South Yorkshire Police currently has one active, inferred LSF (discharged in the past 12 months and still outstanding).

The national threat from Converted Blank Firearms (CBF) remains high. The use of these weapons has now surpassed the use of Original Lethal Purpose (OLP) weapons. In conjunction with the other key gun crime forces, The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) and other law enforcement agencies have dialogue with the Home Office representatives at the National Criminal Use of Firearms meeting around legislation and how to tackle the threat.

The forces Serious Organised Crime Unit and the Armed Crime Team have dismantled three conversion factories and charged 18 people with manufacture of firearms offences, seizing 97 viable firearms and over 100 rounds of ammunition in the course of the operation. The first of four trials started in September 2024 which involved four principal members in the conspiracy to manufacture viable firearms. Two of the four defendants have pleaded guilty. The trial continues for the other two with the further three trials to take place during 2024/2025.

The excellent preventative work continues with firearms licence holders to make them aware of the risks arising from the theft of lawfully held firearms, which has been delivered by our firearms licensing team has resulted in no reported stolen viable firearms in burglaries in 2023 and only three firearms stolen (year to date) in one offence so far in 2024, which was a commercial burglary, the offender for which was convicted in September 2024, significantly reducing the legal to illegal threat. There were 48 stolen in 2022.

As previously reported, South Yorkshire has worked closely with other key gun crime forces and the National Criminal Use of Firearms Forum to introduce a process of identifying individuals suspected to be involved in armed criminality and subjecting them to assertive management visits by the Firearms Support Group (FSG) under a dedicated operation. More than 20 nominals are afforded consistent attention including weekly visits to encourage the individuals to turn their back on firearms criminality, this has been acknowledged as positive practice and recorded as such with the College of Policing. This process, and the nominals are regularly reviewed at the Armed Crime Governance Meeting.

The Armed Crime Team have now executed over 80 proactive search warrants (drugs/firearms) across the force in 2024 targeting nominals linked to firearms criminality in order to disrupt their criminal activity. This is in conjunction with district neighbourhood and fortify teams.

Detective Superintendent Cowley is now the interim Head of the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) following the retirement of the previous department head. The Mayor recently announced that 19 community based projects to reduce violence had been supported by a grant of £339,000 from the VRU. These include boxing and athletics

clubs that divert youths away from violent crime and projects that coach, mentor and support youths at risk of becoming involved in violent crime.

In addition to these projects, the VRU supports custody navigators and hospital navigators and is providing trauma informed training packages to key partner agencies including the police. Learn Sheffield will be working with schools to produce evidence-based teaching materials to tackle knife crime. This will supplement the work that already goes on in the Lifewise centre.

The four Local Authority partnership managers continue to deliver local violent crime reduction work using grants from the VRU delivering through their respective Community Safety Partnerships.

The VRU and the force eagerly await an announcement from the government on the funding position after March 2025 for both the hot spot response hub funding and the VRU funding.

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 – drug related homicides accounting for 72% of the homicides in the county in 2023/24, a higher proportion than seen nationally (55%).</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>

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 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Child Criminal Exploitation (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 SYMCA are working with Local Authority substance misuse commissioners to develop a conditional caution referral pathway for offenders.

Ongoing focus – September 2024

T/Supt Anna Sedgwick (SOC), D/Supt Pete Quinn (CCE and County Lines), DCI Mark Oughton (Drugs Markets)

The force focus continues in the disruption of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). South Yorkshire have 70 identified active Organised Crime Groups (OCG) with a total of 559 nominals, of which 48 have a primary threat of drugs and a further five having a primary threat of County Lines. Cocaine and Crack, Heroin and Cannabis being the predominant threats in that order. The threat from synthetic drugs is an emerging threat, with four OCGs now recorded with a synthetic drug threat.

South Yorkshire Police continue to lead the way nationally in the field of the 'Clear Hold Build' (CHB) initiative. The Barnsley project is the first nationally to move from 'Build' into business as usual and was commended in the National CHB conference hosted by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) National Serious Organised Crime Portfolio and the Home Office. A second CHB project is live in Doncaster, and a third has now been launched in Sheffield. These CHB initiatives continue to benefit from the dedicated support of a Detective Inspector within the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (Y&H ROCU) SOC portfolio and the forces own SOC coordinator.

The force has now established a process of identifying, mapping, scoring, and reducing the impact of Urban Street Gangs (USGs) which are seen as a pre cursor to young people progressing from anti-social behaviour and minor criminality to becoming vulnerable to entering into serious and organised crime. The force processes and procedures are solely focused on disruption and diversionary measures with no intention of criminalisation. This is in line with national best practice.

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 team has been working at 50 per cent capacity for some time, however all vacant posts will be filled by the end of September 2024. Those newly recruited will undertake a complex training program before becoming fully competent.

A defence against money laundering request was recently received in force. Enquiries conducted by the Economic Crime Team identified a 'scam' involving the spoofing of a reputable clothing retail website and the offer of clearance sale bargains. The victims pay money but receive no goods nor refund on their appeal via the website. On 22nd August 2024, the force obtained a forfeiture order for the balance of 2900000 USD [2.9 million dollars]. Since that date 800,000 USD has been paid out in compensation, returning money to victims of crime.

Work is currently ongoing to prepare for the HMICFRS SOC inspection 'No Place to Hide' which will commence on Monday 21st October 2024.

All four districts maintain child exploitation teams whose principal focus is CCE including county lines. They remain supported by a dedicated County Lines Detective Inspector within the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (Y&H ROCU SOC) and local thematic lead. The teams work collaboratively with the force Op Fortify teams to disrupt and where possible pursue county lines offenders. The teams work closely with partners via the multi-agency child exploitation (MACE) arrangements to identify children and young people at risk of CCE and implement plans to mitigate that risk.

The force made a successful bid for Home Office "surge" funding which will be used to facilitate intensified periods of CCE operational activity in the Autumn of 2024.

The force has invested in a dedicated police officer exploitation co-ordinator role. The role is intended to co-ordinate sub-regional exploitation activity to ensure children and young people receive a consistent level of service regardless of where they live.

A refreshed internal and external media campaign is intended for Autumn 2024 designed to promote curiosity among officers, staff and the public and in doing so increase the collation of intelligence.

A quarterly county lines partnership group has been created to be chaired by the force thematic lead. The first meeting will convene on 13th November 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to bring multi-agency governance to the current local MACE arrangements.

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.

South Yorkshire Police are working with stakeholders within the Combatting Drugs Partnerships to prepare for and prevent harms caused by the introduction of Synthetic Opioids into the local drugs supply. Forces have seen increased deaths where these substances have been found and this is constantly monitored. The force are working with partners to ensure timely harm reduction messages are made and action is taken. The Drugs and Alcohol related Death (DARD) panels are now in place and the Local Drugs Information Service (LDIS) are embedded. The drugs Death Coordinator is now in position, updating partners on a daily basis and forging relationships with drugs intervention partners and coroners.

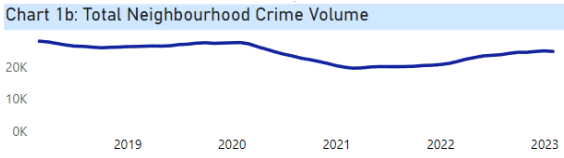
South Yorkshire Police are in the final stages of planning to test cannabis plants in house. This is aimed at reducing turn-around times for drugs to be tested to ensure those caught with drugs are processed as efficiently as possible. The team will also act as a Drugs Focus desk with the ability to advise officers with regards to live drugs investigation for efficiency. The force work closely with Local Authorities who have funded a Spectrometer machine allowing for testing of some drugs in force for timely intelligence.

Training sessions have been provided to those officers dealing with cannabis cultivation scenes to ensure they are dismantled safely and efficiently.

The force continues to use innovation with the analytical algorithm resulting in police and prosecutors being able to demonstrate more than just street dealing by analysing bulk messaging. This has resulted in tougher sentences and increased 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 Proceeds of Crime Act offences.

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.**

<p>Recorded crime levels</p>	<p>The CSEW data to March 2024 reported that the <i>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 3.1 per cent and 11.5 per cent respectively – compared to 2.9 per cent and 7.4 per cent for England and Wales.</i></p> <p>In the 12 months to December 2019 (baseline) there were 27,309 Neighbourhood Crimes recorded in South Yorkshire. Since December 2019, 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. Some reductions had pre-dated reductions recorded in neighbourhood crime during lockdown. As restrictions have eased there have been increases in volumes of crime, although not to pre-pandemic levels, with an overall reduction in the twelve months to March 2024 of 14 per cent in comparison with the baseline period.</p>  <p>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.</p>
<p>Force response to reducing neighbourhood crime</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</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>

Ongoing Focus – September 2024

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

The last report detailed the planned residential burglary prevention work under a dedicated operation across 18 long term hot spot areas complimented by the innovative use of a social media messaging campaign through smart speaker devices and social media feeds in the top five hot spot areas across the force.

This operation continues to drive the development of long-term problem-solving plans for each identified area. In depth assessment work to understand the impact of these initiatives is underway. Early indications are that this joined up and comprehensive prevention activity is making some impact to rates of residential burglary with data suggesting that where members of the public had been alerted to the fact that they reside in a high-risk hot spot area for burglary they, were more likely to effectively engage with local officers undertaking the initiative.

The social media messaging campaign was streamed over 400,000 times reaching around 30,000 people reaching around 30 per cent of the potential users in the defined areas.

Residential burglary rates across the force continue to decline with a 17 per cent reduction year to date in 2024 (to August 2024) compared to the same period last year. The current year has seen some of the lowest month on month residential burglary rates in the past two or in some cases, three years.

Further key pieces of work around tackling residential burglary are around the development of categorising cohorts of offenders to allow consistent planning of prevention and disruption activity based on risk of the reoffending rates of those perpetrators, assessing them as likely to reoffend, habitual reoffenders and chronic reoffenders. This work will complement the development of a dashboard to allow a more holistic approach to understanding local offender profiles, thus driving prevention and disruption activity.

Further focus is now being given to personal robbery offending. Current year to date data shows only a one per cent reduction in offences when compared to the same period last year and there remains challenge in the forces action taken rates. South Yorkshire Police believe there may be opportunity to improve this by tightening up investigative processes and ensuring forensic opportunities are being maximised, given the nature of some of this offending. The thematic robbery lead is undertaking audit work to understand where the force learning falls around this and will be working on improving the ability to identify suspects believed responsible.

Vehicle crime in the year to date compared to the previous year shows a 10 per cent decrease in theft of vehicle, 11 per cent decrease theft from vehicle and a 5 per cent decrease in vehicle interference. The focus of this work currently is profiling hot spot areas for deposition sites of stolen vehicles and likely locations of 'chop shop' sites used to breakdown stolen vehicles into constituent parts before they are then shipped, often out of the UK or used in other often older vehicles or those written off by insurers and resold at deceptively inflated prices. This criminality has close connections to organised crime groups and through existing structures, the force tackle these groups with proactive days of action which are taking place alongside other disruption methods to best tackle this issue.

The force will be supporting an upcoming national week of action which will see the adoption of some learning from the aforementioned dedicated burglary operation with leaflet drops in hot spot areas warning the public of the risk of car thieves. The longer-term ambition will be to further adopt the prevention model this operation presents to drive wider prevention activity.

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	<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 May 2024, 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 SYMCA 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>
<p>Ongoing focus – September 2024 Ch Insp Johnathan Greaves (Victim Satisfaction), D/Supt David Cowley (Domestic Abuse)</p>	
<p>Following a successful trial of Rapid Video Response (RVR) to incidents including appropriate Domestic Abuse incidents, this has now been embedded in a central team working within the Force Control Room. Further analysis is currently underway to expand that team as well as the use of the RVR approach to continue to improve the timeliness of the force response to victims of Domestic Abuse and to make police officers more accessible and convenient to victims. The force continues to engage with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other key partner agencies in line with the DA National Joint Justice plan.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse courts that were originally trialled in Sheffield have now been rolled out further, with Barnsley now holding a specific Domestic Abuse court once a week. They have a designated district judge, CPS advocate to review/present cases, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Probation Services available to support the efficient processing of the cases on the day. The Criminal Justice Unit (CJU) provide a dedicated contact to the lawyer reviewing the cases and a dedicated point of contact on the day of the hearing.</p> <p>The force has taken part in a trial employing a Special Measures Adviser to help understand how special measures can be used more effectively and frequently to support prosecutions involving the most vulnerable victims. The</p>	

force has seen a positive increase in its use within sexual offences and continues to train officers from other departments around its benefits and uses. As previously referenced in a recent Public Accountability Report, the force has agreed to fund the post for a further 12 months whilst work continues to be embedded across departments with the goal to increase satisfaction across the criminal justice portfolio and reduce victim attrition by increasing support.

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. There is currently IT work underway to allow officers to record the initial victim needs assessment (IVNA) directly from their mobile device onto the associated investigation. This will ensure that appropriate measures can be put in place to support victims and an audit trail is maintained. Once this IT change is implemented, a week of focus using internal media will be planned to inform officers of their obligations and the benefits of this.

The force has now implemented the Single Online Home (SOH) national website which will incorporate online reporting of DA and an online Clares Law Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application process.

Whilst the force is already using its own online reporting tool and is processing DVDS applications via the Police.co.uk website, the new SOH will improve accessibility for the public and will conform to a national template.

DA Victim Satisfaction Summary: June to August 2024 (crimes reported in April to June 2024)

Overall Satisfaction: remained stable at 77 per cent (122 victims)

The below aspects of service have remained stable.

- First Response (92 per cent, 90 victims)
- Initial Actions (82 per cent, 122 victims)
- Investigation (69 per cent, 102 victims)
- Treatment (88 per cent, 121 victims),

Follow up continued to be the aspect of service with the lowest satisfaction, however this has remained stable at 48 per cent (107 victims).

Key indicators include:

- 82 per cent of victims reported they would feel confident contacting police again.
- 34 per cent of victims reported having been dealt with by three or more different officers throughout the course of the investigation.
- 25 per cent reported that formal action was taken against the perpetrator, 27 per cent said they wanted formal action to be taken.

All districts were in line with the force average of 77 per cent overall satisfaction.

Stalking Victim Satisfaction Summary: June 2024 to August 2024

Overall Satisfaction: remained stable at 73 per cent (59 victims)

The below aspects of service have remained stable.

- First Response (85 per cent, 52 victims)
- Initial actions (74 per cent, 57 victims)
- Investigation (57 per cent, 49 victims)
- Treatment (85 per cent, 59 victims),

Follow up continued to be the aspect of service with the lowest satisfaction, however, this has remained stable at 46 per cent (50 victims).

Key indicators include:

- 89 per cent of victims reported they would feel confident contacting police again.
- 37 per cent of victims reported having been dealt with by three or more different officers throughout the course of the investigation.
- 27 per cent reported that formal action was taken against the perpetrator, and 47 per cent said they wanted formal action to be taken.

Within the Protecting Vulnerable People Performance and Governance team, the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment team (DARA) continue to work to identify high risk victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and work with statutory and third sector agencies to support victims through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process. The force continues to make effective use of the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme and Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) to keep victims safe and has recently increased the number of applications for Stalking Protection Orders.

The force is preparing to implement 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.

The national DA Joint Justice plan will be launched shortly 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, CPS, courts and DA support services.

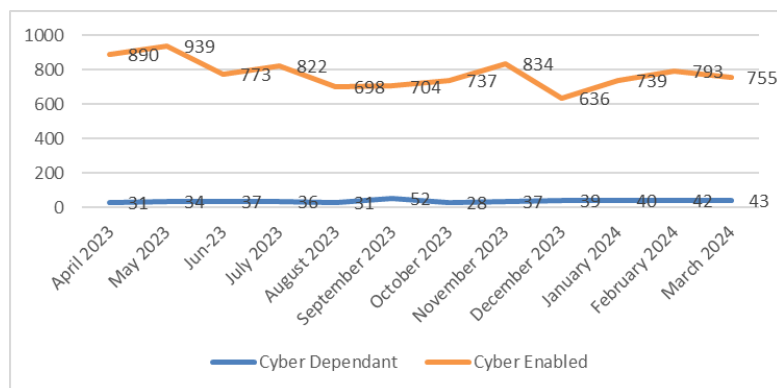
Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime

- **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 10,000 offences recorded in 2023/24. The largest cybercrime categories are malicious communications, harassment, fraud, obscene publications and blackmail.



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 –September 2024

T/Supt Anna Sedgewick (Digital Investigations and Cyber)

In March 2024, the force launched a five-year Economic Crime strategy that brought together three cross cutting themes, Fraud, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery, and Cybercrime.

The aim of the strategy is to

- Raise the voice of Economic Crime
- Understand the evolving threat harm and risk from Economic Crime
- Taking positive action across the wider portfolios in delivery against economic crime
- Develop a proactive workforce capability to deal with the demands
- Send a clear message across South Yorkshire that South does not tolerate unfairness and engage effectively to disrupt offender behaviour and bring offenders to justice
- Deliver an excellent victim-led service supporting public confidence in the service provided
- Support the national and regional workstreams, engaging in the wider policing service improvements
- Protect people and businesses from the threat of fraud, economic and cybercrime.

There are three key objectives for the organisation in support of the Economic Crime Strategy:

- Improve outcomes for money laundering and recover more criminal assets
- Prioritise fraud investigations and empower whole system prevention
- Assuring an effective capability is in place across the force to tackle cyber criminality.

For fraud, the force has a centrally managed, but locally delivered investigative model, where PIP1 investigations predominantly sit with response officers and PIP 2 investigations sit with reactive investigators or dependant on the complexity and seriousness sit within the Economic Crime Investigation Team.

For the period April 2024 to June 2024, South Yorkshire Police held 372 fraud Investigations, the majority of these relate to those reported less than 12 months ago, although 20 investigations date back to 2021 or before. A review of the Force Fraud Allocation Policy is underway, with Doncaster district currently trialling all fraud investigations within the reactive capability. The recommendations from this review will be presented in November 2024.

A current operation of note relates to a £6.9 million fraud where an email has been sent to Asda purporting to be in relation to an incorrect delivery and the need to correct this by sending another lorry to collect a substantial amount of cigarettes/tobacco. Enquiries identified the lorry driver, who has been arrested, and further enquiries are ongoing.

The Fraud Co-ordination Team is a triage team that provides governance for all fraud and cyber related offending which are allocated from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) to South Yorkshire Police. This includes triage of fraud investigations, data around Op Signature and the Banking Protocol, along with performance data for advice offered to victims and guidance to officers across the force.

Between April to June 2024, the team triaged 243 investigations, provided assistance to 107 officers and have reviewed 1,449 vulnerable victims under Operation Signature.

In July 2024, The Economic Crime Unit launched the Fraud Ambassador campaign and the first engagement event was held at Robert Dyson House. Those invited were officers who expressed an interest in becoming a fraud ambassador at the Economic Crime Unit (ECU) event in March 2024. The event was well received and will be built on throughout 2024. A further event is planned for September 2024.

The agenda items include guidance around call for service, protect advice and the role of an ambassador. The role is to support colleagues and to provide awareness across the force in relation to economic crime and how communities can protect themselves.

The Fraud Co-ordination Team also hold Fraud Clinics on a weekly basis to allow officers to receive bespoke advice in relation to progressing fraud investigation.

July 2024 also saw the launch of the multi-agency approach to fraud; this partnership aims to explore how collectively the force can spread key messaging to support one of the key pillars of the national strategy of empowering the people. The first meeting was held with representatives from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards and Rotherham Safeguarding Team. A further meeting was recently held that saw further partners attend, such as the NHS, the Illicit Finances/loan shark team, Crimestoppers and the North East Business Resilience Centre.

Taking into account the nationally led, regionally managed and locally delivered approach to cybercrime, the force cybercrime unit aims are as follows;

- 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.

Between April and July 2024, 51 engagement events were held by the 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. Recent messaging was in relation to national 'Oasis' ticket scams, whereby the Cyber Protect Officer presented on local radio channels on the day of ticket sales.

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.

Businesses are supported to reduce cybercrime through engagement events with the support of the North East Business Resilience Centre and YHROCU. In July 2024, a Police Cyber Clinic was held by the YHROCU in Sheffield and businesses attended the event to receive practical support on how they can reduce the risk of them being a victim of cybercrime.

The team are working with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and their Business Advisory Board to enhance the partnership response in protecting local Businesses from this crime type.