

## Measure: Reduce Murder and other homicide

### Home Office crime codes and description:

|       |                        |
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| 0010  | Murder                 |
| 0041  | Manslaughter           |
| 0042  | Infanticide            |
| 00410 | Corporate Manslaughter |

#### Recorded crime levels

The monthly volume of homicides from January 2018 to May 2026 is shown below.



In 2025, 9 homicides were recorded in South Yorkshire (compared to 15 in 2019).

In the 12 months to March 2026, South Yorkshire Police reported a rate of 5.6 homicides per million population, below with the national average (8.0 per million population).

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

#### Force response to homicides

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

High-risk domestic incidents are referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which delivers information-sharing, safety planning for victims and their children, and manages

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|  | <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 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 – September 2026

CI Ashley Franklin (Homicide)

South Yorkshire's Violence Reduction Unit has now transitioned to the Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP), reflecting a broader partnership-based approach to preventing violence through early intervention and long-term problem solving. To strengthen links between policing and prevention activity, a Chief Inspector has been embedded within the VPP, providing strategic leadership for knife crime and the Knife Crime Concentration Fund (KCCF) programme, whilst improving collaboration between operational policing, local authorities, education, health and community partners.

The VPP continues to work closely with Serious Violence Duty partners, the voluntary and community sector and local authorities to deliver a public health approach to violence reduction. This includes the commissioning of interventions aimed at diverting young people away from violence and criminality, the rollout of Pol-Ed educational resources covering knife crime, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and violent crime, and support to community organisations delivering preventative interventions across South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire has continued to record sustained reductions across key measures relating to violence, including homicide, knife crime, knife-enabled robbery, firearm discharges, and Most Serious Violence. Whilst high-profile incidents continue to occur, the long-term trend remains positive and demonstrates the value of combining enforcement activity with prevention and partnership-based interventions.

The Government's ambition to halve knife crime and VAWG remains a key driver for local delivery. As part of this, South Yorkshire continues to participate in the Home Office-funded Knife Crime Concentration Fund (KCCF), a three-year programme targeting the areas most affected by knife crime. South Yorkshire is one of 27 police forces selected to receive funding through the programme, with seven hotspot locations identified across the county. These locations account for approximately 10 per cent of all knife crime whilst representing only 0.2 per cent of the force area. The programme aims to achieve a 33 per cent reduction in knife crime within these locations through a combination of targeted patrol activity, problem-oriented policing, prevention, partnership working and early intervention.

The KCCF programme has now moved from planning into delivery. Intelligence-led hotspot patrols are operating across all seven locations, whilst jointly owned Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) plans are being developed and implemented using the SARA<sup>1</sup> model. These plans are owned by Neighbourhood Policing Teams and delivered alongside partners, focusing on a range of interventions including safeguarding, youth engagement, offender management, situational crime prevention and environmental improvements. The VPP and KCCF team continue to support partners through training and guidance to ensure a consistent problem-solving approach.

Partnership involvement remains central to delivery. Governance continues through local Crime and Vulnerability Meetings, the Serious Violence Theme Group and the Countywide Community Safety Forum, with representation from police, local authorities, education, housing, fire and rescue services, transport providers, SYMCA and the Home Office. A performance framework remains in place to monitor progress and outcomes.

The force continues to utilise the Habitual Knife Carrier Index (HKCI), an intelligence-led tool used to identify those assessed as being at the highest risk of carrying or using knives. The index supports targeted enforcement, safeguarding and diversionary activity, ensuring resources are focused on individuals presenting the greatest threat,

<sup>1</sup> SARA – Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment. A four-step problem-solving framework used mainly in community and problem oriented policing to identify and tackle the root causes of crime and disorder.

risk and harm. Work is progressing to develop information-sharing arrangements that will allow partners and violence prevention practitioners to utilise this information to support early intervention opportunities.

Alongside enforcement activity, work has continued to strengthen community-based prevention initiatives. Through the Businesses Against Abuse programme - police, local authorities, specialist support services and local businesses are working together to improve awareness of VAWG and equip staff to identify and support vulnerable individuals. Further training products and educational resources are being developed to increase reach and accessibility.

Preparations are underway for the next national Operation Sceptre week of action; the annual intensification period focused on tackling knife crime and knife-related harm. This year will see closer joint working between South Yorkshire Police and the Violence Prevention Partnership to ensure activity balances both enforcement and prevention. Alongside traditional enforcement tactics such as weapon sweeps, targeted patrols, engagement with habitual knife carriers and offender management activity, there will be a greater emphasis on education, early intervention and community engagement. This will include working with schools, community groups, businesses and partner agencies to raise awareness of the risks associated with knife carrying and promote positive alternatives for young people. The approach reflects South Yorkshire's commitment to combining robust enforcement with a public health approach to violence prevention.

A county-wide Knife Crime Approach is also being developed through the Violence Prevention Partnership, setting out South Yorkshire's response to reducing knife-related harm over the next three years through prevention, partnership working, targeted enforcement and early intervention activity. The approach will align activity across South Yorkshire Police, statutory partners and the voluntary and community sector, ensuring a coordinated response to achieving the Government's ambition to reduce knife crime and serious violence.

Force  
response  
to reducing  
serious  
violence

The force created the Armed Crime Team (ACT) in 2020/21, successfully working to reduce the volumes of firearms discharges since inception.

The force has an established brand for tackling organised crime, this operation brings together the four districts and Crime Services in a stand against Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) and routine sharing of content externally and internally which builds on the four Ps:

- Pursue – prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality
- Prevent – preventing people from engaging in serious and organised criminality
- Protect – increasing protection against organised crime
- Prepare – reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place.

OCG threats are locally managed and centrally coordinated under the banner of Fortify. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and the force has undertaken mapping to establish the level of firearms capabilities across the OCGs residing in South Yorkshire.

#### **Ongoing focus – September 2026**

T/DCI Tom Bright, DI Claire Moss (Armed Criminality), CI Ashley Franklin (Serious Violent Crime)

South Yorkshire Police have recently reviewed and refreshed the Armed Crime Strategy for 2026-2029. This strategy has been shared force wide to ensure a consistent and robust response to tackling firearms enabled organised crime.

Operation Fortify follows the 4 P<sup>2</sup> methodology in disrupting Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and work is ongoing at a local level to ensure a holistic multi-agency response under the 4 Ps.

Performance against this strategy is governed through the Homicide Prevention Board chaired by ACC Crime and each district has developed plans as to how the armed crime strategy will be delivered locally.

<sup>2</sup> 4 P – Prevent, Prepare, Protect, Pursue

Governance processes have recently been reviewed to ensure that the officers managing threat in communities have the most appropriate specialist capabilities to assist them with this, with support both centrally by South Yorkshire Police specialist functions, but also into the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (YHROCU). This will be reviewed to ensure delivery.

Proactive work continues against nominals where intelligence indicates that they may have access to or possess firearms; through warrant activity and cease and desist notices where action cannot be taken. Community intelligence is key, and further work will be undertaken to ensure communities have confidence to report. A proactive media campaign is being prepared by the armed crime team and firearms licensing department to support licensed firearms holders to reduce the risk of firearms related burglaries through target hardening.

Community intelligence is key, by acting on intelligence supplied by the community via Crimestoppers or other channels it provides confidence to the public that we take gun crime seriously.

The armed crime team continues to pursue all nominals involved in the possession or use of firearms with support for significant sentencing from the Judiciary seen in recent cases.

In the last 6 weeks, South Yorkshire has seen a high number of discharges, however the overall rate is still below both 2024 and 2025 (anticipated to be 21 vs 25 and 24 respectively).

There has been a robust response, with South Yorkshire's response plan declaring each as a Critical Incident which is prioritised by the force.

There have been a significant number of arrests, warrants and a number of individuals have been remanded as a result.

South Yorkshire continues to focus on reducing Most Serious Violence (MSV) through a combination of targeted enforcement, problem-solving, safeguarding and partnership interventions, overseen through the Homicide Prevention Board and supported by the Violence Prevention Partnership (VPP). Analysis of MSV offences continues to inform activity, enabling partners to focus resources on the locations, individuals and behaviours associated with the highest levels of harm and risk.

The force undertakes work to identify individuals assessed as being at the highest risk of carrying or using knives and becoming involved in serious violence. This supports targeted enforcement, offender management, safeguarding and diversionary interventions.

Whilst the primary objective of the Knife Crime Concentration Fund (KCCF) is to reduce knife crime, the programme's problem-solving, safeguarding and prevention activity is expected to generate wider benefits. By targeting the locations, offenders and risk factors most strongly associated with violence, it is anticipated that KCCF activity will contribute to reductions in MSV, including serious assaults, robbery and violence linked to vulnerability, exploitation and the night-time economy.

Given the strong correlation between knife crime and wider serious violence, South Yorkshire Police and partners are seeking to maximise the diffusion of benefits arising from KCCF activity. Through hotspot patrols, environmental improvements, youth interventions, offender management and partnership-led prevention activity, the programme aims to deliver wider reductions in violence and improve community safety across South Yorkshire.

The Violence Prevention Partnership continues to support a public health approach to reducing MSV, commissioning and co-ordinating preventative interventions with statutory partners, schools, local authorities and community organisations, with a focus on addressing the root causes of violence and preventing future harm.

#### **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.**

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| 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 67 per cent of the homicides in the county in the 12 months to March 2026, a higher proportion than seen nationally (49 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 Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) primarily linked to drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines are monitored (<i>Reduce Serious Violence section</i>).</p> <p>The force is supported by a regional SOC co-ordinator who supports SYP in sharing national best practice around OCG management and has been particularly supportive around Clear Hold Build initiatives.</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&amp;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&amp;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</p> |

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|  | <p>Tracker is fully embedded across the force and utilised within MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation) meetings. This supports the identification of victims for both CSE and CCE, providing a risk score and profile. District PVP teams locally conduct regular MACE meetings, and all Districts have a dedicated child exploitation team.</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 Mayor's 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 – September 2026**

T/DCI Tom Bright (SOC), DCI Gary Magnay (CCE and County Lines), DCI Simon Cartwright (Drugs Markets)

Disrupting organised criminals continues to be the focus for Serious and Organised Crime teams in South Yorkshire Police. 2025 saw an increase in disruptions, arrests, warrants executed, firearms recovered, and an increase in the seizure of illicit finances. This work will continue with an increased focus on enforcing confiscation orders with the objective of recovering further wealth from criminals who are subject to one.

There is continued focus on the emerging threat from COM groups<sup>3</sup> and Cryptocurrency robberies with a specialist team currently investigating these offences. These investigations have national and international links and are complex. Continuing professional development training (CPD) has been shared with the wider workforce and partners to ensure early identification of this type of offending.

National funding has been received to tackle high street shops involved in illicit finance and a number of multi-agency operations are planned to take place over the next quarter.

Work is ongoing to strengthen the process for drugs testing following non-fatal overdoses and drugs deaths to ensure harm reduction messaging can be shared countywide and to ensure a robust and resilient response from all partners to prevent further harm. Training is planned for front line officers to increase awareness of the processes, and the creation of a district single point of contact and subject matter experts to support the work of the force Drug and Alcohol Reduction Officer.

The roll out of Naloxone continues and training will be undertaken with new joiners to the organisation featuring volunteers with lived experience with the objective of increasing carriage.

Over the next year, South Yorkshire Police will continue to work alongside local authorities, safeguarding partnerships, schools, health services and community organisations to tackle child criminal exploitation (CCE) and county lines activity. Building on established multi-agency arrangements, efforts will focus on preventing exploitation at the earliest opportunity and providing support before children become deeply involved in criminal networks.

A significant area of focus will be improving the sharing of information between policing, education, social care, health and youth support services. By strengthening collaboration, partners will be better equipped to identify indicators of vulnerability, including repeat missing incidents, school exclusion, poor attendance and links to known offenders. Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will remain essential in ensuring children and families receive timely and coordinated interventions.

South Yorkshire Police will maintain a proactive approach to targeting those responsible for exploiting children. Through intelligence-led investigations, surveillance and enforcement activity, officers will seek to identify and disrupt organised crime groups and drug dealers who recruit, coerce or groom young people into county lines operations. Activity will include closing drug lines, executing warrants, recovering drugs and criminal assets, and pursuing prosecutions against those responsible for exploitation.

<sup>3</sup> COM Groups (or COM networks) are transnational virtual networks operating on mainstream gaming and messaging platforms inflicting harm and committing a range of criminality

The introduction of new legislation through the UK Government Crime and Policing reforms will further strengthen the response to child criminal exploitation. The proposed measures include the creation of a dedicated offence of child criminal exploitation, recognising the serious harm caused when children are groomed, coerced or controlled into criminal activity. The legislation will also introduce Child Criminal Exploitation Prevention Orders, providing police and partner agencies with additional powers to restrict the activities of individuals suspected of exploiting children and to disrupt harmful behaviour before further offences occur. South Yorkshire Police and its partners will seek to make full use of these powers to enhance both safeguarding and enforcement activity across the county.

Recognising the increasing role of technology in facilitating exploitation, partners will continue to develop their understanding of emerging digital threats. This includes identifying risks associated with social media platforms, encrypted messaging services and online gaming environments that may be used by offenders to contact or groom vulnerable children. Enhancing digital awareness and investigative capabilities will support earlier identification of risks and enable effective disruption of exploitation occurring both online and in person.

Education and prevention will remain central to the overall approach. Police and partner agencies will continue to engage with schools, parents, carers and local communities to increase awareness of the methods used by criminal networks to exploit children and young people. Diversionary activities, mentoring programmes and targeted support initiatives will provide positive opportunities and help reduce vulnerability to exploitation.

Through sustained partnership working, early intervention and decisive action against offenders, South Yorkshire Police and its partners will continue to reduce the impact of child criminal exploitation and county lines activity, helping to safeguard children and young people across South Yorkshire.

The force has undertaken work on its highest harm drugs lines, and is working to disrupt these, including through the use of national county lines funding.

### 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 2025 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 3.5 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively – compared to 2.8 per cent and 7.1 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 18,788 in the 12 months to March 2026, a reduction of 31 per cent.

Reductions in recorded crime volumes have been seen in Residential Burglary, Theft from Person and Vehicle Crime, and Personal Robbery.

Chart 1a: Total neighbourhood crime volume



Whilst reductions are largely maintained, the force currently records a higher rate of Neighbourhood Crime than peer forces.

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

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|  | <p>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> |
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#### **Ongoing Focus – September 2026**

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

Operation Hawkeye 2 continues to tackle high rates of burglary in three key areas across the force, within Sheffield and Doncaster. Some of the highlights of this work include focusing on visibility and engagement in schools to drive key prevention messages, the creation of a partnership drop-in centre for residents and the creation of football sessions to support community engagement and deliver prevention advice. These innovative tactics are supporting more traditional problem-solving approaches and in the coming months the force will report on the impact this work is having in the three diverse areas that all share high rates of burglary. Further media campaigns are being planned with support from SYMCA.

The force is due to pilot new advanced ANPR cameras at key locations across the force. There are significant opportunities with this enhanced technology to support the challenge posed by neighbourhood crime and vehicle related crime and the findings of this pilot will be reported in due course.

Planning is underway to maximise funding opportunities through Operation Alliances 3 coordinated by the National Vehicle Crime Reduction Partnership. The force has been successful with bids to support tackling chop shops and vehicle crime previously, with an approach around the identification, disruption and prevention of chop shops now being shared nationally through OPAL, the national intelligence unit focused on tackling serious organised acquisitive crime.

#### **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)**

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| Recorded satisfaction levels | There is no local comparison available against a national measure, but the force has locally invested to undertake victim feedback surveys to support an understanding of service delivery. Since June 2016, the Home Office has required forces (as part of annual data return requirements) to survey victims of Domestic Abuse. Victim feedback is important to the force to understand where improvements in service can be made. |
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|                                                 | In the 12 months to May 2026, victim satisfaction with overall service in South Yorkshire is 71 per cent for victims of a combined crime measure (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, vulnerable, and hate victims), and 83 per cent for local victims of Domestic Abuse.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Force response to improving victim satisfaction | <p>South Yorkshire Police work alongside the Mayoral office to deliver the victim feedback survey with a focus on understanding the elements where service can be improved. The force seeks the views of members of the public across South Yorkshire who have been recent victims of domestic burglary, vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, stalking, vulnerable victims and anti-social behaviour victims.</p> <p>Whilst the force usually receives positive feedback for the initial response to incidents, and treatment of victims by officers, the main areas for improvement are in the updating of victims by the officer and keeping victims informed of the investigation progress. Satisfaction can be lower for crimes where an officer doesn't attend, therefore managing victim expectation and communicating an effective final contact remain a focus.</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> |

#### Ongoing focus – September 2026

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

South Yorkshire Police's strategy enhances victim satisfaction by delivering a more transparent, streamlined and reliable experience. The focus is on addressing the issues that impact victims most directly ensuring they are heard, providing timely updates, protecting their rights and facilitating access to support. Additionally, the force will help victims to navigate court outcomes and provide clear pathways to complaints if standards are not met.

South Yorkshire Police have successfully transitioned from a period of inconsistent Victims' Code of Practice (VCOP) compliance – particularly regarding needs assessments and contact frequencies – to a robust data-driven framework. Using a thorough gap analysis, building live monitoring dashboards, and overhauling governance and officer training, the force has driven measurable improvements. Notably, Initial Victim Needs Assessment (INVA) compliance has improved from 69 per cent in 2025 to 94 per cent in 2026. Positive victim outcomes increased to 13.4 per cent (from 12 per cent).

Moving forward, the focus centres on finalising the Victim Personal Statement (VPS) policy and process, delivering enhanced INVA and new Records Management System developments, maintaining the victim experience quarterly meetings and aligning with future Ministry of Justice (MOJ) requirements.

The force will be focused on the following, many of which are already underway;

#### Performance Reporting and Quality Assurance

- Embed and maintain the VCOP Power BI dashboards to strengthen performance reporting and quality assurance.
- Embed the Investigation Quality Review dashboards to support consistent monitoring of investigation quality.
- Establish enhanced reporting capability to meet additional data requirements and support local quality assurance activity.
- Strengthen the ability to monitor compliance, identify risk and support timely supervisory intervention.

### **Training and Learning**

- Review and update initial officer training, incorporating strengthened content informed by victim experience, feedback and identified recommendations.
- Implement the revised initial officer training content and monitor its effectiveness in delivery.
- Establish an ongoing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme to reinforce learning and sustain improvements beyond initial training.

### **Policy, Process and System Development**

- Develop improved approaches to meeting and evidencing Victim Needs Assessment and IVNA requirements.
- Continue system development activity linked to the forces new Records Management System, with a focus on improving recording, compliance monitoring and data capture.
- Review the Victim Personal Statement (VPS) policy and process to align with national practice (to be progressed).
- Review data capture readiness in the context of Ministry of Justice reporting requirements.
- Continue oversight through the Investigations Governance Group (IGG), Investigations Governance Board (IGB) and the Victim Experience force meetings with clear action owners assigned against each of the 12 Victims' Code rights.

The Joint Justice Plan (JJP) pathfinder has been extended across the force within the investigative portfolio, currently limited to the DA teams, and uptake is gradually increasing to ensure that CPS pre-charge decisions can be expedited for appropriate cases. Work is ongoing to embed consideration as business as usual for officers and supervisors alike, with the ambition being that investigations can be triaged for suitability.

DA clinics are on a rolling schedule with CPS, servicing all four districts to improve investigative standards, upskill supervisors and embed learning.

Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs) will come into use towards the end of November, and the force are looking at how best to implement these within South Yorkshire. There will be a 6-month period where DAPOs and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) can be used simultaneously until DAPOs are fully embedded. The force will focus on resolving any issues expeditiously ready for the rescindment of DVPOs.

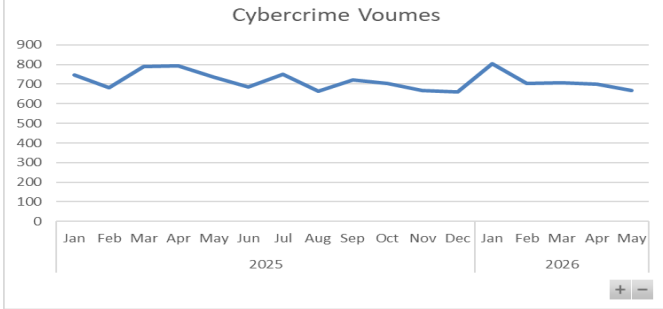
### **Measure: Tackle Cyber Crime**

- **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 Crime Levels**

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 12,175 offences recorded in the 12 months to May 2026. The largest cybercrime categories are harassment, stalking and obscene publications.

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  <p>Tackling this criminality is widespread across a number of operational areas.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Force response to reducing cyber crime</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The force has a Digital Forensics Unit, and digital evidence kiosks which are available to officers across the organisation. SYP also has a Force Cyber Crime Unit (FCCU) which specialises in the investigation of complex cyber-dependent offences. The FCCU 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.</p> <p>Digital Media Investigators are a central requestable resource who are deployed within the force to support local officer knowledge and capability. Street Skills training, reaching all frontline response and NPT officers, includes cyber-crime input on a rotational basis. The force has an internal intranet page dedicated to cybercrime to provide 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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| <p><b>Ongoing focus – September 2026</b><br/>DCI Tom Bright (Digital Investigations and Cyber)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>PROTECT/PREVENT</b><br/>The primary focus is to deliver the Cyber Protect and Prevent message to a range of groups across South Yorkshire, both at a local level and through regional collaboration. This involves providing education, sharing key messages and helping individuals to protect themselves from becoming victims of cyber based fraud.</p> <p>Between July and August 2026, 9 events have been delivered. These events have taken place across a diverse range of organisations, including community groups, education and financial institutions. An open day has been held</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

within the policing community to help raise awareness around fraud and offer protect advice, and a family fun event was run in Brinsworth. The feedback from these events continues to be positive.

South Yorkshire Police's Cyber Team also monitor the cyber threat landscape and direct their resources to tackle any emerging threat. The Cyber Team will continue to monitor and prevent proactive opportunities around cyber-related offenders in South Yorkshire. They will work closely with schools and colleges to provide a prevent service to high-risk young people in this area.

Through July and August, two new Prevent referrals have been made for 11-17 years old and work remains ongoing with a further ongoing referral.

#### **PURSUE**

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

The Cyber Team continue to review and investigate pursue referrals received from Report Fraud. In Quarter 2 the FCCU has received 4 Pursue disseminations that are live 'Cyber' investigations.

The force will continue to robustly investigate suspicious behaviour reports from cryptocurrency platforms and aim to disrupt money laundering and freeze and seize any criminal assets linked to online criminality.

#### **PREPARE**

The Cyber Team has supported a number of ransomware incidents relating to businesses across South Yorkshire.

Proactive work to assist South Yorkshire-based small to medium sized enterprises (SME) to identify network vulnerabilities remains ongoing. The force also collaborates with businesses, particularly in high-risk areas of manufacturing to strengthen cyber resilience and make referrals to the Local Cyber Resilience Centre.