

South Yorkshire
Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
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09 February 2025

To: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

Dear Chief Inspectors

Response from Kilvinder Vigurs, South Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor, to the HMICFRS inspection report – An inspection of the Yorkshire and Humber regional response to serious and organised crime

In South Yorkshire, I see the significant impact of serious and organised crime (SOC), a challenge mirrored regionally, nationally and indeed globally. There are clear links between SOC and vulnerability, with the most vulnerable often being deliberately targeted and exploited for criminal gain. I will remain focused on ensuring we are doing all we can locally and to support regional efforts to prevent and disrupt organised criminality.

We had been anticipating the publication of this report for some time prior to publication, and it is therefore welcome to see its findings. In that context, I was particularly pleased to see South Yorkshire Police graded as 'good' overall. The inspection recognises that the force has a strong understanding of SOC, supported by effective governance, and that SOC is recognised as a cross-cutting issue across the organisation. It is also encouraging to see acknowledgement of the force's ability to identify emerging threats and ensure the workforce is appropriately informed and equipped to gather intelligence.

I welcome the reports recognition of the importance of partnership working in this space, including through the countywide Community Safety Partnership, which I chair. This forum remains a critical mechanism for collective prevention, disruption and safeguarding activity.

Across the region, two areas for Improvement were identified:

1) The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how they work together to tackle serious and organised crime.

- The report identified inconsistencies in the quality of plans focused on preparation, pursuit, protection and prevention (4P). I welcome South Yorkshire Police's commitment to exploring a technical solution to support more effective management across these key components. New processes should promote consistent standards and improved visibility, and should complement existing governance arrangements, which were found to be working well. Progress will continue to be monitored through

existing governance mechanisms including the countywide Community Safety Partnership.

2) The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how the region procures and uses technical surveillance equipment.

- Effective use of technology is essential to ensure that law enforcement robustly pursues those involved in serious crime. As this report rightly highlights, there is a need for agencies across the region to work collaboratively on procurement to strengthen collective capabilities and keep pace with technological change. This approach also delivers better value for money for the public, a principle we are committed to embedding across our partnerships in South Yorkshire. All of this is vital in a landscape where criminals are frequently several steps ahead of police and partners - often reinvesting the proceeds of crime into sophisticated tools, including the use of crypto-assets and other digital methods that can remain untouched without the expertise of highly skilled investigators.

Commenting more broadly, the report's findings reinforce the importance of partnership working to address SOC and protect victims and communities. This aligns with South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Plan, and I will continue to use my role as Deputy Mayor to convene partners and improve ways of working.

I commend South Yorkshire Police's strategic approach, particularly in tackling firearms, which has contributed to encouraging reductions in related offences and community harm in recent years. Strong partnership working is also demonstrated through the continued rollout of Clear, Hold, Build initiatives across South Yorkshire. While the report notes that some disruptions and unmet demand are not currently recorded, this should not detract from the significant efforts of South Yorkshire Police officers, analysts, and each of our partners. I would like to thank them for their work and continued dedication to tackling the threat of SOC across the region.

Yours sincerely



Kilvinder Vigurs

Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime