



SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA



MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

South Yorkshire Mayor
Annual Report for
Policing and Crime
April 2024 to March 2025

FOREWORD



Keeping our communities safe is not just a job - it's a commitment rooted in trust, accountability, and ambition.

As South Yorkshire's Mayor, I see that commitment every day, through the dedicated work of our police officers, police community support officers (PCSOs), volunteers, and staff who strive to protect and serve the people of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield.

We have delivered real progress over the past year in delivering against the priorities set out in our Police and Crime Plan. The Annual Report is a look back against the previous Plan and it offers a chance to reflect - not only on the progress we've made, but also on the challenges we continue to face. It highlights the effort invested in addressing the issues that matter most to the public.

Our communities are at the heart of everything we do in South Yorkshire—and when people tell me what matters most to them, feeling safe in their homes, on their streets, and in their town centres is always top of the list. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour isn't just about law enforcement—it's about protecting our communities, nurturing opportunity, and ensuring fairness for all.

It shows how we are improving public confidence through transparency and innovation. Most importantly, it reaffirms the deep partnership between South Yorkshire Police, partner organisations, and the communities they serve.

Since taking office, I've been clear that our region deserves a police force that's modern, fair, and responsive to the real needs of residents.

That means strengthening frontline policing, investing in prevention, and ensuring victims are supported from the moment they need us. It also means amplifying the voices of those too often unheard—and tackling inequality wherever it exists.

We've strengthened neighbourhood policing, giving officers the resources and backing they need to be visible, proactive, and embedded in the areas they serve, helping restore trust and confidence where it matters most—on our streets and in our communities.

On anti-social behaviour, we've taken action that's not just reactive but designed to make lasting change. We've launched community-led initiatives to reclaim public spaces, supported local councils to redesign problem areas, and made sure victims are heard and supported at every step. Our approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour should always be one that is centred on the victims, ensuring they get the appropriate response at the right time and that they are kept informed as their case progresses.

The recent HMICFRS Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy Report (produced

on 24 July 2025) recognised the positive work done around neighbourhood policing, crime prevention and evidenced-based proactive policing as well as progress around community engagement. It also highlighted areas for improvement around investigations and workforce – we will work closely with the force to ensure improvements are made on these areas.

We have seen reductions in the number of knife crime and firearms incidents and burglaries, which is encouraging, but there's always more to do. Serious violent crime, domestic abuse, and hate crime remain pressing challenges that demand urgent attention and continued collaboration. There is more to do on improving the way crimes are investigated and supporting officers dealing with high caseloads. We are moving in the right direction, because we're doing things differently, and we're doing them together.

That being said, we are doing this within financial challenges. Government settlements to police forces under austerity have been disappointing over a number of years. There are also specific local challenges relating to historic events that have ongoing financial impacts on the force. However,

I can make assurances that I will continue to work with the Government and South Yorkshire Police to seek further support to ensure we can deliver a policing service that our communities have confidence in and keeps them safe.

There is a lot to do. The Government has ambitious plans for us to do more around social cohesion and legacy issues, as well as continuing to deliver on our neighbourhood policing promises. We also know that crime doesn't stop at council boundaries. Trust isn't built overnight, and fairness can only thrive when we embed it in every decision we make. I'm proud of the progress we have made and I know that we can continue that journey, despite challenges along the way.

I want to thank South Yorkshire Police, all of our criminal justice partners and local authorities, as well as those working tirelessly across public services and our voluntary sector to make this progress possible.

In March, I published my Police and Crime Plan, which sets out priorities for the next five years. This work is being overseen by my Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Kilvinder Vigurs who I appointed in May 2025. She will lead delivery of

the Plan and work with me to improve policing and criminal justice services, to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and to commission services to support victims and reduce offending. I look forward to working with Kilvinder and reporting on the progress made over these next 12 months in next year's Annual Report.

Mayor of South Yorkshire
Oliver Coppard

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25 – SUMMARY

Protecting Vulnerable People	Continued to provide a range of victim support services including supporting victims of both sexual and domestic violence and continued to use the additional 3-year external funding secured in 2022/23. An additional £350k was also secured to tackle the behavior of perpetrators of domestic abuse.
	Convened the second Criminal Justice Partnership Event in February 2025 which enabled partners to hear directly from victims of their experiences in the criminal justice system with the aim of improving victims' experience and helping them stay engaged in the criminal justice process.
	Worked with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the three other South Yorkshire Local Authorities to support the South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Conference which raised awareness amongst partners of the range and type of services available across South Yorkshire that are able to support victims and survivors.
	Successfully bid for Home Office "surge" funding used to undertake intensified periods of child criminal exploitation (CCE) police operational activity in the Autumn of 2024.
Tackling crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Saw a 13% reduction in recorded residential burglary and implemented a dedicated problem-solving operation to tackle burglary including providing additional funding to increase the visible policing presence in key areas with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) conducting engagement visits with residents.
	Targeted days of action under "Operation Duxford" continued in each district focusing on key issues of concern to local communities including drugs, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime. The operations resulted in the dismantling of cannabis grow farms set up in local properties, seizures of drugs and shutting down garages where stolen vehicles were dismantled and parts sold separately elsewhere.
	The strategic leadership of the Road Safety Partnership moved across into the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority during 2024/25 strengthening the partnership approach to road safety.
	The learning and agreements from the retail crime symposium led to the Business Crime Charter. During the year some of the biggest retailers committed to the charter, including Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and Tesco and new supporting services, including Lodge Security and Mitie.
Treating People Fairly	The Mayor acted quickly to convene a meeting of faith leaders from across South Yorkshire to understand firsthand community fears and vulnerabilities following the violent disorder at Manvers in August 2024. Together with the police, the Mayor was able to offer leaders reassurance about community safety and a commitment to bring perpetrators to justice.
	The Mayor continued to convene the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) whose role is to contribute to the overall level of assurance around the ethical culture within South Yorkshire Police. The Panel provided specific assurance on equality and diversity and fair treatment issues as well as a renewed focus on the ethical implementation of police digital technology.
	Continued to successfully run the Independent Custody Visiting scheme including recruiting additional visitors and providing training.

Assurance Statement: The Strategic Policing Requirement.

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out the Home Secretary's view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter those threats. The latest SPR was published in June 2023 under the previous government. The seven threats identified in the 2023 SPR were:

- Violence Against Women and Girls
- Terrorism
- Serious and Organised Crime
- A National Cyber Incident
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Public Disorder
- Civil Emergencies

In developing the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2023-2025, due consideration was given to the Strategic Policing Requirement. The Chief Constable of South Yorkshire is responsible for having due regard to both the Police and Crime Plan and the Strategic Policing Requirement when exercising their functions, and the Mayor holds the Chief Constable accountable for doing

so through an appropriate governance and assurance framework.

In South Yorkshire, the governance arrangements in place during 2024/25 allowed the Mayor to have due regard to each of the seven threats and where appropriate, play a key role in supporting South Yorkshire Police and partners. More details around the work undertaken to tackle the threat of Violence Against Women and Girls can be found within this annual report.

A number of key assurance arrangements in 2024/25 allowed the Mayor to have regard to the SPR including Strategic Review Board Meetings and Policing and Reform Directorate officer attendance at key force performance meetings, such as at the monthly Force Performance Day and at District and Specialist Team Quarterly Performance Review meetings, as well as at various Boards and Partnership meetings.

The Mayor participated and received relevant updates from SYP and partners in respect of their work as part of the Local Resilience Forum, which is a multi-agency partnership, including

following the violent disorder in Rotherham. The forum is made up of representatives from all the local organisations required to plan and prepare for local incidents and emergencies including those that might originate nationally but have a local impact.

Examples of other activities and outcomes in respect of the areas included in the SPR are detailed within the annual report.



Put Victims First – A Fundamental Principle.

In the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire for 2023-2025, as well as having three priorities, four fundamental principles were introduced that were seen as underpinning those three priorities. The first of these was “Put Victims First”. Whilst some crimes are more serious than others, all crimes matter and all victims matter. During the year, victims were encouraged to report crimes when they happened and to have the trust and confidence that when they do report, they will receive a good quality, appropriate response. Victims may need support – practical and emotional – at the time of the crime, as a case moves to conclusion, and sometimes beyond. During 2024/25, the Mayor was directly responsible for the provision of support services for victims in South Yorkshire and routinely consulted with victims and victims’ groups when commissioning these services so that they are tailored to victims’ specific needs. There follows more about the focus on victims during 2024/25.

February 2025 saw the second Criminal Justice Partnership Event being held, organised and facilitated by the Mayor’s Policing and Reform Directorate on behalf of the South Yorkshire

Local Criminal Justice Board. The event was key in raising awareness amongst all criminal justice partners of each other’s ongoing work and work which still needs to be undertaken to ensure victims and survivors receive support that meets their needs, improves the victim/survivor experience through the whole of the criminal justice system and reduces the number of cases where victims decide not to follow through with their investigation or prosecution. Feedback from the event was very positive, particularly when those at the event were able to hear directly from victims about their experience within the criminal justice system. The event has led to the identification of several areas where a victim’s experience can be improved. Also, during 2024/25:

- There was a continued provision of a victim support service for victims of crime in South Yorkshire. During the past year the service has:
 - continued to provide a stalking advocacy service for non-domestic abuse stalking victims which was introduced in 2022/23. During the year, the service has continued to raise awareness of the issues of stalking across South Yorkshire attending events,

meetings and supporting partners with training. There was specific input for call handlers at SYP’s Force Control Room to support victims as effectively as possible when they first make their call to the police.

- continued to focus on the changing nature of crime and making sure victim support professionals were able to support victims of crime as effectively as possible. This has included attending training



and engagement on cyber-crime, and training on being able to support victims with mental-health needs. There has also been a focus on children and young people, and the changing nature of crime including online safety and extortion.

- The Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) Service was commissioned to offer practical help, advice and information for victims of rape and sexual abuse and their families. Additional funding for the ISVA service was successfully obtained once again during the year, which has meant being able to provide specialist support to male victims/survivors, those from ethnic minorities, people that are disabled and children. The additional funding increased the capacity of ISVAs to manage caseloads as effectively as possible.
- Other victim services commissioned or co-commissioned during the year included the regional Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) as well as the Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service in South Yorkshire to support adults, young people and child victims of sexual assault. This has included support with health and forensic needs as well as help in accessing a criminal

justice outcome if that is what the service user wishes. During 2024/25, the service in South Yorkshire raised awareness of the services offered both to adults and children through attending partnership and community events. This has included partner services providing mental health support and sexual health services. This ensures that all partners can more effectively refer their clients into each other's services.

- Additional funding was also secured to further support victims of sexual abuse, which enabled additional therapeutic and counselling support to be provided tailored to meet specific victims' needs.



Protecting Vulnerable People.

Anyone might become vulnerable at any time, including when a victim of crime. Vulnerability needs to be recognised as early as possible so that responses can be tailored to meet those victims' specific needs. Meeting those needs requires a partnership approach with the police working closely with other agencies, including victim support services, local councils, charities, and the wider criminal justice system. Victims of crime and their families want reassurance that what has happened to them is taken seriously, is properly recorded and investigated, and that they are kept in touch with developments.

Violence against women and girls, including rape and sexual offences, are amongst some of the most serious and high impact crimes against a person. Victims need to have the confidence to come forward and report to the police, similarly with domestic abuse.

Some of the most vulnerable in local communities are children, both girls and boys, who can become at risk of sexual exploitation

either on-line, on the streets or be drawn into criminality by groups seeking to exploit them.

Performance and outcomes.

South Yorkshire Police data is from a live system so subject to change and audit. SYP data cannot be reproduced without permission from SYP.

- ✓ There was an 8% decrease in 999 calls during 2024/25 with 101 calls decreasing by 4%. (4)
- ✓ The average wait times for 101 calls decreased from just over five and a half minutes in 2023/24 to just under three and a half minutes in 2024/25. (4)
- ✓ During 2024/25 there were over 28,000 referrals made to Victim Support by SYP, as well as individual self-referrals and referrals from other sources. (1)
- ✓ After using Victim Support, people told the service that they felt better informed, had a sense of reintegration, felt safer,

had an improved sense of well-being, felt better able to cope and had an improved experience of the criminal justice system. (1)

- ✓ Recorded sexual offences increased by 18% in the 12 months to March 2025 compared to the 12 months to March 2024 (5). Recorded offences will include a mix of reports of recent crimes as well as those



that have happened in the past. Sexual offences are thought to be under-reported locally and nationally and so increases can be seen as welcome in respect of victims and survivors being confident to report.

- ✓ There was a 15% increase in referrals to the Child Sexual Assault Assessment Service. 164 referrals were received during 2024/25 compared with 143 in 2023/24. Referrals to the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) saw a 10% increase from 468 in 2023/24 to 514 in 2024/25. (3)
- ✓ Monitoring during the year, of what service users of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) say about their experience with the service, has seen some positive feedback, some examples include: “the staff were amazing and explained everything”. “Very special team, staff highly compassionate, very much dedicated to their patient, felt like home, safe, comfortable, listened to.” (3)
- ✓ During 2024/25, there were over 1670 referrals into the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service, a decrease from the 1740 received in 2023/24. (2)
- ✓ Some feedback from users of the ISVA service has included, “The whole experience was made so much better if that’s the right thing to say by having someone there who is genuinely there for me, nothing was ever too much trouble or a daft question”, and “The ISVA was always kind and respectful, I always felt she was here to actually help me and that she cared. She was good at explaining things I didn’t understand, too. Knowledgeable and articulate. Everything was very helpful” (2)
- ✓ Recorded domestic abuse crimes decreased by 3% during 2024/25 compared to the previous year (4).
- ✓ The domestic abuse arrest rate remained the same in 2024/25 compared to the previous year, at 43%. The high-risk suspect arrest rate has decreased to an average of 89% in 2024/25, compared to an average of 91% the previous year. (4)
- ✓ There was no statistically significant change to the overall satisfaction with the police of

victims of domestic abuse – 78% satisfied overall in 2024/25 compared to 79% in 2023/24. (4)

Source: (1) Victim Support Service (2) ISVA service (3) Sexual Assault Referral Centre (4) SYP (5) ONS

Key Activities and Achievements. During 2024/25:

Violence against women and girls

- ✓ There has been a continued focus on tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG).
 - In February 2025, the Mayor's Policing and Reform Commissioning Team supported the four South Yorkshire councils, led by Barnsley, to set up the South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Conference. The conference successfully brought together partners and stakeholders from across the County to widen practitioners' understanding of the nature and prevalence of sexual violence and how to adopt a trauma-aware and trauma-informed approach when engaging with victims and survivors. The conference helped to raise awareness of the range and type of services available across South Yorkshire that can support victims and survivors.
 - Acts of violence against women and girls using electronic and digital based technology continued to increase.

Commonly referred to as “tech enabled VAWG”, it is an area of criminality that continues to evolve but is less understood and so it is vital that police and partners aim to stay ahead of those perpetrating this type of crime. During 2024/25, and continuing into 2025/26, South Yorkshire Police worked with the Regional Organised Crime Unit on three initiatives which have helped SYP address this type of crime. The Mayor's Policing and Reform commissioning team have linked in with the Inspector leading on this so that they gain an understanding of support services that might need to be commissioned to support victims and survivors.

- The Mayor's Independent Ethics Panel, (see later in this report), received regular updates on work taking place to address VAWG, including a local de-brief.

Domestic Abuse

- ✓ Work continued to make it easier for victims of Domestic Abuse to report crimes to the police, including a new online reporting tool. Online reporting includes options to allow users to stay safe from abusers such as a



“Leave this Site” button which closes the reporting site and doesn’t leave a record. It also allows emails received not to be stored which could be a threat to a victim’s safety. It has also been made easier for a person to apply for information under Claire’s Law. Claire’s Law lets a person ask for information about their current or ex-partner because they are worried that they may have a history of abuse and could present a risk to them.

- ✓ Specific Domestic Abuse courts, that were originally trialled in Sheffield, were rolled out further to Barnsley magistrates’ court. The courts have a designated district judge, a Crown Prosecution Service advocate to review and present cases, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Probation Services available to support victims and ensure efficient processing of the cases on the day.

Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation

- ✓ During the year, all four districts invested in child exploitation teams whose principal focus is child sexual and criminal exploitation, including county lines¹. The teams are supported by a dedicated County Lines Detective Inspector within the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (Y&H ROCU) and a local thematic lead. The teams worked collaboratively during the year with South Yorkshire Police’s Operation 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 criminal and sexual exploitation and implement plans to mitigate that risk. A quarterly county lines partnership group was created during 2024/25, chaired by the force thematic lead, to bring multi-agency governance to the current local MACE arrangements.

- ✓ The Mayor visited the Evolve team in Rotherham and was able to see firsthand the work they do. Evolve is a multi-disciplinary team working to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE). The team respond to and safeguard children who are or likely to suffer harm through CSE in Rotherham. They aim to provide ‘wrap around’ support and protection to children and their family, with a team of people from a variety of support agencies. This includes social workers, a child sexual exploitation specialist nurse, a Barnardo’s social worker, a children’s social care operational manager, business support staff and police officers.
- ✓ South Yorkshire Police (SYP) made a successful bid for Home Office “surge” funding used to undertake intensified periods of child criminal exploitation (CCE) operational activity in the Autumn of 2024. During the year, the force invested in a dedicated police officer to undertake an exploitation coordinator role. The role coordinated both criminal and sexual exploitation activity to ensure children and young people received a consistent level

¹ County lines is a form of criminal exploitation, where criminals befriend children, either online or offline, and then manipulate them into drug dealing. The 'lines' refer to mobile phones that are used to control a child who is delivering drugs, often to towns outside their home county.

of service regardless of where they live in South Yorkshire.

✓ Under the new coordinator role, work continued during the year to understand the ever evolving threat of child exploitation including online threats. Work included:

- Educational inputs delivered to a number of schools in Doncaster about the dangers of intimate image abuse and how to recognise grooming processes and where to get help when children & young people are potentially targeted.
- With the aim of increasing third party intelligence submissions, SYP delivered specific inputs to Social Care departments in Rotherham and Barnsley.
- Officers worked closely alongside victims and survivors to benefit from training aimed at understanding “the voice of the child” and how to eliminate “victim blaming

language” to help build trust and confidence in those important early engagements.

- A review was started of the educational packages being delivered within the Lifewise Centre to ensure up to date methods, risks and support networks were considered in the preparation for roll out to school children across the county (programmes that reached over 19,000 secondary school children, almost 2,000 parents and approximately 16,000 year 6 (primary school) students in the last academic year.
- ✓ A refreshed internal and external media campaign was conducted in the Autumn designed to promote curiosity among officers, staff and the public about child sexual and criminal exploitation and in doing so increase the collation of intelligence.
- ✓ In November 2024, SYP participated in the

national week of intensification for county lines. The week saw officers and staff from across the force collaborating operationally to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, pursuing offenders, and increasing preparedness in local communities. Over the week’s activity South Yorkshire Police made 19 arrests connected to county lines and closed four “deal” lines. One hundred and twelve people were safeguarded, and seven national referral mechanism² referrals were submitted. In addition to enforcement activity, coordinated multi-agency visits were conducted at suspected “cuckooed”³ address and Local Authority children’s accommodation. Educational visits were conducted at hotels and local businesses and officers visited schools and colleges to raise awareness among staff and young people of child exploitation and county lines.

² The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK Government's system for identifying people who may have experienced modern slavery and exploitation. First responders, such as police, local authorities and some charities, can refer people into the NRM if they believe they may have experienced modern slavery.

³ Cuckooing is when Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) or perpetrators take over properties through force, deceit or coercion. It is often included with County Lines activity, occurring when gangs take control over a vulnerable adult's address to store, supply or produce drugs.

Fraud and Cyber Crime including Economic Crime

During 2024/25, the focus on fraud and cybercrime was expanded to include a spotlight on Economic Crime.

- ✓ At the start of the year, SYP launched a new Economic Crime Strategy which included three key objectives:
 - Improve outcomes in relation to money laundering and recover more criminal assets.
 - Prioritise fraud investigations and empower whole system prevention.
 - Ensure effective capability is in place across the force to tackle cyber criminality.
- ✓ In February 2025, SYP obtained its first Cryptocurrency account freezing orders with a combined total value of almost £1m being frozen. (An account freezing order uses civil legislation to freeze funds which are believed to be either criminal property or intended to be used for a criminal purpose.)

- ✓ SYP's Cyber Protect Officer undertook over 100 engagement events during the year to raise awareness of cybercrime and provide practical advice on how individuals and businesses could protect themselves from being a victim. National "Protect" campaigns and messaging was supported locally using SYP's dedicated fraud and cyber social media page. Messaging during the year included, for example, in relation to the national 'Oasis' ticket scams, whereby the Cyber Protect Officer presented on local radio channels on the day of ticket sales, and messaging aimed specifically at students returning to university and college in September.
- ✓ Businesses were also supported to reduce cybercrime through engagement events with the support of the North East Business Resilience Centre and Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit (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 to reduce the risk of being a victim of cybercrime. SYP also linked in with the SYMCA Business Advisory Board

to enhance the partnership response in protecting local businesses.

- ✓ July 2024 saw the launch of the multi-agency approach to fraud to explore how collectively organisations could spread key messaging to support one of the key pillars of the national strategy of empowering people. The first meeting was held with representatives from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards and Rotherham Safeguarding Team. A further meeting saw additional



partners attend, such as the NHS, the Illicit Finances/loan shark team, Crimestoppers and the North East Business Resilience Centre.

Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime

- ✓ During 2024/25, the South Yorkshire Police Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit continued to chair and co-ordinate the South Yorkshire Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Partnership. Members of this partnership included a wide variety of organisations across law enforcement, local authorities as well as non-law enforcement areas and provided a forum and environment where information and best practice could be shared and joint working agreed.
- ✓ Collaboration between members of the partnership has involved continued periods of intensification activity focussing on tackling Organised Immigration Crime. For example, activity was undertaken on the road networks of South Yorkshire and also through conducting formal intelligence debriefs with migrants who are residing

in the South Yorkshire region. This work resulted in intelligence being gathered to inform the local, regional and the national picture. Other areas of intensive focus during the year have been on exploitation within the Barbershop, car wash and food delivery industries.

- ✓ SYP's Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit delivered bespoke training sessions to professionals in Rotherham during Safeguarding Awareness Week in November. Training was delivered to 450 members of the health service, including General Practitioners, Nurses and other medical professionals at an open learning event held on 14th November 2024 at the Magna Science Adventure Centre.

Getting in touch with the Police

- ✓ Call wait times in the Force Control Room for both 101 and 999 calls continued to improve during the year. Work was also undertaken to increase the number and quality of ways in which callers could access SYP including using online reporting options. A way for police officers to deal with some victims

via video conferencing was introduced. People would only use this service if they themselves expressed a preference for this type of interaction. Over 85% of people reported that they were very satisfied with the service they received.

- ✓ The Force Control Room continued to lead on the Right Care Right Person (RCRP) initiative



phased in during 2023/24. This initiative involves a culture shift from the police being the agency that attends all reported incidents into the Force Control Room of people in mental health crisis, to one that defines which agency and professional is the right one to be able to care for and safeguard a person in crisis.

- ✓ During the year, the initiative became the usual way of working. The South Yorkshire RCRP Strategic Working Group became a key governance meeting, making sure themes and issues that arose could be discussed by all partners across South Yorkshire to ensure appropriate safeguarding of those in mental health crisis or needing mental health support. The Mayor's Police and Reform Directorate attended the meetings along with other key stakeholders such as South Yorkshire Police, Local Authority Safeguarding Board Representatives, Health Professionals, the Yorkshire Ambulance Service and others. Attendance at the meeting allowed the Mayor to develop a strategic understanding of demand in collaboration with partners to better inform policies, practices and procedures.

Youth Offending

- ✓ The Youth Offending Teams across the County have received funding support from SYMCA aiming to keep young people away from crime and re-offending. During 2024/25,
 - The Policing and Reform Directorate continued to sit on all four Youth Justice Boards across South Yorkshire to provide oversight and convene Youth Justice Services together as needed.
 - The Policing and Reform Directorate supported the Youth Offending Teams in the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortia during the year. The consortia support children and young people when leaving custody, promoting desistance (reducing the risk of re-offending), wellbeing, and social inclusion.
 - The good work of the consortia was recognised nationally, including the effective use of data to help influence the development of resettlement practice and support national research.
 - The Policing and Reform Directorate

worked together with colleagues in West Yorkshire and through the South & West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortia on a Youth Remand Audit which looked at cases of children remanded into custody. The audit approach developed locally was identified in a case study offering good practice for others to emulate and featured in the Youth Remand Concordat that was published by the Ministry of Justice in early Spring 2025.



Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour needs a high degree of partnership working between the police and other agencies to be effective. In South Yorkshire this is done through the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). CSPs are made up of representatives from local authorities, South Yorkshire Police, health services, housing associations and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. During 2024/25, the Mayor contributed funding to help CSPs work towards achieving the Police and Crime Plan priorities. Neighbourhood policing relies on good partnership working too, with all local agencies, including Safer Neighbourhood Services, where partners are co-located in the same building to address local priorities more effectively. Wider criminal justice partners come together in South Yorkshire as part of the Local Criminal Justice Board chaired by the Deputy Mayor. The Violence Reduction Unit continued to promote a public health approach to tackling violent crime with close partnership working between local authorities, the voluntary and charity sectors, health partners and others.

Performance and Outcomes

South Yorkshire Police data is from a live system so subject to change and audit. SYP data cannot be reproduced without permission from SYP.

During 2024/25 compared to 2023/24

- ✓ Total recorded crime in South Yorkshire (excluding fraud) decreased by -3% compared to a -2% decrease across England and Wales. (1)
- ✓ The recorded level of residential burglary decreased by -13%, compared to a decrease of 9% across England and Wales. (1)
- ✓ Recorded levels of drug offences increased by 17% compared to a 12% increase in England and Wales. (1)
- ✓ Recorded levels of Anti-social behaviour recorded by SYP have decreased by -1%. (2)
- ✓ Total recorded knife crime decreased by -6%. (1)
- ✓ Recorded firearms offences (excluding air

weapons) decreased by -47% compared to a decrease in England and Wales of -21%. (1)

- ✓ Recorded levels of violence against the person crimes decreased by -4%, the same decrease as across England and Wales. (1)
- ✓ Recorded levels of vehicle offences have decreased by -7%, compared to a similar decrease of -8% in England and Wales. (1)



- ✓ Recorded volumes of hate crime have risen by 2%. (2)
- ✓ Adult re-offending has increased by 4 percentage points. Juvenile re-offending has increased by 0.3 points. (3)
- ✓ The percentage of victims of selected crimes who are satisfied with the overall service from the police saw no statistically significant change with 72% satisfied in 2024/25, the same as in 2023/24. (4)

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit:

- ✓ Provided grants of almost £340,000 across 19 organisations in South Yorkshire, supporting young people and preventing them becoming involved in violence.
- ✓ Worked with South Yorkshire Police's GRIP team delivering 5,632 additional hours of police patrols. The patrols resulted in 159 arrests, 245

stop searches, 219 intelligence reports being submitted and 164 incidents dealt with by other means (traffic offence reports etc.)

- ✓ The Knives takes Lives campaign saw a 15% reduction in possession of offensive weapon investigations involving suspects in the target audience age group, when comparing the 3 months pre-launch to the 3 months post-launch of the campaign. Over 240,000 people saw the content of the campaign without any paid promotion and the campaign appeared on over 522,000 social media users' screens.



(1) Source: Office for National Statistics: Police Recorded Crime

(2) Source: South Yorkshire Police - South Yorkshire Police data is from a live system so subject to change and audit. SYP data cannot be reproduced without permission from SYP.

(3) Source: Ministry of Justice proven re-offending statistics. (Comparing July 22 - June 23 cohort with July 21 to June 22 cohort - latest data as of July 2025).

(4) Source: SYP Victim Survey - samples views from vulnerable victims plus victims of burglary, hate crime and vehicle crime

Key activities and achievements during 2024/25.

Community Safety Partnerships

The Mayoral Combined Authority led Countywide Community Safety Forum continued to meet quarterly during 2024/25. The forum allowed the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) leads from across South Yorkshire to meet with SYMCA's Policing and Reform Directorate and discuss how priorities were being delivered, and the outcomes being achieved. The four CSPs in South Yorkshire continued to focus efforts on tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and those crimes that are a priority for their communities including residential burglary, off road bikes, rural crime and drug use. Some CSP activities and achievements during 2024/25 are detailed below.

- ✓ As part of ASB week, Barnsley CSP set up and attended market stalls in the town centre promoting their work and visited vulnerable people in the community. ASB directed patrols were made on the Summer Lane Estate. Properties that had been the subject of possession cases and closure orders were

visited. Barnsley's ASB Case Management Team was awarded the prestigious national "Team of the Year" accolade at the Resolve National Conference recognising the team's innovative and effective approach.

- ✓ Doncaster CSP were able to fund cameras and lenses for the off-road bike team, provide electric bikes and accessories to neighbourhood teams and a pop-up cabin to assist with crime and ASB prevention measures and engagement opportunities with local people. The partnership also contributed towards the purchase of a vehicle to tackle ASB through enhanced patrols.
- ✓ The Rotherham CSP set up a Rural Crime Task and Finish group to allow partners to share intelligence to tackle the threat from off road bikes and associated anti-social behaviour. Targeted days of action took place during the early part of 2025.
- ✓ Sheffield CSP's focus on addressing the supply of drugs helped support operational

and educational activity including:

- Expert witness training for staff to enhance their knowledge on the securing, preserving and presentation of drug expert witness testimony in complex drugs investigations.
 - Development of a scheme supporting residential landlords to mitigate the risk of properties becoming cannabis farms
 - Supported the provision of technology and equipment for SYP officers involved in drug investigations aimed at enhancing evidence gathering and the identification and deterring of repeat offenders.
 - The commissioning of further "cuckooing" awareness sessions for partners and staff by Shelter. The sessions focused on spotting the signs of cuckooing, promoting the notion of professional curiosity and raising awareness of what intervention other partners could make. Training also included references to the lived experiences of those impacted.
- ✓ All CSPs have been focussing on tackling

violence against women and girls and domestic abuse in their areas.

- Barnsley CSP have worked closely with the Violence Reduction Unit to set up a safe space within Barnsley town centre. In just one three-month period, 30 young people were helped and safeguarded (this means being taken to a place of safety, reunited with friends or family, or assisted to get home safely).
- Doncaster CSP has been able to provide a range of additional resources for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, including support books, bus passes and welcome packs in refuges. It has also provided Domestic Abuse Freedom Programme training for staff.
- Domestic abuse victims in Rotherham presenting as homeless received immediate support from the DA Homelessness Officers, with the safe accommodation and refuges being utilised and monitored on a weekly basis during the year.
- Over 100 people in Rotherham took

part in the Reclaim the Night Walk in November and was attended by over 100 people. Following the walk, around 60 people attended an event at the Town Hall.

- Sheffield CSP confirmed its ongoing commitment to the White Ribbon accreditation at full Council and approved a new VAWG, DA and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

Rural crime

SYP's off-road bike and rural crime teams continued their work during 2024/25 tackling anti-social use of vehicles, both on and off road, as well as supporting wider operational requirements such as missing persons.

- ✓ Sheffield CSP supported the provision of cameras to be used in a rural crime setting to assist in the detection of crime and anti-social behaviour suffered by rural communities. Particularly prevalent during the year was the theft of Plant and other machinery.
- ✓ SYMCA's Communications and Engagement

team officers continued to attend the quarterly community engagement meetings focusing on rural communities around each of the districts. The meetings were well attended and provided an essential link for people to see the work of SYP in rural areas as well as communities being able to request specific support from SYP.



- ✓ The Mayor joined Operation Star in October. The operation was a rural and wildlife operation undertaken by SYP's Motorcycle and Rural Crime Team (MARCT), tackling off-road bikes (ORBs), hare coursing, badger baiting and more taking place within local rural communities.

Neighbourhood Policing.

Prevention activity undertaken by SYP's neighbourhood policing teams (NPTs) continued to be the backbone for long-term delivery of crime reductions. During 2024/25:

- ✓ The police implemented a dedicated problem-solving operation to tackle residential burglary. This operation used in-depth analytical work to identify 18 key hot spot areas across the force which, historically, suffered high levels of residential burglary. Additional funding was provided to increase the visible policing presence in these key areas, with predominantly Police Community Support Officers conducting engagement visits with residents. Engagement included offering crime prevention advice and using

leaflets to alert residents to the risk of burglary in that area and to help them to take further preventative measures. Dedicated problem-solving plans were agreed for each of the 18 identified hot spot areas, ensuring wider partnership and preventative measures were in place.

- ✓ To support this problem-solving approach, a pilot using social media messaging to residents in the top four hot spot areas was also undertaken and followed on from the provision of leaflets mentioned above. The messaging alerted residents to the burglary hot spot areas and signposted to crime prevention advice. Over 9000 people received and listened to the messaging on a weekly basis.
- ✓ Bespoke neighbourhood policing training was developed for NPT officers. SYP was the first force to achieve officer accreditation by Skills 4 Justice.
- ✓ South Yorkshire Police continued with their targeted days of action under the name of Operation Duxford, focusing on those issues that matter most to local people.

The Operation centres on neighbourhood policing teams but brings in wider specialist teams from across the force. During the year several Operation Duxfords resulted in:

- 17 arrests in Doncaster in September of those on suspicion of committing various crimes, including firearms, vehicle, theft and drug offences. A number of arrests



were made in relation to the dismantling of vehicles for parts to be sold elsewhere.

- A number of arrests occurred in Rotherham in February for drug offences including raids on properties where cannabis was being cultivated. In total, 12 warrants were executed across the district, with officers recovering more than £60,000 worth of cannabis, seizing harmful Class A drugs, and retrieving a firearm. As part of the operation a knife arch was installed at Rotherham Interchange to act as a deterrent to anyone in possession of dangerous weapons who may be attempting to bring them into the town. It also allowed neighbourhood officers to engage with the local community and listen to the concerns people raised about the town centre.
- A focused day and night of action as Barnsley's operation in February focused on child exploitation, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime.
- ✓ The force developed and delivered effective communications with the public and

during the year, the force delivered media campaigns for emerging neighbourhood crime types to ensure the public was alert to any local themes of criminality, and where possible undertake preventative action.

- ✓ Previous offenders of neighbourhood crime under imminent prison release were also notified to local officers and further support to neighbourhood teams was provided through a monthly vehicle crime and robbery analysis document.
- ✓ SYP trained additional officers as stolen vehicle examiners and purchased additional key reader technology. This was aimed at supporting the recovery of stolen vehicles, vehicle parts and keys, and the disruption of "chop shop" activity which supports much of the organised criminal elements of vehicle crime. The force also adopted operation Lorry Alpha to map the deposition sites of stolen vehicles more effectively. This was vital to tackle the ongoing challenge in developing detailed intelligence profiles of offending to allow further operational activity to take place.

Retail crime

During the year, SYP continued to build upon learning from their Retail Crime Symposium which hosted national retailers' crime prevention leads and local centres to develop a joint approach to tackling retail crime. The learning and agreements from the symposium led to what has become the Business Crime Charter. During the year:

- ✓ Some of the biggest retailers committed to the charter, including Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and Tesco and new supporting services, including Lodge Security and Mitie.
- ✓ SYP developed a new retail crime strategy aimed at focusing on halting the growth in retail crime, improving outcomes and improving trust and confidence.
- ✓ SYP worked with partners as part of the National Business Crime Centre's national Safer Action Business Weeks in April and October. October's week saw 43 arrests leading to 88 charges and numerous engagement events with homeless services, youth engagement teams and retailers.

- ✓ Retailers were able to provide evidence more quickly and efficiently through more robust use of Digital Asset Management Systems to transfer CCTV footage leading to suspects being processed more effectively.
- ✓ Officers were able to increase their focus on taking victim personal statements. The statements allow retail workers, who have been the victim of crime, to let the court hear of the effects and impacts upon them. These statements support the judiciary when reaching sentencing decisions.
- ✓ Newsletters have been shared across retailers, providing updates about offenders convicted and keeping stakeholders updated.
- ✓ Working with the Crown Prosecution Service, the police were able to increase the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders in relation to retail crime. The orders prohibit offenders from certain actions thereby reducing re-offending.

Road Safety

Taking a partnership approach is essential to improving road safety and reducing and ending deaths and serious injuries on South Yorkshire's roads. To support this, strategic leadership of the Road Safety Partnership transferred into the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority during 2024/25 strengthening partnerships and focus still further. During 2024/25:

- ✓ SYP undertook targeted speed enforcement activity in particular areas of the county highlighted as hot spot areas by local people and focussed activity on uninsured drivers.
- ✓ The police also undertook school visits to deliver messaging and education around road safety to school pupils.
- ✓ From October to December, the Road Safety Partnership ran a Dark Nights road safety campaign, took part in
- ✓ "Brake's" Road Safety week and supported Operation Limit a national drink and drug

driving campaign which included radio and digital van advertising and social media messaging. (4)



⁴ Brake is a national charity Brake working to support road crash victims and their families and stop road deaths and serious injuries

Disrupting Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and tackling serious violence

The focus on disrupting the activity of Organised Crime Groups (OCG) was maintained through the work of the Fortify Teams at districts. OCG disruption activity relies on a strong understanding of threats, and SYP undertook mapping throughout the year to establish all threats including the level of firearm capabilities across the OCGs operating in South Yorkshire. The majority of OCGs had a primary threat of drugs, more of which is included later in this report.

- ✓ South Yorkshire Police and partners continued to lead the way nationally in the field of the 'Clear Hold Build' (CHB) (5) initiative which is a multi-agency strategy for tackling organised crime in a locality. There were three successful projects tackling serious and organised crime and anti-social behaviour in communities; the most recent during 2024/25 in Woodhouse, Sheffield is

currently moving through the Hold phase, into Build.

- ✓ There was an increased focus by South Yorkshire Police of using the Proceeds of Crime Act to seize assets from criminal gangs. The total removed from organised crime during the year stood at £677,693 which was invested back into community projects and innovation to tackle serious and organised crime through the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) funding board.
- ✓ The force focused prevention activity on reducing the impact of Urban Street Gangs (USGs) which are seen as a precursor to young people progressing from anti-social behaviour and minor criminality, to becoming vulnerable to entering into serious and organised crime. In line with national best practice, the force's processes and procedures were solely focused on disruption and diversionary measures for young people with no intention of

criminalisation. Four USGs were mapped in the South Yorkshire area.

- ✓ South Yorkshire continued to receive Grip Funding from the Home Office which allowed Grip Teams to undertake a range of targeted activities to disrupt violent criminality.
- ✓ In November, South Yorkshire Police once again took part in Operation Sceptre – a national knife crime intensification week of action. During the week, 245 knives were recovered and 87 arrests made. There were over 50 visits made to schools and community meetings to talk about the dangers of carrying knives and 25 retailer visits made to talk about knife crime and policies about selling knives.
- ✓ In late 2024, the armed crime team (established in 2020) further increased its remit to include ownership of investigative matters related to any burglaries involving firearms, recoveries of prohibited firearms, and all criminal firearm discharges, not just those linked to known organised

⁵ Clear, Hold, Build is a multi-agency strategy designed to tackle serious and organized crime in specific areas. It involves three phases: "Clear" involves disrupting and removing criminal activity; "Hold" stabilizes the area and prevents its return; and "Build" focuses on regenerating the area and empowering the community.

crime groups. During 2024/25 firearms discharges continued to fall, including a fall in the number of serious injuries linked to firearms discharges.

Drugs

Police and partners continued to focus on the disruption of drugs supply and county lines during 2024/25. Much of the drug related crime in South Yorkshire was linked to organised criminality. As at the end of March 2025, 44 out of 65 mapped OCGs in South Yorkshire had a primary threat of drugs. Disruptions of the OCG networks linked to drugs supply and county lines were constantly monitored. A key challenge in tackling the criminality associated with County Lines activity has been to understand the constantly changing nature and scale of activity. During 2024/25:

Police and partners worked hard during the year to raise awareness of drugs and county lines across communities; they proactively engaged with those young people who may be vulnerable for targeting by offenders; supported those who

had been victims of exploitation; investigated and charged offenders with their criminal acts.

- ✓ During the year, stakeholders on the South Yorkshire Combatting Drugs Partnerships focused on preparing for and preventing harms caused by the introduction of Synthetic Opioids into the local drugs supply. Police forces nationally saw increased deaths where these substances were found, and this was constantly monitored in South Yorkshire. All partners worked to ensure timely harm reduction messages were made and action taken.
- ✓ Drugs and Alcohol related Death (DARD) panels were put in place during 2024/25, and the Local Drugs Information Service (LDIS) was embedded.
- ✓ A new Drugs Death Coordinator was recruited who was able to update partners daily and forge relationships with drugs intervention partners and coroners as well as with the police.
- ✓ South Yorkshire Police increased the speed at which they could test for drugs by bringing some drugs testing capability “in-house”

rather than relying on external organisations. In Sheffield, the Fortify team started to act as a drugs focus desk, offering advice to investigating officers through their use of additional drugs testing equipment allowing for further testing of some drugs in force for gathering timely intelligence.



Violence Reduction Unit

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) continued its work during 2024/25 following a further successful bid for funding of £2.14m from the Home Office. The VRU takes a Public Health Approach to preventing and reducing violence in South Yorkshire. This means that the Unit plays a coordinating role, drawing together key partners and aiming to promote a whole system approach. The Unit aims to understand the causes, and the causes of the causes of violence, and supports projects which aim to prevent violence before it happens, stop violence once it has started, and find a way out for those entrenched in violent behaviour. The Unit further aims to promote attitudinal change and alter the long-term societal norms and behaviours which contribute to violence in the first place.

During 2024/25 the Unit's achievements included:

- ✓ The management of grant funding from the Violence Reduction Fund, which focused on supporting young people and preventing them from becoming involved in violence.
- ✓ Funded three projects from the Serious Violence Duty Budget:
 - Knife Crime: Development of an evidence-based approach to tackling Knife Crime
 - Homicide Reviews: Learning lessons in order to prevent homicides and building relationships with partners
 - Nighttime Economy and Winter Violence:
 - a) Operation Sentinel, using CCTV, uniformed and plain clothes patrols to spot signs of predatory behaviour within a nighttime economy area.
 - b) Operation Skorpion, planning of a notional “ring of steel” around nighttime economy

districts to tackle knife crime, organised drug distribution and associated serious violence.

- ✓ Delivery of the Accident & Emergency (A&E) Navigator and “Plan B” Custody Navigator

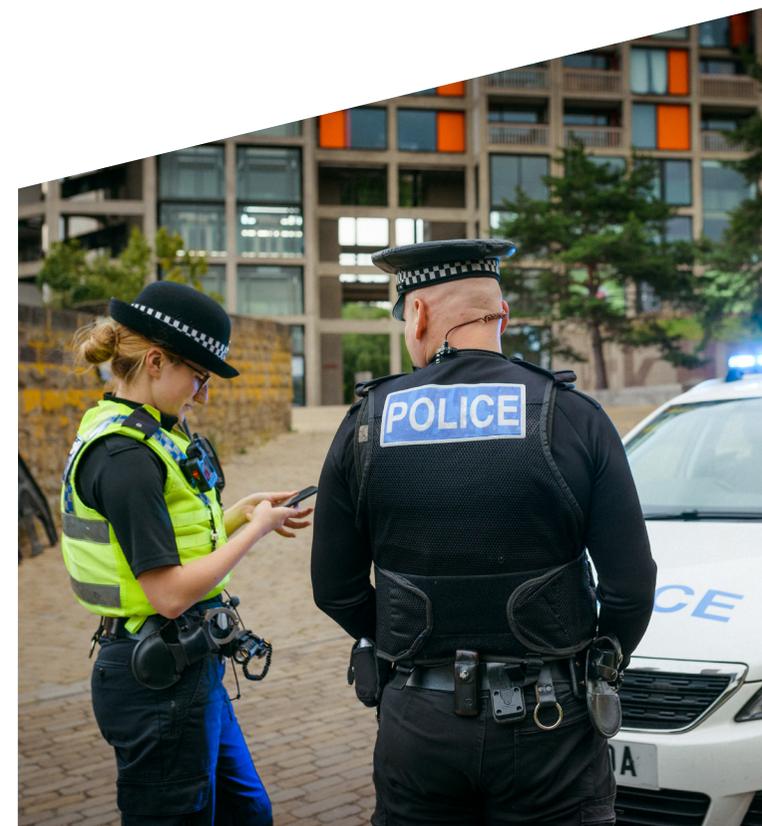


schemes, which offer people in A&E or police custody, because of incidents relating to violence, an opportunity to make positive changes in their lives.

- ✓ The funding over 4500 people to attend Trauma-Informed Awareness Training. This programme has trained staff who work with young people across South Yorkshire. The evidence shows many young people who get involved in violence and criminality have had Adverse Childhood Experiences growing up which has affected them and how they subsequently behave. The aim of this project is for all staff who work with young people to be trauma-informed, and to include the possibility of childhood trauma when making assessments and engaging with young people.
- ✓ Funding over 500 training places for those working with young people to deliver evidenced based therapeutic interventions which has helped reduce waiting times.
- ✓ Supporting South Yorkshire Police in its delivery of the GRIP programme, using Home Office funding to target violence hotspots. GRIP are national leaders in

problem-orientated policing and the use of the Scanning Analysis Response Assessment (SARA) method to deliver targeted and tailored problem-solving responses.

- ✓ Funded SYP's "Knives Takes Lives" media campaign based on a real-life fatal stabbing in South Yorkshire committed by a teenager. It highlighted the devastation caused by crimes involving knives. The campaign included a website providing help and advice on the issue as well as resources for partners and stakeholders to use. The website was unbranded to appeal to as broad an audience as possible and attracted over 6000 views and 4000 active users.



TREATING PEOPLE FAIRLY

The fair treatment of individual residents and communities in South Yorkshire is essential to maintain the public's trust and confidence in the police and partner organisations. Whoever the police engage with, they should always seek to treat people with courtesy and respect. This includes understanding and addressing such issues as racial and cultural differences. SYP's workforce needs better representation of those from ethnic minority groups at all ranks and in all roles – something that has been a focus throughout 2024/25. South Yorkshire is a mix of communities – urban and rural, inner-city and suburban. The focus for this priority during the year has been to not only make sure people are kept safe, but making sure people feel safe with the police and partners focusing on how communities can feel reassured, especially in those places that are more remote or are smaller townships or villages. Some of the work undertaken during 2024/25, including performance and outcome information, contributing to this priority is detailed below.

Performance and Outcomes

Stop and Search

SYP's stop and search activity during 2024/25 is shown in the table below. The table shows

some disproportionality in the rate of stop and searches on people from minority ethnic groups with a slightly higher positive outcome rate. The Independent Ethics Panel have sought and continue to seek reassurance around this as part of their work. (See earlier in the report).

South Yorkshire 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025 (1)				
(Person searches only – self defined ethnicity)				
Ethnicity	No. of searches	% of searches	% positive outcome*	Rate per 1000 population**
White	6435	64%	34%	5.3
Black	556	6%	38%	16.4
Asian	757	8%	32%	9.6
Other	222	2%	33%	8.7
Mixed	345	3%	33%	11.3
Not Stated	1759	17%	18%	-

*A positive outcome includes outcomes such as arrest, warning, caution and summons/charge by post or penalty notice.

** Rate per 1000 population is based on 2021 population census data. These are the latest official statistics available that break down the ethnicity of the UK population and so need to be used as a guide only as population demographics may have changed.

SYP Workforce

- ✓ As of 31st March 2025, the percentage of SYP police officers from an ethnic minority background stood at 4.9%, and for police staff, the figure was 5.3% (1) According to the 2021 census, the percentage of South Yorkshire's population with heritage of Asian, Black, Mixed or Other stood at 12%.

During 2024/25 the Mayor and the engagement team

- ✓ Engaged with a total of 2,519 members of the public and 230 South Yorkshire Police Officers / representatives across 103 events between May 2024 and March 2025. (2)
- ✓ Collected and analysed the views of over 3200 people to understand their policing priorities and views on the level of Council Tax Precept in January 2025. (2)

In addition:

- ✓ The Mayor received and responded to over 2,100 pieces of correspondence giving insight into current issues for residents. (2)
- ✓ Under the complaints review process, the

Mayor received 72 requests for a review and dealt with one Chief Constable complaint (2)

- ✓ Independent Custody Visitors undertook 52 visits to custody suites – visitors will engage with a number of detainees on each visit. They also undertook 11 visits to police dog kennels to check on animal welfare. (2)
- ✓ The mayor made a total of 35 decisions in line with SYMCA's Police and Reform Directorate decision making scheme. Further details (for those that are not exempt from publication) can be found on the SYMCA website.

Data Source:

- (1) SYP: Data is from a live system so subject to change and audit. SYP data cannot be reproduced without permission from SYP
- (2) SYMCA

Key activities and achievements during 2024/25.

- ✓ Immediately following the violent disorder in Manvers in August, the Mayor quickly convened a meeting of faith leaders from across South Yorkshire to understand firsthand community fears and vulnerabilities. Together with the police, the Mayor was able to offer leaders reassurance about community safety and a commitment to bring perpetrators to justice.
- ✓ The Mayor continued to convene the Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) whose role contributes to the overall level of assurance around the ethical culture within South Yorkshire Police. The Panel provided specific assurance on equality and diversity and fair treatment issues.
 - The Panel's lead member roles continued focusing on specific areas of work in more detail outside of the quarterly meetings. There were Lead Member roles for:

- Stop and Search (lead role became vacant during 2024/25)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Complaints and Professional Standards
- Digital Policing
- The Complaints and Professional Standards lead member undertook a series of dip sample audits in relation to vetting decisions made by SYP including where vetting requests were refused. They found there to be openness, transparency and professionalism within SYP's Professional Standards Department and were assured by the detail and thoroughness of investigations. The member found good evidence of both the use of and reference to the Code of Ethics for Policing, the Vetting Code of Practice and the SYP Values Framework - all fundamental in guiding investigations

and decision making. There was evidence of sound decision making supported by recorded rationale.

- Panel leads continued to seek assurance on proactive work being undertaken to improve representation from those whose ethnicity is other than White in the SYP workforce. Leads liaised closely with Chief Officers responsible for implementing a local Police Race Action Plan to evaluate the effectiveness of planned activities and monitor the ongoing impact on recruitment, retention, and career progression. The IEP Chair began attending SYP's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Board to hear firsthand of SYP's work in this area as well as being given an opportunity to comment into the meeting. However, there is still work to do to increase representation in the police workforce from under-represented communities.
- The Panel's Digital Policing work programme progressed under their new lead member of this area appointed last year. The work programme included reality

testing of how ethical considerations are being built into current SYP digital work programmes. The testing found that the Artificial Intelligence (AI) covenant was being used to assess ethical delivery. The lead was also able to contribute to a College of Policing consultation on how data can be responsibly used in a way that does not infringe on individuals' right to privacy, or lead to discriminatory practice.

- The Panel's work seeking assurance around SYP's use of Stop and Search continued during the year with oversight visits to SYP's External Stop and Search Scrutiny meeting where members of the public review police body worn video of stop and search incidents. Visits to the panel found positive assurance around how the panel was run and good engagement from members of the public. The IEP also received additional reports on stop and search from SYP's stop and search lead officer during the year.
- The Panel continued its work on its medium-term SYP Culture work plan. In

July, members convened a focus group of SYP managers who had undertaken SYP's Leadership Academy. This gave panel members an in-depth understanding of how the Academy was giving leaders the skills and confidence to develop a positive culture in line with SYP's Values and Behaviours Framework. Findings from the focus group were positive.

- The Panel received a number of reports and updates in the aftermath of the violent disorder at Manvers, Rotherham during August 2024. As well as hearing of the progress of the criminal investigations being undertaken, the Panel heard about the support the force had made available to officers and were impressed with the wellbeing support put in place both immediately and in the months afterwards.

Outside of the work of the Independent Ethics Panel.

- ✓ The Mayor continued to lead a partnership with the Probation Service which saw the continued provision of a Restorative Justice

Service in South Yorkshire. The Restorative Justice Service helps set up communication between those harmed by crime and those responsible for causing the harm. The aim is to give victims an opportunity to let those responsible know the full impact of the offence. It also allows people committing offences the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions.

- ✓ The Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) scheme continued during 2024/25. This is a statutory scheme, run by SYMCA's Police and Reform Directorate, whereby random checks are made by independent visitors on the custody suites in South Yorkshire to ensure that detainees are being treated fairly and in line with statutory guidance. Any issues found during the year were raised directly with SYP's custody Chief Inspector for addressing. There has been a rolling programme of recruitment of ICVs during the year and a programme of associated training undertaken.
- ✓ During 2024/25, due to limited prison capacity, prisoners were being placed in police custody detention cells. ICVs received

additional guidance on this and were able to check on prisoner numbers, checking on the fair treatment of those detainees and noting any effects the prisoner detention was causing in the custody suites.

- ✓ The scheme manager was able to attend several regional and national meetings to learn from and share good practice in relation to the running of the ICV scheme and to ensure that new technology that was procured during the year to support visitors is used in a consistent way both for recording and for reporting.

Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)

The police service is just one part of a wider system bringing people to justice, known as the criminal justice system (CJS). As well as police, other organisations play their part – from prosecuting cases to providing a court venue for cases to be determined; from supporting victims and witnesses throughout the criminal justice journey to supervising offenders whilst serving their sentence. The role of the police is to investigate the crime, catch the offender and provide evidence for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The CPS decides whether to prosecute the offender depending on the strength of the evidence and whether it is in the public interest. Sometimes, frustration with apparent lack of action is focused on the police, or other agencies, when in fact it is a result of this very complex system. Therefore, during the year, the Mayor supported and chaired a Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), which brings local criminal justice agencies together to work through those complexities to achieve common goals and priorities pertinent to South Yorkshire.

The key objectives for the South Yorkshire LCJB are to help bring about:

- ✓ A service that supports victims and witnesses throughout the process.
- ✓ Effective rehabilitation of offenders, including young people who commit crime, and a reduction of reoffending.
- ✓ A more efficient and integrated criminal justice system.

During 2024/25, the LCJB continued to focus on victims and their experiences through several key pieces of planned work as well as responding quickly to local and national issues that arose during the year. Some examples of the Board's work are shown below.

- ✓ Victim Journey: A second practitioner follow-up event was held that brought a wide range of Criminal Justice partners together to examine what changes they had made since last time, and to review what further changes are needed to improve victim experience.

Partners shared information regarding new services developed in collaboration, with South Yorkshire acting as a pathfinder area on matters such as the enhanced service offer being provided by CPS. As well as identifying opportunities to work together to effect improvements, CJS partners made individual commitments for change.

- ✓ Domestic Abuse (DA): Through the DA Partnership, Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust developed a new, innovative health pathway for victims of Non-Fatal Strangulation. That pathway is up and running in Sheffield and may be used as a blueprint for other districts to adopt.
- ✓ Sexual Violence: A Sexual Violence Conference, hosted by Barnsley Council, that looked to raise the profile of sexual violence and share what we are doing to prevent it, and highlight the support that is available to victims.
- ✓ Rape cases: Phase 2 of the work tracking the criminal justice (CJ) journey of a selection of adult rape cases continued. The work looked in depth at additional cases submitted to the

CPS for charging advice. Initial findings from phase 1 of the work were taken on board and have contributed towards changes made by the police aimed at improving victims' experience during the initial stages - reporting the case and investigation.

- ✓ Partners were able to improve communication between practitioners, leading to better opportunities for victims' voices to be heard and responded to positively. This included regular meetings and new communication channels developed for specialist support services to raise issues facing their clients including regular meetings with Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and mailboxes for queries and concerns to be addressed regarding individual cases.
 - ✓ Prisons Capacity: During 2024/25 several prisoner early release schemes had to be introduced, sometimes very quickly, to increase the availability of prison places. Local criminal justice partners worked collaboratively and were able to respond positively. Partners came together on key dates to offer support to resettling prisoners.
- For example, by the setting up of an 'Arrivals Lounge' for prisoners reporting to probation offices on their day of release, to make sure that the support they needed from various services to manage that transition so that it was as smooth and efficient as it could be.
- ✓ Criminal Justice partners also worked together closely and were able to respond positively to the violent disorder that occurred in August 2024 at Manvers in Rotherham. Through close collaboration, partners responded quickly and worked tirelessly to bring those responsible to justice. As at March 2025, 103 people had been charged, and 88 of these had been sentenced for over a combined total of 216 years in prison.
 - ✓ The Board was able to contribute to national policy through responding to national government consultations. For example, the Board responded to the Criminal Courts Review (and were referenced in the report), the Sentencing Review, Domestic Homicide Review National Guidance, Criminal Justice System Joint Inspection Programme 2025-27.

Engagement with South Yorkshire's Communities

During 2024/25 engagement activity continued both face to face and through virtual engagement online. There was attendance at a wide range of events from community meetings, grant visits, pop up engagements and other partner led meetings to hear the views of the public. During the year engagement opportunities included:

- ✓ Supporting the rural community through continuing to attend a series of Rural Crime Meetings working in partnership with SYP and support services across the farming and rural communities.
- ✓ Holding a community and faith leaders meeting in response to the violent disorder in August 2024 along with an additional meeting in November 2024 to maintain contact with some least heard communities. Work with those attending the meetings continues, whilst work is underway alongside other departments within SYMCA to ensure that the voices of South Yorkshire's communities are heard across everything that SYMCA undertakes.

- ✓ Undertaking reactive engagement such as community walkabouts to hear about key issues impacting communities and the work being carried out by SYP to combat these.
- ✓ Continuing to grow and embed links with people from minority ethnic groups through visits to local mosques, the synagogue in Sheffield and attending community iftars as part of the holy month of Ramadan.
- ✓ Taking part in national events such as the Neighbourhood Watch Conference to learn and develop.
- ✓ Starting visits in January 2025 to all neighbourhood policing teams across South Yorkshire to build stronger relationships and keep up to date with work taking place in neighbourhood teams across the four districts.
- ✓ Consulting widely with the public during the latter stages of 2024 to understand the policing and crime priorities for residents and businesses of South Yorkshire. This also included gathering views on the level of council tax precept for 2025/26.

- ✓ Attending internal meetings such as the Neighbourhood Policing Board to share updates from these public engagement events and visits undertaken across the county.
- ✓ Collecting the views of local people and businesses to understand their policing priorities and their views on the level of policing precept Council Tax Policing Precept to be set for 2025/26. The feedback from this work was used to support the drafting of the Mayor's new Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029.

In addition

- ✓ The Mayor received, analysed, and replied to correspondence from local residents and councillors taking account of the views expressed and issues raised, and these were taken forward with SYP as appropriate. Themes from correspondence during the year tended to mirror topical issues at any particular time, including national issues, but have included neighbourhood disputes, wildlife crime, anti-social behaviour, retail crime, dangerous dogs and the disorder

at Manvers in August 2024. Compliments about SYP have also been received; typically, these are from people expressing gratitude for the support individual officers have given them.

The Police and Crime Panel for South Yorkshire

The Mayor is accountable to the public at the ballot box with elections held every four years. During those four years, the work of the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor for Policing) is scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel made up of Councillors from each of the four districts in South Yorkshire, plus independent members of the public.

It is the Panel's job to make sure that decision making by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor is in the best interest of the public, including decisions about what priorities are in the Police and Crime Plan, how much the policing precept in the Council Tax should be and the recruitment and dismissal of the Chief Constable.

The Mayor/Deputy Mayor must report regularly to the Panel to account for the decisions made, or to be questioned by them and members of the public. During 2024/25 from the time of transfer of PCC functions to the Mayor, there were 5 meetings of the Panel, with the Mayor attending all 5 of those meetings.

More information about the Panel can be found on their website at: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/south-yorkshire-governance/south-yorkshire-governance/south-yorkshire-police-and-crime-panel/>

Finance and Resources

Policing and Crime is funded through a combination of grant funding received from central government and additional funding raised locally through a policing precept on Council Tax. The Policing Budget faces significant inflationary pressures and overall police funding from government assumes increases in local taxation to meet the increasing cost of delivering services. Increases to the police precept are therefore integral to ensuring services are properly funded and can meet the needs of South Yorkshire residents. Any increase in local taxation has an impact on residents and consultation is therefore undertaken as widely as possible on the level of any increase proposed. Any decision about the precept must be agreed by the Police and Crime Panel, which scrutinises the actions, decisions and performance of the South Yorkshire Mayor in relation to the discharge of police and crime functions.

Key activities & outcomes

- ✓ For 2024/25, the Police and Crime Panel supported the proposed annual increase in the policing element of the Council Tax (the precept) for 2024/25 of £13 for a Band D property, taking the precept to £251.04 for the year for a band D property. For those people living in Band D properties this was an increase of 25 pence per week (£13 per year), however for most households in South Yorkshire are in Bands A (the increase was equivalent to 17 pence per week or £8.84 per year) and B (19 pence per week or £9.88 per year). In setting the police budget for 2024/25, it was vital that we could meet rising costs and ensure the growth in new officers could be sustained. In this way, the police can continue to support South Yorkshire communities, not least by maintaining neighbourhood policing teams.
- ✓ The national police officer Uplift Programme was implemented successfully in South

Yorkshire, the total officer headcount rising to 3,083 as of 31 March 2025 compared against 2,371 when the Uplift Programme commenced. The force exceeded the National Uplift Target (3,039) and recruited sufficient officers to also cover precept commitments, which required significant investment in supporting areas across the force.

- ✓ The in-year savings target was exceeded by £202.6k, achieving savings of £601k against a target of £398.4k
- ✓ Additional funding was secured from the Government over and above the regular annual grant from the Ministry of Justice used to commission victim services. In 2024/25 SYMCA Police and Reform Directorate, working with many local partners saw external funding totaling over £5.7m, come into South Yorkshire. Information on the key grants is shown in the table below.
- ✓ Following the transfer of the functions and competencies of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), due diligence post

integration of the MCA and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on 7 May 2024, identified that the OPCC failed to follow proper accounting practices in determining the amount to charge to revenue for the repayment of debt, known as the Minimum Revenue Provision or MRP. This non-compliance with the legal duty to charge prudent revenue provision for the repayment of debt, meant that charges relating to £65m of capital investment financed through borrowing had not been accounted for in the statutory accounts for the period 2019/20 - 2023/24, nor budgeted for into the future through the medium-term resource strategy.

- ✓ Considerable progress was made to address the budget shortfall and longer-term financial implications through engagement with the external auditor and with the Home Office. This engagement led to an agreement on accounting treatment for past accounting omissions and future budget omissions, along with agreement from the Home Office for support for a capitalisation direction and practical funding support via a cash flow

intervention and an increased contribution to 'legacy' compensation schemes. The mayor continues to lobby Government for a sustainable resolution to the issue.

- ✓ There was additional ongoing engagement with the Home Office, which is continuing, focusing on addressing persistent fiscal challenges arising from a difficult economic climate, heightened and complex demand for services, and unresolved legacy issues which still impact on policing financially many years after the events.
- ✓ In addition, work commenced on developing a financial recovery plan for the Police Fund. The aim of the recovery plan will be to recover the forces position over the medium term to enable the force to deliver a sustainable balanced budget whilst maintaining service to the people of South Yorkshire.

Commissioned Services Grant Funding

Funder	Scheme	Amount	Aims and objectives of funding
Ministry of Justice (MoJ)	Core Grant	£1,638,282	Regular annual grant from MoJ to commission victim services in South Yorkshire.
Additional funding over and above the Core Grant			
MoJ	National Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) Fund. Commenced 2020-21, combined with continued Critical Support fund 2022-23	£590,574	<p>South Yorkshire PCC successfully bid to MoJ to increase the number of IDVA and ISVAs across the county. The bids centred around development of specialist posts that would support harder to reach victims and survivors. This grant includes multiple funding bids that have been successful since 2020 and have since been extended until 2024/25.</p> <p>This funding supported the recruitment of an additional 6 ISVAs and 3 children's ISVAs and 6 IDVAs and 2 Children's IDVAs</p>
MoJ	Funding for additional IDVAs and ISVAs	£496,083	<p>A successful bid to MoJ to increase the number of IDVA and ISVAs across the county. The bid centred around development of specialist posts that would support harder to reach victims and survivors. The new posts specialised in supporting ethnic minority victims/survivors as well as those that have a disability and male victims/survivors. The funding also supported a post to engage and raise awareness within the Gypsy Roma Traveller community.</p> <p>Funding from this grant also supported victims/survivors of Operation Stovewood's National Crime Agency Investigation.</p>
MoJ	Additional funding for Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV) support services	£636,563	<p>South Yorkshire PCC successfully bid to MoJ for additional funding for Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence (SV) support services in South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Funding was awarded to 15 providers supporting victims and survivors of DA and SA. The funding was used for counselling and therapy for children and young people and adults and specialist support for people from ethnic minorities, hospital DA caseworkers and Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) dealing with specialist complex needs, child IDVA, Male IDVA, Older Persons IDVA and Court IDVAs.</p>

Funder	Scheme	Amount	Aims and objectives of funding
Home Office	Safer Streets 5	£354,097	An 18-month project targeting areas of need across the region. The funding was used for CCTV projects in the London Road area of Sheffield, Barnsley hospital corridor, Measbrough Dike, and Goldthorpe as well as multiple areas of Doncaster and Rotherham. Areas also benefitted from target hardening (including lighting) and community engagement/youth work. Funding also facilitated a Neighbourhood Crime Communication Campaign run by Crimestoppers across South Yorkshire.
Home Office	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator	£342,421	Successful bid to Home Office for funding for projects that address domestic abuse perpetrator behaviour.
Home Office	Most Serious Violence and ASB Hotspot Patrolling.	£1,975,864	To increase and enhance uniformed presence in the town centres and neighbourhoods across the country which have the densest concentrations of knife crime and ASB. It will disrupt and prevent knife crime and ASB, increase local community and business engagement and trust, and will support forces to adopt strategic problem-orientated policing to address the root causes.

Income	£000
Core Government Grant	137,148
Other Grant Income	93,572
Police Grant	10,860
Council Tax	95,305
TOTAL	336,885

Revenue Outturn	£000
SYMCA Policing and Reform Directorate	1,784
Partnerships & Commissioning	2,861
Capital Charges	99
Delegated to Chief Constable	323,583
Legacy Costs	11,278
Reserves	-2,720
TOTAL	£336,885

Workforce	Full Time equivalent
SYMCA Policing and Reform Directorate	28
Violence Reduction Unit	7
Custody Visitor Volunteers	17
Police Officers	3,027
PCSOs	99
Police Staff	2,189
Special PCs	64
Cadets and Leaders	97
Volunteers	58
TOTAL	5,586

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA



MAYORAL
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