

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Annual Report (Draft)

2020/21

DRAFT

Commissioner's Introduction

This Annual Report looks back over the year April 2020 to March 2021, and sets out the progress we made in meeting the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Treating people fairly

I set those priorities when I first became Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and after listening again to what individuals and communities have told me they want from their police service and from other services that I commission, I have decided to keep them as they are.

However, what made this last year so very different from previous years was the arrival of the coronavirus leading to restrictions and lock-downs. This affected everything - crime, policing, travel, work - in all our communities. Even as I write these words three months into the new year, we are still not 'back to normal' or clear what 'normal' will mean post virus.

At first last year, crime fell. Or rather, those crimes where offenders had to leave their homes to commit them - such as residential burglaries - fell because they were locked down with everyone else. But this raised anxieties about how criminals would adapt to these changed circumstances: would more crime go on line and were some crimes becoming harder for victims to report - such as domestic abuse? In addition, the need for social distancing impacted on the courts. Backlogs built and for a while the Crown Court functioned in a restricted way and jury trials ceased for several months. All this required the Police to think about their response and how they might deal with some of these new or changing realities.

The Police also had to enforce the restrictions as well as go about their business as usual and do what they could to keep free of the virus. It is very much to their credit that absentee levels never reached some of those predicted and a full service was maintained.

One feature of the year was the amount of contact PCCs had with government ministers using video conferencing. For many weeks we had a weekly call with the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse, and were able to raise our concerns directly with him. It is very much to the minister's credit that he listened to what we said and we saw, for instance, extra funding made available to help victims of domestic abuse as a result.

My office worked at home from March 2020 and I would like to thank all the staff who made this transition possible. It is clear that we shall not return to the same pattern as before, though exactly how things will be is yet to be determined.

While there has been great progress, some areas of concern remain for me, and I will be anxious to see improvements in the coming year - notably, reductions in neighbourhood crimes, serious violence, drug dealing, retail and rural crimes, and work to understand and improve on the low conviction rates for serious sexual offences.

But throughout this eventful year I continued to support South Yorkshire Police (SYP) while holding them to account against the three priorities.

Police and Crime Plan and the Coronavirus Pandemic

One of my key responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is to publish the Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) for South Yorkshire. The Plan outlines the priorities for the area and how I will work with the police and partners to achieve them.

Given the exceptional situation we found ourselves in during 2020/21 because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, there were wide ranging changes to the way of life for everyone and changes to the way business and organisations had to operate with the focus of my activity having to change for 2020/21.

At the start of the Pandemic it became clear that the Police and Crime Commissioner elections due to take place in May 2020 would have to be postponed. This meant decisions had to be made about the current Police and Crime Plan which would normally have been renewed after the election. Decisions about current priorities and areas of focus had to be made.

I decided that the existing Police and Crime Plan (2017-2021), which was renewed in 2019 would remain in place initially and that it was important that the three priorities should also remain the same throughout the pandemic, namely:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Treating people fairly

Whilst the priorities remained the same, the emergency situation meant that business could not be conducted as usual and that in order to respond to the emergency and fulfil my statutory responsibilities, my focus during 2020/21 in respect of those priorities had to be:

- Ensuring the Chief Constable had sufficient resources to respond to the emergency
- Ensuring, on behalf of the public, that the police responded to the pandemic in ways that were necessary, sufficient, proportionate and ethical (holding to account)
- Facilitating effective partnership working among agencies and groups working in community safety, violence reduction and criminal justice
- Commissioning and co-commissioning services, particularly for victims of crime, and providing grants for policing and anti-crime purposes

As the year progressed, towards the end of 2020, I was able to undertake two countywide surveys to gauge public opinion and peoples' views on what issues we should focus on until a new Police and Crime Plan could be produced. Based on these consultations plus taking account of the work my office undertakes in understanding crime and demand facing the force and whether their performance needs to improve, I was able to identify some key concerns that needed a focus from January 2021 onwards.

I published these areas of focus in an addendum to the Police and Crime Plan, details of which can be found at **Appendix 1** of this report.

Given that these revised areas of focus were developed later in the year it will not be possible to always show progress in achieving some of them in this report. However, the areas of focus in the addendum do lay the groundwork for the future, ensuring that the work my office and I focus on, reflects what local people want from their Police and Crime Commissioner and their Police Force.

Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation characterised the Coronavirus COVID-19 as a pandemic and on 23rd March 2020, the UK Government announced restrictions aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions instructed people not to leave their homes, except for minimal exceptions such as buying food, taking exercise, seeking medical help or travelling to work if that could not be done from home. In addition, non-essential retail was instructed to close. As a result the way of life for everyone changed. Organisations providing essential public services had to change too – with the Police facing additional challenges of having to enforce wide ranging and frequently changing legislation. This is my brief summary of how my office, the Police and partners responded.

- The South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum COVID-19 Strategic Co-ordinating Group was set up to deliver multi-agency emergency plans to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the communities of South Yorkshire. The most senior leaders from each of the relevant organisations were represented on this group. An Assistant Chief Constable represented South Yorkshire Police and updated me regularly.
- South Yorkshire Police (SYP) put in place Gold, Silver and Bronze Command structures to provide strategic, tactical and operational leadership and co-ordination of the Force's response. These meetings were attended by members of my Senior Leadership Team.
- Both SYP and staff within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) were instructed to work from home wherever possible with meetings being held either by conference call or via video conferencing. Because of the plans already in place and effective working across specialist teams, this change was completed quickly and effectively to minimise the adverse impacts this might otherwise have had on the workforce and on the public.
- I substantially increased the frequency of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) meetings so that all criminal justice partners, including SYP, Courts, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Probation and victim and witness services were aware of the pandemic's impact on each other's revised ways of working and recovery plans.
- The Courts were severely affected by the restrictions, meaning that all but the most urgent of matters were delayed getting to court. Crime, although reduced, still continued and so court backlogs built up and plans had to be quickly put in place by all criminal justice partners to manage the impact whilst implementing new ways of working to deal with the backlogs. For example, using Video Remand Hearings to reduce prisoner movements, using video technology in the Crown Courts and delivering new sentencing options.
- My team produced regular updates to help partners throughout the criminal justice system understand the dynamic situation faced by them all individually and collectively. The team also worked supporting the LCJB to develop a simulation model to allow partners to identify pressure points in the wider criminal justice system to inform their Covid recovery plans.
- I had regular meetings with ministers, senior officials and the senior judiciary as we carefully navigated our way through both maintaining a functioning criminal justice system and its recovery; highlighting local issues that demanded national solutions.
- Those agencies managing offenders had to come up with new ways of working to make sure their work continued effectively.
- The OPCC liaised with the providers of services that I commission to understand the impact and the revised working arrangements that they had put in place to continue to support victims of crime. As the pandemic went on, the Government provided additional pots of funding to support victims' services throughout the pandemic. These grants had to be bid for and so my Partnerships and Commissioning Team worked hard to write bids and support other organisations to win grant funding. Some examples of how providers managed during the pandemic and the additional funding that my office managed to successfully bid for are included in the following pages.
- Despite the pandemic, the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan remained the same, and the OPCC and partners worked hard to deliver against them, therefore this report still aims to show the activity, achievements, performance and outcomes against each of these.

Leading South Yorkshire Police's (SYP's) response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Assistant Chief Constable David Hartley was tasked with the responsibility of leading South Yorkshire Police's response to the Pandemic (Covid Gold). The following is a summary of what it was like and what was involved in leading that response in David Hartley's own words.

I remember the first breaking news of a potential pandemic in January 2020 and to be fair, it didn't register on the top 100 priorities in SYP Op Support portfolio. It was another day tackling gangs, guns, violent crime, road crime, protest, public order and all that keep our county a busy place to work. A pandemic? Surely won't be an issue?

I do recall thinking it was just as well we had run a strategic exercise based upon a Flu pandemic in December of 2019, so we would be ready for anything this newly named Covid-19 would bring.

If someone would have suggested I would be Covid Gold from that time, through to my retirement, I would have laughed at the prospect. That is a reality now.

It is normal in policing to respond to, re-organise, plan, adapt and progress with steadfast determination to the myriad of challenges we face, so to be fair, this was business as usual for a new and rather large challenge. The structures and response just reflect what we do. We make sense of it, we understand it, we anticipate it, we project. Then we apply a sense of prioritised purpose, we reference all new policy and powers – then we form a plan. As we stand in the summer of 2021 we are on version 32 of the plan.

The scale of the challenge was unusual. The multi-dimensional threat harm and risk assessment carried out by Supt Paul McCurry (the Covid Silver Commander) is a thing to behold by its scale and complexity. It is almost a work of art. That set the foundation for SYP to respond with a huge sense of confidence and purpose. So, what were, and are, the headline challenges in leading the force through Covid?

Demand. Demand for policing increased during the pandemic, not only did we see an increase in demand due to Covid related incidents, but our overall demand also increased. We created a bespoke command structure and deployment protocol around this under the operation name Artful Mike. It was important that the force understood all Covid related incidents reported, risk assessed them, understood the appropriate legislation and powers available, identified any capacity issues and provided a suitable response to protect the public, whilst also protecting our staff. Sometimes a difficult balance to strike.

We created an internal online dashboard providing details of COVID-19 related incidents across the force area. This provided all the necessary information to monitor the forces approach to Covid related incidents and map these against infection rates. An interactive COVID-19 heat map highlighted locations with high levels of infection. Additional information could be overlaid, which included incidents reported and repeat Locations or breaches of Regulations. This allowed the force to work with partners to explore ways to stem the flow of infections, including agreed joint patrols.

Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic

To oversee and provide **governance** of this, a COVID-19 full command structure was established, supported by the Daily Management Meeting (DMM) operating at 12noon throughout the pandemic. This is chaired by a Chief Inspector with District and Departmental representatives, Compliance Multi Agency Response Team (CMART) lead, Senior analyst and key stakeholders including local authorities and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

Our CMART was our primary **tasking resource**, tasked through the COVID-19 DMM to address breaches, work with partners to enforce those breaches, patrol hotspots for repeat offenders/locations and undertake self-isolating checks utilising data from Public Health England (PHE). This provided consistency and all officers developed a good working knowledge of the relevant legislation.

SYP's approach throughout the pandemic was to follow the 4 E's (engage, explain, encourage, enforce). The majority of the public were compliant with the regulations throughout and were supportive of the police during the various stages.

Our police officers, where necessary, had to be able to use their powers to enforce the various Coronavirus Regulations, including giving directions, removing individuals from gatherings, and issuing fixed penalty notices (FPNs). To ensure these regulations were understood and not misinterpreted we created a comprehensive handbook on the regulations and gave detailed training on the regulations from a specialist senior lawyer in the force's legal services, this was constantly updated as the regulations changed.

Consequently, a relatively small total of 4,533 FPNs were issued by SYP between the 4th August 2020 to the 29th May 2021, which equates to only 0.34 % of the population in South Yorkshire – a testament to our approach and the general support and compliance of the public. The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioners' Ethics Panel did sample a number of FPNs to ensure legitimacy.

As we enter what we all hope is the latter stages of the pandemic we will see the country learning to live with the virus as we build some of the changes made into business as usual. As ever, we look for positive opportunity from these types of events and there is much positive practice we can embed, such as flexible working, efficiency in remote meeting technology, improvements in health and wellbeing, huge strength in our strategic partnerships and a further reminder that our people are our most important part of SYP.

David Hartley
Assistant Chief Constable
Covid Gold

ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021 - SUMMARY

The following is a summary of some of the key activities and achievements during 2020/21 – despite the unique challenges of the pandemic. More detail on all of this is included in the following pages.

Protecting Vulnerable People	Continued to provide a range of victim support services including successfully gaining additional funding of over £600,000 to support victims through the pandemic.
	Made sure tackling domestic abuse remained a key priority including delivering a comprehensive training programme called DA Matters for police officers, staff and partners.
	Introduced new ways for the public to contact the Police through online reporting, (including specifically for victims of domestic abuse) and call backs and increased the number of people available to take 999 and 101 calls.
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Continued to focus on providing an effective Neighbourhood Policing service including increasing the numbers of officers working in neighbourhoods.
	Successfully secured funding to continue the work of the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit to take a public health, preventative approach to tackling violence in our communities.
	Saw the successful introduction of an Armed Crime Team to specifically tackle gun crime.
	Continued to focus on local priorities using SmartWater ⁽¹⁾ technology and local partnership problem solving approaches to tackle burglary and using Speedwatch to tackle speeding. SYP's off road bike team were used extensively to successfully tackle the anti-social use of quad bikes.
Treating People Fairly	Despite the lockdown restrictions, my office and I managed to keep in touch and engage with local communities and businesses through online meetings, conducting surveys, using social media and when rules allowed, still attending physical meetings and running joint engagement stalls.
	Asked the Independent Ethics Panel to focus on South Yorkshire Police's proportionate use of constantly changing coronavirus legislation including the issuing of fixed penalty notices for breaches.
	Continued to provide an Independent Custody Visiting service using a mix of physical visits and desktop reviews to make sure police custody detainees were being treated appropriately.
	Introduced a new PCC's grant scheme. This uses money taken from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act to increase the grants available to groups and charities supporting victims and working in local communities to prevent crime and support people from falling into a life of crime.
The Criminal Justice System	Worked in partnership with all criminal justice partners to make sure improvements continued to be made for victims navigating the wider criminal justice system as well as ensuring all partners were aware of each other's challenges and plans as a result of the Pandemic.

(1) SmartWater is a traceable forensic property marking product – invisible to the naked eye.

Protecting Vulnerable People:

Any of us might become vulnerable at any time in our lives including due to being the victim of crime. We could be stalked, burgled or have the data on our computers hacked. But some people are more vulnerable than others. Children, for instance, may become vulnerable to grooming for sexual or criminal purposes, on the streets or, increasingly, online. Victims of rape and sexual offences are particularly vulnerable. The coronavirus pandemic has increased vulnerability, particularly in affecting people's mental health and wellbeing. It has also changed the nature of crime and consequently will have changed how people might have become vulnerable.

Key Activities and Achievements. During 2020/21:

- ✓ I have ensured the continued provision of a Victim Support service to the people of South Yorkshire during the pandemic (£565,000). The service:
 - Developed its online/digital service (MySupportSpace) so that victims could still access the support they needed without the need to meet face to face.
 - Increased the number of trained Criminal Justice Champions from 20 to 73. Criminal Justice Champions are based in other organisations such as local authorities, ethnic minority forums and housing providers to promote Victim Support to their staff, volunteers and clients.
 - Continued to promote the service to those officers newly appointed by South Yorkshire Police, including Investigation Officers to make sure that key links are made between the police and Victim Support so that victims receive the best possible support.
- ✓ Commissioned the Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) Service to offer practical help, advice and information for victims of rape and sexual abuse and their families. During the year we were successful in obtaining additional funding to ensure changes could be made to continue to provide support to victims during the pandemic.
- ✓ Continued to support the regional Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) which:
 - Worked quickly at the start of the pandemic to ensure victims could still seek and receive help despite the lockdown. This has included working with A&E, GPs and Sexual Health to make sure that referral routes were still able to work properly given revised ways of working during the pandemic.
 - Sought out new ways of promoting the SARC, for example with the LGBTQ+ community through attendance at the online Pride event at Sheffield in August.
 - Throughout the pandemic, ensured that domestic abuse victim referrals continued to be identified and prioritised for support services.
- ✓ Co-commissioned the Child Sexual Assault Service in South Yorkshire to support victims both with health and forensic needs as well as accessing a criminal justice outcome if indeed that is appropriate.
- ✓ Continued to keep a focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines which has seen:
 - The appointment of a specific SYP Child Exploitation Officer role to educate professionals to recognise key indicators of child exploitation. The officer attends national and regional training events to ensure SYP keep up to date with methods and trends linked to child exploitation.
 - Increased SYP's focus on advancements in technology and combatting online CSE through seconding an officer to the Global Response Against Child Exploitation Project run by Centric/Europol in Sheffield.
 - The introduction of a Digital Portal so that the Public can report incidents online to SYP and access more information about CSE/CCE quickly.
 - The Child Vulnerability Tracker, developed in previous months, starting to be used to identify and prioritise the safeguarding of young people and children enabling the right support to be put in place to keep them safe.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Key Activities and Achievements. During 2020/21:

- ✓ I have co-funded and/or co-commissioned domestic abuse services in each local authority area of South Yorkshire.
- ✓ SYP commenced the highly rated “DA Matters” training for all Police Officers to increase skills and knowledge in dealing with domestic abuse incidents and crimes.
- ✓ Modern Slavery Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Officers were introduced, based within each force district to provide expertise and advice to all investigators. Each SPOC has attended the College of Policing Modern Slavery Advisor course to increase expert knowledge and share their expertise more widely. I also continued my support to the South Yorkshire Strategic Modern Slavery Partnership.
- ✓ I have focused on the increased threat of Cyber Crime including Cyber Fraud during the Pandemic. For example:
 - Using social media campaigns to raise awareness during lockdown of how to stay safe online and be aware of scams as new ones occurred.
 - The Cyber Protect Officer has engaged with business and community groups to provide help in staying safe online during increased online working during the pandemic.
 - The “Little Book of Cyber Scams” has been released to provide businesses and the public with up to date advice and information.
 - Focussing on prevention and intervening early to stop young people becoming involved in cyber offences through referrals onto a national support programme for those who may be at risk of getting involved in this type of crime.
- ✓ I have liaised closely with SYP to gain assurance around improving access for the public to report non emergencies to the Police Control Centre at Atlas Court including:
 - Closely monitoring the progress of increasing the number of switchboard operators, introduction of longer switchboard operating times and reducing the numbers of abandoned calls. Monitoring also, the restructuring of middle management in the control room.
 - The introduction of the online reporting facility which provides people with another way of reporting non emergencies without the need to call 101.
 - The introduction of an online domestic abuse reporting portal at the start of lockdown to enable victims to report more easily and with more anonymity if needing help whilst being confined to their homes.
 - Approved an additional 10 call back assist licences to double the capacity of the service that allows users to receive a call back rather than waiting for their call to be answered at busy times.
- ✓ Provided OPCC representation to the online meetings of the Strategic Blue Light and Hospital Alliance data sub group which include a wide range of partners across health, the police and fire and rescue to better understand demand and provide joined up responses to those people seeking help with mental health issues.
- ✓ Continued to support the National Road Safety Charity – BRAKE, with a small financial contribution to support their work in supporting bereaved families of road traffic victims.
- ✓ I have also continued to support the work of the Youth Offending Teams across the County (£688,000) aiming to keep young people away from crime and re-offending.

Protecting Vulnerable People

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 just short of a 9% decrease in 999 calls during 2020/21 but an increase of 5.5% in 101 calls. Average wait times for 101 calls reduced by just under a minute.⁽¹⁾
- During 2020/21 there were over 35,000 referrals ⁽¹⁾ made to Victim Support by SYP, individual self-referrals and from other sources.
- Victims now have to “opt in” to receive support, rather than previously when the majority of victims were automatically referred. The service are now able to give a more effective service to those with an enhanced support entitlement.
- As a result of using Victim Support, people told the service that they felt better informed, had a sense of reintegration, felt safer, had an improved sense of wellbeing, felt better able to cope and had an improved experience of the criminal justice system.
- The coronavirus restrictions have led to a reduction in the number of recorded sexual offences. These crimes have decreased by 15% during the pandemic in 2020/21 compared to the previous year ⁽⁵⁾. Recorded offences will include a mix of reporting of crimes that have taken place during 2020/21 and crimes which have happened in the past but which the victim has only reported during 2020/21.
- Given the fall in levels of recorded sexual offences, there has been a decrease in referrals to the Child’s Sexual Assault Assessment Service in 2020/21. There were 142 referrals on 2020/21 compared to 175 prior to the pandemic. Referrals to the adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre have also seen a decrease to 370 in 2020/21 from 520 in 2019/20.⁽³⁾
- As a result of using the SARC, people told the service that they felt supported, staff were welcoming, non-judgemental, friendly and empathetic – understanding victims’ challenges. Patients were able to feel calm and at ease.
- During 2020/21 there were over 1450 referrals ⁽²⁾ into the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service, a slight decrease compared to pre-pandemic levels of 1550.
- As a result of using the ISVA service, over three quarters of people reported improved health and wellbeing, improved feeling of safety and feeling more informed and empowered to act. 67% of people reported being able to better cope with everyday life. 81% of clients said that they were able to stay in the criminal justice system because of the help of the ISVA.
- Recorded domestic abuse crimes increased by 1.7% during 2020/21 compared to the previous year ⁽⁴⁾. Ensuring identification of domestic abuse crimes is important to make sure that these crimes can be tackled and victims supported.
- The continued priority focus on domestic abuse crime means the arrest rate has increased from 52% in 2019/20 to 59% in 2020/21.⁽⁴⁾
- There was no statistically significant change to the overall satisfaction with the police of victims of domestic abuse – 80% satisfied ⁽⁴⁾. (Covers period July 20 to Mar 21 only as no survey was carried out Apr 20 to June 20)

Source:

(1) Victim Support Service (2) ISVA service (3) Sexual Assault Referral Centre (4) SYP – South Yorkshire Police data is from a live system so subject to change and audit. SYP data cannot be reproduced without permission from SYP (5) ONS

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 – just as much through this year’s pandemic as it is during a normal year. Police, Fire and Probation also have a duty to collaborate to keep people safe. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a key way in which all partners across South Yorkshire work together at a local level to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and to keep people safe. They have continued to work together throughout the pandemic, albeit using different ways of working in many cases. CSPs are made up of representatives from local authorities, South Yorkshire Police, health services, housing associations and fire. During 2020/21, I provided funding of over £585,000 to help them work towards achieving the Police and Crime Plan priorities. Neighbourhood policing relies on good partnership working 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. Throughout the pandemic, The Violence Reduction Unit set up in 2019 has 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.

Key activities and achievements during 2020/21.

- ✓ I Ensured the Countywide Community Safety Forum met during the pandemic, albeit virtually. The forum allows the Community Safety Partnership leads across South Yorkshire to meet with the PCC and during the pandemic discussed how partnership and PCC priorities could still be delivered including:
 - Ensuring effective and timely partnership working in securing bids for additional central government funding to deliver key priorities.
 - Ensuring flexibility for CSPs in spending OPCC funding on projects that might be adversely impacted by the pandemic.
 - Focussing on key areas that might be impacted more adversely during the pandemic such as domestic abuse and safeguarding.
 - Ensuring victims were still able to get the services they needed through providing different ways of accessing help and support, for example through video or social media.
- ✓ I continued to support the development of neighbourhood policing including:
 - Seeing additional dedicated resources thanks to the increase in the Council Tax Precept for 2020/21. During this year resources for neighbourhood teams increased to 455 police officers and staff (from around 260 in 2017).
 - Introduced an accredited training programme specifically for neighbourhood officers. 181 officers have attended and all officers will have attended by November 2021.
 - The development of an app. which allows neighbourhood team supervisors to analyse areas of most demand and time pressures on their officers. This allows better decisions to be made on how and where resources are allocated to make the most difference to local communities.
- ✓ The South Yorkshire and Humberside Collaborative Legal Services team worked quickly to provide police officers with up to date information on constantly changing coronavirus legislation and guidance so that front line officers could provide a policing service that was proportionate and instilled confidence in local people.
- ✓ I continued to develop and strengthen the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). There is more about the unit in the following pages.

Key activities and achievements during 2020/21.

- ✓ To tackle an increase in firearms discharges in South Yorkshire during 2020/21, an Armed Crime Team (ACT) was set up to enable the Police to carry out focused disruption activity and enhance its investigation and intelligence gathering capability. During 2020/21 the team focussed its work in Sheffield, where particular areas had seen an increase in gun discharges. The team work in close partnership with local neighbourhood policing teams and other specialist teams within SYP and has implemented Operation Basic Mike. This is a systematic approach to carry out weapons sweeps and open land searches in public spaces where communities are being adversely affected by violent crime.
- ✓ Through continuing to host the Planning and Efficiency Group meeting between SYP and the OPCC senior leadership teams and OPCC officer attendance at internal SYP meetings, I have continued to focus on ensuring an understanding of the changing nature of demand on policing services. As a result, SYP have expanded the Rural Crime Team, introduced an Armed Crime Team as detailed above and been able to appropriately resource the policing of the coronavirus regulations.
- ✓ In my efforts to tackle the impact of drugs in our communities, I have also supported the work of drug treatment services who conduct drug testing in custody (£893,000). The services work in our custody suites to engage with detainees who test positive for the use of opiates. These services also proactively engage with detainees who may be using other substances or alcohol to provide them with routes into treatment services. All of which aims to address substance misusing behaviours that could be a cause for offending behaviour.
- ✓ I continued to focus on the key priorities for local communities around residential burglary, speeding vehicles and drugs offences including:
 - Using problem solving approaches in key burglary hotspot areas together with the use property marking with SmartWater resulting in a reduction of burglaries in those areas.
 - Undertaking regular speed enforcement activity across the districts letting residents know of the impact of these operations via social media, newsletters and through SYP alerts.
 - Implementing the innovative approach to tackling and disrupting the increase in cannabis farms in private properties through the Cannabis Grow Scheme. The level of recorded drugs offences increased in South Yorkshire during the pandemic as it did nationally. This may have been as a result of offences being more visible during lockdown and reduced levels of other crime may have allowed officers to be pro-active in seeking out these offences.

Violence Reduction Unit

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was established in September 2019 and continued its work during 2020/21 following a further successful bid for funding. The VRU takes a public health approach to preventing and reducing violence in South Yorkshire. This means that the unit provides strategic leadership, looking at the causes of violence, working in partnership to stop violence before it starts, halt the progression of violence once it has already begun and provide ways out for people already entrenched in violent behaviour.

The Pandemic affected the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit's activities but thanks to the hard work and innovation of the team and partners the Unit has still been able to deliver interventions and support projects.

Key Activities and achievements

During 2020/21 the Unit's achievements included:

- ✓ The management of three Home Office grant rounds – the Violence Reduction Fund, the Domestic Abuse Fund and the COVID 19 contingencies fund.
- ✓ Developed and ensured a Reducing Violence Action Plan was included within each of the four Community Safety Partnership's strategies. These plans address the priorities identified by the VRU's area profile and help ensure multi-agency commitment to reducing violence in local communities.
- ✓ Continuing to deliver interventions such as the Plan B Custody Navigators and Hospital A&E Navigators schemes which offer people in police custody or at A&E for incidents relating to violence an opportunity to make positive changes in their lives.
- ✓ Ensuring continuation of the employment project Forging Ahead, by moving its delivery of the service on-line.
- ✓ Mentors in Violence Prevention: This is a programme delivered to school staff and involves older children acting as mentors to younger children. The mentors help younger children deal with issues that arise like bullying or being drawn towards inappropriate behaviours.
- ✓ Trauma Informed 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 effected 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.
- ✓ The development of a domestic abuse awareness campaign using case studies and animations to encourage those who may be victims of domestic abuse to seek help from the range of services available in South Yorkshire.

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.

The coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions have impacted on levels of recorded crime and ASB, performance and outcomes. This needs to be taken into account when looking at decreases or increases in recorded incidents and crime.

➤ **During 2020/21 compared to 2019/20**

- Total recorded crime in South Yorkshire (excluding fraud) decreased by -12% compared to a -13% decrease across England and Wales (1).
- Recorded level of residential burglary have fallen by -25% compared to a -27% fall across England and Wales. (1)
- Recorded levels of drug offences have increased by 26% compared to an increase of 14% in England and Wales (1)
- Recorded levels of Anti-social behaviour recorded by SYP have risen by 19% (2).
- Total recorded knife crime has fallen by -19% (1)
- Recorded levels of violence against the person crimes decreased by 1%. There was no change to the levels in England and Wales (1).
- Recorded volumes of hate crime have risen by 15%. (2)
- Adult re-offending has fallen by 1.5 percentage points. Juvenile re-offending has increased by 0.2 points (3)
- The percentage of victims of selected crimes who are satisfied with the overall service from the police saw a statistically significant increase – 80% satisfied in 2020/21 compared to 75% satisfied in 2019/20 (4).

In addition, during 2020/21, the new armed crime team has overseen:

- Over 80 arrests linked to firearms offences (2).
- A 27% decrease in the number of firearm discharges in Sheffield during the second six months of 2020 compared to the first (2).
- A 36% reduction in discharges, a 22% increase in firearms seized and 78% fewer firearms stolen when comparing data for January to March 2021 with that from January to March 2020 (2).

➤ **The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit has:**

- Provided funding to 118 community groups and organisations across South Yorkshire.
- Made positive contact with around 100 people per month through the Plan B Custody Navigator and Hospital A&E Navigators programmes.
- Seen nine schools, colleges or organisations complete the Mentors in Violence Prevention training, despite many schools being disrupted during the pandemic.
- Achieved national and local recognition from Government Ministers and the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire for its work in contributing to reducing violence and supporting groups.
- Despite restrictions, maintained activity of the Community Working Groups with the numbers increasing ensuring local people's views are taken into account in respect of violence reduction priorities and aims.

(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. Latest data published May 2021.

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

Treating People Fairly

The need to ensure that people are treated fairly was highlighted even more during the pandemic. Changes to ways of working, processes and procedures that the pandemic made necessary can impact disproportionality on different groups of people. My ability to engage directly with communities to understand their views on fairness, whether about the fair allocation of resources or fair treatment, has been severely curtailed this year. Mainly limited to meeting by video call, conference calls or corresponding by email or letter or conducting surveys. Given these constraints my Independent Ethics Panel have been key in allowing me to gain assurance around fair treatment and assuring me around the police use of the emergency Coronavirus powers.

Key activities and achievements during 2020/21

- ✓ I acted quickly at the very start of the pandemic by asking my Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) to provide assurance, guidance and observation on the Police's response to the pandemic. The IEP focussed on:
 - The Force's proportionate implementation and ongoing use of the new legislation;
 - Complaints and reports from the public of alleged breaches of the rules;
 - The approach being taken to the protection of vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Following their work, the IEP presented their findings at the Public Accountability Board meeting on 11 August 2020 and said that:
"Our over-arching conclusion on the available evidence, is that at a time of a rapidly-evolving and unprecedented crisis, and challenge for society, SYP has been largely successful in:
 - *Maintaining the trust and confidence of the population*
 - *Acting consistently within the ethical requirements of contemporary policing*
 - *Responding sensitively and appropriately to the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups*
 - *Demonstrating a strategic approach alongside operational and tactical planning."*
- ✓ The Panel were able to provide some external scrutiny of the Force's issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for breaches of coronavirus restrictions by reviewing a sample of Body Worn Video. This scrutiny showed that FPNs had been issued correctly in line with legislation at the time. It also showed an empathetic approach by officers in what could potentially be difficult circumstances and carefully dealing with people who might have had little or no previous experience of dealing with the Police.
- ✓ At a time when it was impossible to conduct the usual face to face meetings to provide external scrutiny around Stop and Search, members of the IEP held two sessions reviewing body worn video of stop and search activity by SYP officers. The panel members were able to conclude from the sample reviewed that SYP were conducting the stop and searches lawfully and fairly.
- ✓ Despite undertaking this additional work resulting from the pandemic, the IEP continued to focus key areas of assurance by receiving reports and questioning officers in SYP on the subject of Stop and Search, Use of Force, SYP's Workforce, Complaints against the Police and Hate Crime.

Key activities and achievements during 2020/21

- ✓ In May of 2020, the killing of George Floyd in America shocked the world and the spotlight was focussed on how police engage with people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in this country and in our local communities. As a result I met a number of times with representatives of the Black community in Sheffield to explore what the Police and partners could learn directly from their experience and how the Police and community could work better together. Topics discussed included disproportionate use of Stop and Search on people from black and minority ethnic groups, recruiting a more diverse workforce into the Police, the experience of Black people in the wider criminal justice system and the involvement of more Black people in scrutiny panels that looked at the work of the Police in areas of public interest such as Stop and Search. The Independent Ethics Panel have lead members for Stop and Search and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The work they have undertaken during 2020/21 and will undertake during the next year has focussed on gaining a better understanding of stop and search disproportionality and ensuring external scrutiny of stop and search activity is effective. Work has also included looking at maximising the opportunities presented by the continued recruitment of additional police officers to improve the diversity of South Yorkshire Police's workforce.
- ✓ I have continued to provide a Restorative Justice Service in South Yorkshire (£187,000) to enable communication between those harmed by crime and those responsible for the harm. The aim is to give victims an opportunity to let those responsible know of the full impact of the offence. It also allows people committing offences the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. The service was co-commissioned with the Community Rehabilitation Company which also provided part of the funding for the service.
- ✓ The arrangements in place for handling of police complaints continued to be developed since national changes were introduced in February 2020. These changes involved me taking on extra responsibilities for reviewing how complaints are dealt with by SYP where the complainant is not happy with the outcome.
- ✓ The pandemic meant that I had to make changes quickly to the Independent Custody Visitors scheme that my office run, where volunteer members of the public visit police custody suites unannounced to check that detainees are being treated fairly and properly. The restrictions meant that visitors could not physically go to custody suites for some months. Therefore, I introduced a temporary arrangement, whereby officers within the OPCC looked at samples of records made by custody officers during a detainee's time in custody to make sure correct processes and procedures had taken place and had been logged accurately. Any issues arising were discussed with SYP quickly and necessary changes made so that people detained in custody received the correct treatment and were treated properly and safely. As lockdown restrictions eased, some limited physical visits were able to re-start, however the custody log checking remained in place throughout 2020/21.

Key Activities

Despite the difficulties posed by the Pandemic in engaging with local communities face to face, during 2020/21 my engagement team and I have:

- ✓ Used social media to engage with and analyse the public's responses to police activity and local initiatives and get an understanding of local priorities.
- ✓ Introduced the PCC's Weekly Blog to help keep members of the public, partners and communities up to date with how I have been carrying out my role during the pandemic. The questions and comments generated by the blog has allowed me another way to have regular and direct conversations with individual members of the public and community groups across the county.
- ✓ Consulted widely with members of the public and local businesses including:
 - Conducting a survey towards the end of 2020 to understand what was important and what the priorities were for residents of South Yorkshire.
 - Consulting with local residents and business in January 2021 on the level of council tax precept.
 - Running a survey to gather the views and understand the needs of people affected by rural crime.
- ✓ Attended some local community meetings including town and parish councils through video conferencing.
- ✓ Run a series of joint engagement stalls in Barnsley with the SYP Hate Crime Co-Ordinator and Barnsley Safe Places Scheme (for vulnerable people).
- ✓ Run some limited engagement stalls with local neighbourhood policing teams and voluntary groups across the districts as lockdown restrictions allowed.

In addition:

- ✓ I have received, analysed and replied to correspondence from local residents and councillors to take account of the views expressed and issues raised and have taken issues up with SYP as appropriate. Common themes from correspondence during the year include Covid-19 – restrictions and enforcement, speeding/driving and parking, quad bikes and off road nuisance bikes, Smart Motorways and wildlife crime.
- ✓ I also received compliments about SYP; typically these are from people expressing gratitude for the support individual officers have given them.

Treating People Fairly

Proceeds of Crime Act Community Grants of up to £7,500 are available to those community groups that can help me achieve the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan. During 2020/21, I allocated over £250,000 to community groups to spend.

During 2020/21:

- ✓ I re-launched the Community Grants scheme as the Proceeds of Crime Act Community Grants scheme which saw money confiscated from criminals as part of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), form part of an increased budget available for charities and organisations to apply for. This meant during 2020/21, I was able to allocate over £250,000 to community groups - double the amount of £125,000 in the previous year. Some of the grant allocations for 2020/21 Included:
- £10,000 to Affinity 2020 CIC in Rotherham to support victims of abuse to gain the skills and expertise to recognise abuse of children, prevent abuse of their children and create positive bonds with their children aimed at breaking the cycle of abuse.
 - £10,000 to We Can Grow Communities in Doncaster to create diversionary opportunities for over 100 children to grow their own food to significantly improve their health, obesity, diet and educational outcomes, allowing them to learn how to grow vegetables from seed to harvest, and beyond, to feed themselves, their family and help their community.
 - £8,500 to Reach Up Youth in Sheffield to engage 20 young people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities across Burngreave at risk of offending and/or at risk of becoming victims of crime. The young people take part in arts activities that inspire them, and give them support to find their own way.
 - £10,000 to the Snowdrop Project in Barnsley to support survivors of human trafficking including helping survivors gain independence, access emotional and psychological support and integrate successfully into the local community.
 - £5,000 to SayIt for their Call It Out Project which aims to help Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender people who are victims and survivors of domestic abuse to access support services across South Yorkshire.
 - £6,800 to Remedi to extend a project across the whole of South Yorkshire aimed at educating young people on what a hate crime is, how to report it and where victims can get support. There are also one to one sessions for young people who are at risk of or have already committed a hate crime as well as delivering group sessions in local schools, colleges and community groups.

A full list of grant allocations for 2020/21 can be found on the OPCC website: <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/grants/>

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

Stop and Search: SYP's stop and search activity during 2020/21 is shown in the table below. The table shows some disproportionality in the rate of stop and searches on people from minority ethnic groups. The Independent Ethics Panel have sought and continue to seek further assurance around this as part of their work (see earlier in the report).

South Yorkshire April 2020 - March 2021 ⁽¹⁾				
Ethnicity	No. of searches	% of searches	Rate per 1000 population*	% positive outcome**
:White	11,124	68%	9.1	22%
Black	741	5%	28.8	27%
Asian	1,423	9%	22.2	21%
Other	155	1%	10.2	25%
Mixed	287	2%	13.8	32%
Not Stated	2,613	16%	-	15%

*Rate per 1000 population is based on 2011 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.

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

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) OPCC

SYP Workforce: At the end of 2020/21 compared to the end of the previous year, the percentage of SYP's workforce from a minority ethnic background increased from 249 to 276 (4.7% and 4.9% respectively of the workforce). ⁽¹⁾

During 2020/21 my engagement team and I have:

- ✓ Collected and analysed the views of:
 - Almost 120 people on the subject of rural crime during June and July 2020 ⁽²⁾
 - Almost 2,000 people to understand their policing priorities during November and December 2020 ⁽²⁾ and
 - Over 2,000 people on the level of Council Tax Precept for policing in January 2021 ⁽²⁾
- ✓ Used the views collected to set the level of Council Tax Precept for 2021/22, to determine the priorities and areas of focus for a revised Police and Crime Plan for 2021/22 (see appendix 1) and to ensure SYP continue to focus on Rural Crime.
- ✓ The focus on rural crime has seen a new wildlife and rural crime team be developed with the appointment of 2 full time Wildlife Crime Co-ordinators with three new officers to be appointed in 2021/22. Over 40 accredited Wildlife Crime Officers are now in place with plans for a further 20 to be appointed as part of the Off Road Bike Team. ⁽¹⁾

In addition:

- ✓ I have received and responded to almost 1,600 pieces of correspondence giving me insight into current issues for residents. ⁽²⁾
- ✓ Under the new complaints review process, I received 112 requests for a review. ⁽²⁾
- ✓ Despite the restrictions, Independent Custody Visitors managed to undertake 49 visits to custody suites and 6 visits to kennels to check on animal welfare.⁽²⁾

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 focussed on the police, or other agencies, when in fact it is a result of this very complex system. We have to make the system more responsive. I support and chair 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.
- The rehabilitation of offenders, including young people, who commit crime, and the reduction of reoffending.
- A more efficient and integrated criminal justice system.

Shown below is some the work that has been undertaken by the South Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board during 2020/21.

During 2020/21:

- ✓ The LCJB undertook a specific piece of work looking at the impact of the pandemic on victims within the criminal justice system, this piece of work also looked at the impact on those people working for criminal justice partners who support victims during the lockdown restrictions.
- ✓ My team supporting the LCJB helped organisations to secure funding to help address the needs of vulnerable female offenders. Changing Lives from Doncaster were awarded funding to find ways in which females could be better supported at various points in their criminal justice journey, away from criminality.
- ✓ Criminal Justice Partners introduced significant changes to the usual way of doing things which had been planned prior to the pandemic – for example, changes to the arrangements for disclosing information about the case; to introducing new arrangements in recognition of the increasingly specialist role of preparing case files; to preparation for improving sentencing options available locally.
- ✓ LCJB partners introduced a pilot scheme whereby offenders volunteered to be fitted with tags that let the authorities know their whereabouts round the clock. The advantages of the scheme has been to remove the requirement for curfew checks, enable offenders to counteract false accusations, provide offenders with a reason to give to associates for not joining in with additional offending and provide additional support if offenders are tempted to re-offend.
- ✓ After a successful bid for funding, partners introduced the Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination Meetings (MATAC), which examine individual cases and puts in place a bespoke set of interventions to target and disrupt serial perpetrators of domestic abuse and challenges them to address their behaviour.
- ✓ My staff worked hard to support preparations for changes to the Probation Service - participating in the processes for identifying specialist providers who will support offenders to address those issues that contribute to their offending - accommodation, education, training & employment (ETE), personal well-being and specific services for women.
- ✓ Being a member of the Yorkshire & the Humber Rehabilitation Partnership, we have made some real progress in a number of key areas of concern and priority for us – addressing education, training and employment and meeting accommodation needs, particularly for those leaving prison without a home to go to.

Transparency, Scrutiny and Holding to Account

Although the areas of focus had to change during the pandemic, my key responsibility of making sure the police and criminal justice partners were able to deliver against the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan remained. Some of the ways in which I have done this are outlined below and more information is provided on my website <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/>. In turn, I continued to be held to account by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel throughout the Pandemic but with a shift from physical meetings to meetings held via video conferencing and correspondence.

The Police and Crime Panel for South Yorkshire

I am ultimately accountable to the public at the ballot box at police and crime commissioner elections, held every four years.

During those four years, I am held to account by the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel is made up of 12 people – ten Councillors from each of the four districts in South Yorkshire, plus two independent members of the public.

It is the Panel's job to make sure I am making decisions in the best interest of the public, including decisions about what priorities are in the Police and Crime Plan, how much the policing precept should be and the recruitment and dismissal of the Chief Constable.

I have to report regularly to the Panel to account for the decisions I make, or to be questioned by them and members of the public.

My officers and the Panel have continued to work closely together in the budget working group and performance sub group, where panel members gain further insight and understanding in respect of decision making and meeting priorities outside of the normal Panel meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Panel for their continued help and support during a difficult year.

More information about the Panel can be found on their website at : <http://www.southyorks.gov.uk/webcomponents/jsecSYPCP.aspx>

Transparency, Scrutiny and Holding to Account

Arrangements	Purpose	Activity April 2020 to March 2021
Public Accountability Board. (Meet monthly)	An opportunity for the PCC and members of the public to question the Chief Constable and his team.	13 meetings held
Joint Independent Audit Committee. (Meet quarterly)	Provides assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable on the effectiveness of the governance, risk management and internal control arrangements – exception reports to the Public Accountability Board meetings.	4 meetings and 4 workshops held
Independent Ethics Panel	Set up by the PCC to provide independent challenge and assurance around integrity, standards and ethics of decision-making in policing.	6 meetings held
One to one meetings with the Chief Constable	To ensure regular communication to discuss strategic matters and current issues.	Weekly meetings
Independent Custody Visiting Scheme	OPCC run scheme where volunteers visit unannounced to check that those being held in custody are being treated properly.	49 visits have been undertaken 644 logs scrutinised
Attendance at SYP meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SYP Trust and Confidence Steering Group. (Every two months) Force Performance day (FPD). (Monthly) District Performance Review (QPR). (Quarterly) 	To understand and gain assurance in relation to work going on to meet the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan.	Trust and Confidence - 4 attended FPD – 8 attended QPR – 14 attended
Decision Log	In line with the Decision Making Framework, decisions made by the PCC and the OPCC of significant public interest are published on the OPCC website.	70 decisions published
Dealing with complaints against the Chief Constable:	The PCC is responsible for investigating complaints against the Chief Constable following statutory guidance.	4 complaints recorded: 1 not upheld, 3 ongoing.
PCC's Assurance Framework	The Assurance Framework includes the Joint Corporate Governance Framework and Holding to Account arrangements to make sure the PCC and Chief Constable conduct business in the right way, for the right reason, at the right time and in the best interests of the public.	

Finance and Resources

Financing the Police is a combination of grant funding received from central government plus additional funding raised locally through a policing precept on the Council Tax. When deciding on the level of precept, I am always acutely aware that South Yorkshire residents face difficulties in meeting the rising costs of day-to-day living and am conscious that the precept is an added financial burden on them. I therefore consult as widely as possible on the level of any increase that I propose to make and any decision I make on increasing the precept has to be agreed by the Police and Crime Panel who hold me to account. For 2020/21, the Panel supported my proposed increase of £3.88 for a Band D property, increasing the annual Band D precept to £198.04.

The budget included investment to support the further increase in police officer posts of 194 in the year, including equipment and other non-pay costs, as well as support staff. Investment of £1.1m was also made into the contact centre at Atlas Court, the Crime Review (£1.1m) and £1.6m into the estate to support the increased workforce being recruited. Inflationary costs of £7.0m (predominantly the pay award assumed at 2.5%) were also been provided for.

Key activities & outcomes

- Successfully brought forward recruitment of 70 (55 full time) police officers as part of the Police Uplift Programme (the project to recruit additional police officers) to reduce the risk of not meeting the uplift target and to ensure the available grant funding was maximised. The Force received £4.2m, which helped to meet the increased cost of police officers and other revenue and capital Uplift costs.
- Successfully secured Home Office funding of just over £3.5m for Serious Violent Crime and the Violence Reduction Unit. Work during 2020/21 proved effective, with the Home Office confirming the continuation of funding into 2021/22.
- Received Covid enforcement funding in March 2021 of £1.5m to reimburse for increased expenditure from the pandemic.
- Good partnership working between my Finance and Partnerships and Commissioning Teams secured an extra £1.95m from the Ministry of Justice, Home Office, NHS England and the PCC Cumbria to provide additional support to victim support services and prevention work. Further detail of this is provided in the following pages.

Finance and Resources

Throughout 2020/21, the Government announced, sometimes at short notice, additional funding which PCC's were able to bid for. The OPCC's Partnership and Commissioning Team, working with many local partners were successful in securing the following additional funding for South Yorkshire.

Whilst additional funding is always welcome, the impact of the additional work on the teams working both in the OPCC and at partners in securing these bids, cannot be underestimated. I would like to thank all those involved for all their hard work in securing these additional funds to help victims of crime in South Yorkshire.

Funder	Scheme	Amount	Aims and objectives of funding
Ministry of Justice	Covid 19 Extraordinary Funding (1)	£475,253	Support for people affected by Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This funding was released in grants to various local charities and organisations that work with victims to ensure organisations were still able to offer support despite the pandemic, subject to due diligence.
Ministry of Justice	Covid 19 Extraordinary Funding (2)	£214,219	Support for people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. This funding was released in grants to various local charities and organisations that work with victims to ensure organisations were still able to offer support despite the pandemic
Ministry of Justice	Funding for additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs)	£75,280 20/21 (£210,000 in total over 2 years)	Funding to increase the capacity of the South Yorkshire ISVA service from October 2020; increasing ISVA numbers by 4 over a period of two years
Ministry of Justice	Additional National Crime Agency (NCA) Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) funding	£262,500	Additional funding to cover the cost of the separate ISVA service which currently supports historic victims of Child Sexual Exploitation as part of NCA Operation. Stovewood.
Home Office	Safer Streets Fund	£649,964	Funding with the aim of reducing acquisitive crime, increase local capacity and provide evidence of "what works" so that these interventions can be increased.

Funder	Scheme	Amount	Aims and objectives of funding
Home Office	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Funding	£232,037	To support the introduction of perpetrator-focused domestic abuse programmes.
Home Office	Modern Slavery	£3000	Raise awareness of Modern Slavery and how to report key concerns.
NHS England	Sexual Abuse Services Support	£11,277	Support to secure additional technology resources for services supporting victims of sexual abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic
PCC Cumbria	National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) Advanced Tools for Offender Management	£28,105	To acquire digital forensics technology and provide digital media investigations training
Funding specifically to the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit			
Home Office	Serious Violence Fund – Violence Reduction Units	£1,600,000	Funding for the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.
Home Office	Covid-19 – Small Charities Support – Violence Reduction Unit	£135,612	To small charities supporting vulnerable young people in order to offset financial hardships arising from Covid-19.
Home Office	Winter Contingency Funding for Violence and Vulnerability	£94,520	Additional support during Covid-19 to charities and social enterprises working to keep children and young people safe from exploitation.
N8 Policing Research Partnership	Small grant – research.	£18,700	Knife crime imagery and messaging: Effective intervention tools or ineffective sensitisers?

Finance and Resources

2020/21 Summary

Income	£000
Core Government Grant	£83,369
Other Grant Income	£13,454
Police Grant	£109,306
Council Tax	£72,593
TOTAL	£278,722

Revenue Outturn	£000
OPCC	£1,641
Partnerships & Commissioning	£3,063
Capital Charges	£2,821
Delegated to Chief Constable	£260,315
Legacy Costs	£1,715
Reserves	£9,167
TOTAL	£278,722

Workforce	Full Time equivalent
Police Officers	2,762
PCSOs	134
Police Staff	2,185
OPCC	25
Special PCs	137
Cadets and Leaders	62
Volunteers	119
TOTAL	5,424

How to Get Involved

Independent Custody Visitors

Independent Custody Visitors are volunteers who check on the treatment of people in police custody, the conditions in which they are held and ensure that their rights and entitlements are being observed.

A visitor will attend a custody suite a couple of times a month for up to two hours and report their findings back to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They work as part of a team and are accompanied at all times by a fellow Independent Custody Visitor.

Custody visitors must be over 18 years of age, and live or work in South Yorkshire. For those who wish to become a custody visitor, full training is given and reasonable out of pocket expenses paid.

For more information about the role and an application form see the OPCC website: <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/icvs/> or telephone the OPCC on 0114 296 4150

Public Questions at Public Accountability Board

The monthly Public Accountability Board meeting is where the Police and Crime Commissioner seeks assurance from the Chief Constable and their team on progress by SYP in achieving the Police and Crime Plan Priorities. Members of the public are encouraged to ask questions at the meeting. More information about submitting a question can be found on the OPCC website [here](#) or by contacting the OPCC on 0114 296 4150.

Sign up for SYP Alerts

SYP Alerts offers information about local policing issues by text, email or voice message. Sign-up at www.sypalerts.co.uk #SignMeUp

Independent Advisory Groups

The Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) are a way for communities to work with South Yorkshire Police to help improve services. They advise on policing issues that may cause concern to local people and communities.

IAG members are volunteers from our communities and from various backgrounds who have an interest in policing and its effect on our communities and offer independent advice.

If you live within the South Yorkshire Police area, you are eligible to apply to become a member of an IAG. SYP are keen to expand membership of the IAGs and would like to hear from people from a variety of different backgrounds, gender, disability, age, race, religion/belief and sexual orientation. More information can be found on the SYP website: <https://www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/independent-advisory-group-iag/>

Special Constabulary

“Specials” are volunteer police officers who give some of their spare time in this way because they want to make a contribution to their communities. They are a vital part of the police service, working alongside regular officers to reduce crime and protect vulnerable people. Being a special constable is a way of developing new skills while serving the local community.

If you are interested in becoming a special constable, please visit: <https://www.southyorks.police.uk/sign-up/join-team-syp/to-volunteer-with-syp/to-be-a-special-constable/applying-to-be-a-special-constable/> for more information.

Police Support Volunteers

There are a number of volunteer roles within the police, such as Customer Satisfaction Volunteer, Rural Crime Volunteer or Digital Outreach Worker. Each role plays a vital part in supporting South Yorkshire Police and is a way of giving back to the community.

If you are interested in a Police Support Volunteer role, please visit: <https://southyorks.police.uk/sign-up/join-team-syp/to-volunteer-with-syp/to-be-a-police-support-volunteer/> or call 01709 832353 and ask for the Police Support Volunteer Project Officer.

Police Cadets

South Yorkshire Police currently run a Cadet scheme where young people aged 15-17 volunteer to help their local community, find out more about how the police work and have the opportunity to work towards awards and qualifications. South Yorkshire Police Cadets have been involved in various aspects of policing such as participating in test purchase operations.

If you are interested in becoming a Police Cadet, please visit: <https://www.southyorks.police.uk/sign-up/join-team-syp/to-volunteer-with-syp/to-be-a-cadet/>

Focus of concerns January - May 2021

Towards the end of 2020 I undertook two countywide surveys to gauge public opinion and peoples' views on what issues we should focus on until a new Police and Crime Plan is produced. I have combined this with the work my office undertakes in understanding crime and the demand facing the Force and where their performance needs to be improved. I have grouped these areas of focus in this way:

Neighbourhood crimes

- Residential and commercial burglary, vehicle crime, sexual offences, hate crime, anti-social behaviours (ASB) and violence reduction.

Domestic Abuse

- Principally against women, but also the impact of domestic abuse on children in the household.

Organised crime gangs and serious violence

- Drug dealing, knife and gun crime, child sexual and criminal exploitation, county lines.

Speeding and Road Safety

- Improving road safety, casualty reduction and antisocial road use especially in more rural areas.

Rural Crime

- Tackling both crimes in rural areas and also crimes against wildlife.

Cyber Crime

- Collaborative work with other forces in the North East region (Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, North Yorkshire, Northumbria and West Yorkshire) in relation to cyber enabled and cyber dependent crime.

Issues of disproportionality and inclusivity

- Criminal justice system as a whole, stop and search, use of force, policing of protests and workforce issues of recruitment, training and retaining.

Operating Model of SYP

- Increasing neighbourhood teams and police 'visibility' and engagement with the public and ensuring there is a workforce strategy and coherent workforce plan to match resources to demand.

Understanding what is working

- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, improving services to victims and understanding and improving representation from our diverse communities within the workforce.

Partnership working, including work with local criminal justice agencies

- Continued local work to support recovery of the criminal justice system from the impact of COVID19 and supporting preparations for the introduction of probation reforms in June 2021.