

South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Annual Report (Draft)

2021/22

DRAFT

Commissioner's Introduction

This Annual Report looks back over the financial year April 2021 to March 2022, though for me the year really began with my re-election as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in May 2021.

A newly elected PCC has to draw up a *Police and Crime Plan*. I decided to introduce a transitional plan and take more time to consider a completely new revision from 2022. The year ahead seemed to have something of a transitional feel about it – and so it turned out to be.

It was a year of change as we began to emerge from a time of repeated lock-downs and restrictions and tried to work out what the post coronavirus 'normal' might look like. Coronavirus had affected everything in all our communities – policing, the courts, travel, work, even crime and anti-social behaviour. What became clear was that we would not be returning to 'business as usual'; but it was less clear what that meant.

During this transitional year I decided to keep the three priorities I have had since I was first elected in 2014. Each year I have asked South Yorkshire police (SYP) to have a focus on:

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

After listening again to what individuals and communities told me they wanted from their police service and from other services that I commission, I saw no reason to change the priorities.

But in other respects, there was a good deal of change.

Among the most significant was the appointment of a new chief constable following Stephen Watson's successful application to be Chief Constable of Greater Manchester police. Just before he left, we also said goodbye to the Deputy Chief, Mark Roberts, who became Chief Constable in Cheshire. This caused some turbulence at the top of the organisation, though when I asked Lauren Poultny to succeed Stephen Watson this did provide a measure of stability and continuity as Lauren had been an assistant chief and then deputy after Mark Roberts left.

The challenge to the previous chief had been to improve SYP's rating by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of 'requires improvement'. By the end of his tenure the force was rated 'good' and 'outstanding' in terms of its ethical leadership. The challenge for the new chief was to maintain that progress.

One looming paradox concerned accommodation. On the one hand, many had been working from home – police staff as well as my office - and wanted to continue to be able to do so, which suggested that potentially less office space was needed. But how much should be given up? On the other hand, the number of officers was increasing at some pace and that implied more space would be needed in police stations. Resolving this paradox became a growing issue as the year progressed.

During the lock-downs we saw falls in crime, in some cases quite dramatically. Burglars and car thieves roaming the streets by night became rather obvious when everyone else was at home and the streets were empty. But we knew that criminal gangs would adapt and a particular area of concern was how much crime would move on-line, where it would be less visible. As the year progressed we saw crime and ASB begin to return to previous levels. The courts had struggled at first with the need to maintain social distancing, now they were trying to clear backlogs

But as we all adapted to cope with coronavirus some of the new ways of working turned out to have benefits: remote courts, working from home, video conferencing, less travel and so on. Neighbourhood police made greater use of social media and as a result reached more people than the community meetings they had previously tried to attend. PCCs continued to meet more regularly with one another and with ministers through technology.

As the year progressed, new concerns arose. The recruitment of so many new officers was seen as a chance to make the force more diverse. Concerns around violence against women and girls (VAWG) intensified. I remained anxious about neighbourhood crimes. All will feature in the new Plan.

I thank my staff and SYP officers and staff for all their hard work during this transitional year. It has not always been easy!

Throughout the year I continued my dual role: I held the force to account but I also supported them in all the good work they were doing to keep the people of South Yorkshire safe.

Dr Alan Billings
Police and Crime Commissioner

Learning to Live With Covid.

From 12th April 2021, Coronavirus restrictions began to be lifted across the UK, albeit at slightly different times across each of the home nations. During 2021/22, in a short period from April to July, England went from severe to an almost total lack of restrictions and very limited social distancing. Of course, this was a welcome relief to everyone, but the lifting of restrictions had an impact on the Police and on victim services as the nature of crime changed once again and demand on police and victim services started to increase.

- As restrictions were lifted, the burden on the police to enforce Coronavirus legislation reduced.
- Crimes such as residential burglary, car theft and sexual offences that had been falling during the restrictions started to increase again.
- At the same time, reports of anti-social behaviour that had increased during the pandemic started to reduce.
- 999 calls to the force control room started to increase again after decreasing during restrictions. Calls to 101 levelled off and in some months saw slight reductions.
- The ability for people to contact the police online, which had been introduced during the pandemic was retained to allow additional access to the Police, including specifically for victims and survivors of domestic abuse. During 2021/22 more opportunities for the public to report online became available.
- Engagement with the public and partners could once again be undertaken on a more personal level rather than having to be done solely online. However, the pandemic had highlighted that, in certain cases, online engagement could be just as effective and was able to reach a different audience, therefore thought was given to a more hybrid approach to engagement i.e., an appropriate mix of face to face and online.
- The wider criminal justice system was able to start operating more efficiently again with less social distancing requirements. This allowed the courts to start to address the backlog that had built up during restrictions. Much of the focus of South Yorkshire's Local Criminal Justice Board was in introducing different processes and ways of working in order to get court backlogs reduced as quickly as possible. There will still be work to do in this area during 2022/23.
- There was a need to review the new ways of working that had been introduced during the various lockdowns to see which elements should be retained and which could be changed to a more "business as usual" approach. This included holding face to face meetings again, whilst at the same time retaining an option of joining a meeting virtually online. Organisations had seen some benefits of working from home for some of the workforce and looked at retaining this as an option as restrictions eased whilst being able to also allow office working again.
- Victim services which I commission specifically for the most vulnerable were able to move back to face-to-face consultations when this was more beneficial to the victim.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022- SUMMARY

The following is a summary of some of the key activities and achievements during 2021/22 – despite still dealing with the unique challenges and aftermath 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 during 2021/22 to support victims through the pandemic and as the nature of crime changed as covid restrictions eased.
	Made sure that vulnerable children and young people remained a priority including supporting the delivery of Child Matters training to over 4500 people in South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and with wider partners.
	Continued to increase accessibility to South Yorkshire Police through the introduction of more online reporting opportunities and a webchat facility.
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	Continuing to respond to the priorities for local people through holding a round table event focussing on road safety issues and ensuring a focus by SYP on retail crime through the introduction of a retail crime lead within the force. SYP's off-road bike team were made part of the rural crime team and increased off road patrols in rural areas. New and innovative ways of tackling burglary were introduced including continued use of the problem-solving approach working in partnership and a pilot in Barnsley for officers to use GPS trackers to patrol burglary hot-spot areas more effectively. Secured additional funding as part of the Safer Streets Fund to address issues in specific hotspot areas of crime.
	Continued to focus on providing an effective Neighbourhood Policing service including assessing the potential for an additional neighbourhood team in Doncaster and delivering an accredited Neighbourhood Policing Training Programme to over 400 officers and staff within SYP.
	Secured continued funding for the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) to take a public health approach to violence prevention and reduction. The VRU was able to provide funding of almost £200,000 to community organisations in South Yorkshire to deliver intervention and prevention approaches to reducing violence.
	Continued to focus on the disruption of Organised Crime Groups through SYP's specialist Fortify Team which has seen some positive results of disruption work and investigations. This has led to a large number of arrests and the recovery of large amounts of drugs and assets.
Treating People Fairly	Improved the scrutiny of stop and search through working closely with SYP's Stop and Search lead to introduce the ability of an external public panel to view body worn video of actual stop and search encounters.
	Continued to successfully run the Independent Custody Visiting scheme despite restrictions in place limiting physical access to custody suites. The scheme has been instrumental in improving the identification of vulnerable children and young people brought into custody for referral to wider partnership services.
	Continued to use money taken directly from criminals to fund a local grant scheme, with over £140,000 being granted to local organisations in this way.
	Quickly re-started face to face engagement with local people and organisations as soon as restrictions allowed, whilst still retaining online engagement where organisations or communities found this to be beneficial.
The Criminal Justice System	Worked in partnership with all criminal justice partners to ensure the effective processes were considered and put in place to deal with the backlog of cases that had built up the wider criminal justice system because of the pandemic.

Protecting Vulnerable People.

Any of us might become vulnerable at any time in our lives including due to being the victim of crime. Victim vulnerability needs to be recognised at the earliest opportunity so that the response can be tailored to meet victims' needs. Victims of crime and their families want reassurance that what has happened to them is taken seriously, properly recorded and investigated, and that they are kept in touch with developments. Rape and sexual offences are amongst some of the most serious and high impact crimes against a person and victims need to have the confidence to come forward and report to the police. Some of our most vulnerable people are children who can become vulnerable through sexual exploitation - on-line or on the streets or drawn into criminality – by gangs seeking to exploit them. Part of my task is to ensure that we have a range of services in place to support victims, including the most vulnerable, such as those provided through the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). It is important that we seek feedback from victims if we are to deliver effective victim led services that continually evolve to meet victim's specific needs taking account of the changing nature of crime. It is vital that we continue to focus efforts on protecting our most vulnerable.

Key Activities and Achievements. During 2021/22 I have:

- ✓ Ensured the continued provision of a Victim Support service to the people of South Yorkshire (£567,000). During the past year, the service:
 - Has ensured that all newly appointed Victim Care Advocates now undertake the Independent Victim Advocate accredited course demonstrating the service's commitment to providing high quality support and advocacy services to victims of any crime type.
 - Has continued to develop its online training and communication so that it can more easily train and manage volunteers remotely. This has helped the service recruit volunteers from a wider range of people including those working full as well as part time who otherwise may not have volunteered.
 - Has continued to train Criminal Justice Champions who are based in other organisations such as local authorities, charities and mental health services and housing services providers to promote Victim Support to their staff, volunteers and clients. Victim Support in South Yorkshire now has 71 Criminal Justice Champions trained.
- ✓ 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. Once again, during the year we were successful in obtaining additional funding for the ISVA service ensuring continuing high quality support to victims as the Country came out of the pandemic.
- ✓ Continued to support the regional Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) which:
 - During the ongoing pandemic, continued to liaise with hospital emergency departments, GP's, The Independent Sexual Violence Adviser Services/ Independent Domestic Violence Adviser services and sexual health clinics, to ensure the 2-way referral pathways continued to work quickly and efficiently.
 - Returned to face-to-face consultations with the majority of patients, rather than having to undertake remote telephone assessments
 - Continued outreach work with the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender+ (LGBT+) community and in May 2021 was awarded an LGBTQ+ kite mark for successfully demonstrating a commitment to LGBT+ inclusion.
 - During 2021, continued the involvement in the MIMOS study in collaboration with the University of Leeds, which aimed to improve understanding of the mental health needs of people who have attended SARC. This has now ended, and the outcome of the study is expected in 2022/23.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Key Activities and Achievements. During 2021/22:

- ✓ Co-commissioned the Child Sexual Assault Service in South Yorkshire to support young people and child victims both with health and forensic needs as well as accessing a criminal justice outcome if that is appropriate.
- ✓ Continued to keep a focus on Child Neglect, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and County Lines which has seen:
 - The roll out of “Child Matters” Training ensuring all those coming into contact with vulnerable children can recognise and deal with child neglect and other child support needs. Training has led to an increase in and better-quality vulnerable child referrals, more confident decision making and an increase in the use of Police Protection Powers.
 - A continual strengthening throughout the year of both the SYP and wider partnership governance arrangements around child exploitation including now holding a weekly Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meeting. The meetings include representation from a wide range of partners including Health, Education, Social Care, Police, Probation, Youth Crime Prevention, Youth Offending Services and Psychological Services who discuss those children and young people identified as being at high risk of exploitation. The MACE process allows actions to be set and followed through in relation to safeguarding, diversion, prevention, and identification and provision of additional support.
 - Improved processes within custody so that all young people being detained will be referred through the vulnerable child referral process to ensure they are supported appropriately, and potential exploitation issues are raised and discussed between police and partners.
- ✓ I have co-funded and/or co-commissioned domestic abuse services in each local authority area of South Yorkshire.
- ✓ I have secured over £500,000 of external funding aimed at working with perpetrators of domestic abuse to intervene early and prevent further offending.
- ✓ Extensive training has been delivered in both “DA Matters” and “Child Matters” training and in Masterclasses to front line staff to emphasise the importance of listening to the views of children caught up in domestic abuse situations. Risk assessments are made and where appropriate referrals are sent to Children’s Social Care to protect and safeguard those children caught up in domestic abuse incidents.
- ✓ Following several shocking incidents nationally of violence against women and girls and to help shape the work that we need to do in this area, I convened a listening event in February to give victims, charities, community groups, and support services the opportunity to share their views and experiences of violence against women and girls. This was extremely beneficial in helping make and strengthen contacts between agencies and individuals and to inform the work that the police and partners will do in the coming months and years in this area of criminality.
- ✓ Over £1/2 million of funding has been secured through the Safer Streets Fund part 3 aimed specifically at helping women and girls feel safer in public spaces. Following public consultation, most of the funding has been used across each of the four South Yorkshire districts to install innovative lighting and CCTV in a number of public parks. The remaining funding has been used to develop and launch a countywide communications and education campaign to target perpetrator behaviour and attitudes around violence against women and girls.

Protecting Vulnerable People

Key Activities and Achievements. During 2021/22:

- ✓ As part of the work to address Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking I have ensured work continues at both a local and national level. Locally by continuing to support the South Yorkshire Strategic Partnership bringing together a wide range of partners working to tackle criminality in this area. Nationally, by engaging with Operation Aidant led by the National Crime Agency and Operation Innerste which is a multi-agency response to safeguard unaccompanied migrant children when they are encountered.
- ✓ I have continued to focus on the increased threat of Cyber Crime including Cyber Fraud. For example:
 - Recognising the continual changing nature and increasing sophistication of crime in this area, the force has engaged in a dedicated digital training programme delivering internal digital media investigation skills to officers and invested in specific training on the use of Cryptocurrency by criminal gangs to support and extend investigative capability within the Force. There has also been investment in interactive online learning for officers to help identify digital investigative opportunities.
 - SYP have developed a whole systems approach to tackling cybercrime through increased joint working by SYP's Internet Sex Offences Team, Digital Intelligence and Investigations Team and the Digital Forensics Unit to share skills and work collaboratively.
 - There has been investment in providing every officer with access to a cyber tools app on their work smartphones to provide assistance when dealing with cyber and digital matters.
 - The Forces Fraud Co-ordination Team reached the finals of the national Tackling Economic Crime Awards 2021 by being shortlisted for the Outstanding Team Award
- ✓ I have liaised closely with SYP to gain assurance around improving access for the public to report non emergencies to the Force Control Room at Atlas Court including:
 - Closely monitoring the progress of the restructuring of middle management in the Force Control Room.
 - Expansion of the online reporting facility which provides people with another way of reporting non emergencies without the need to call 101.
 - The continuation of an online domestic abuse reporting portal introduced as part of the response to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- ✓ 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 a 16% increase in 999 calls during 2021/22 whereas 101 calls decreased by 4%. Average wait times for 101 calls increased by just over four minutes from around six and half minutes in 2020/21 to just over 10 and half minutes in 2021/22. ⁽¹⁾
- During 2021/22 there were over 38,000 referrals ⁽¹⁾ made to Victim Support by SYP, individual self-referrals and from other sources.
- Victims now need to “opt in” to receive support, rather than previously when the majority of victims were automatically referred. The service is 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.
- Recorded sexual offences have increased by **9%** in 2021/22 compared to the previous year when Covid-19 restrictions were in place ⁽⁵⁾. Recorded offences will include a mix of reporting of crimes that have taken place during 2021/22 and crimes which have happened in the past but which the victim has only reported during 2021/22. **(Data only for 12mths to Dec 21 – to be updated following ONS release 21st July 22)**
- There has been an increase in referrals to the Child’s Sexual Assault Assessment Service in 2021/22. There were 168 referrals in 2021/22 compared to 142 during 2020/21. Referrals to the adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre have also seen an increase to 494 in 2021/22 from 370 in 2020/21. ⁽³⁾
- As a result of using the SARC, people told the service that they felt supported, staff were friendly, non-judgemental, caring, and empathetic – understanding victims’ challenges. Patients were able to feel comfortable and looked after.
- During 2021/22 there were over 1800 referrals ⁽²⁾ into the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service, an increase compared to the 1478 referrals recorded during 2020/21.
- As a result of using the ISVA service, 80% of clients said that they were able to stay in the criminal justice system because of the help of the ISVA. Three quarters of people said that they felt safer, more informed and empowered to act and 90% reported that they felt better able to cope with everyday life.
- Recorded domestic abuse crimes increased by 8% during 2021/22 compared to the previous year ⁽⁴⁾. Ensuring identification of domestic abuse crimes is a priority for me to make sure that these crimes can be tackled, and victims supported.
- The domestic abuse arrest rate has decreased from 58% in 2020/21 to 48% in 2021/22, ⁽⁴⁾ although the high-risk suspect arrest rate has remained at around 88%-90%
- There was no statistically significant change to the overall satisfaction with the police of victims of domestic abuse – 82% satisfied overall ⁽⁴⁾.
- Child Matters Training was delivered to over 4500 SYP workforce and to a wide range of partners ⁽⁴⁾

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

A day in the life of a Commissioning and Contracts Officer in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

An important part of my work is to provide services for victims of crime. My Partnerships and Commissioning team plays a key role in making this happen. Here, a member of my Partnerships and Commissioning Team gives some insight into the important work that they do.

The commissioning cycle never ends, and we in the Partnerships and Commissioning Team are always looking at ways in which we can make improvements in South Yorkshire and help ensure victims have access to the support they need following the full spectrum of crimes. It's hard to say that there is such a thing as a 'typical' day in our role, but here are some of the common elements that will hopefully give a flavour of the types of things the team does and how the work of the team fits in to the bigger picture.

Contract meetings

We hold regular contract meetings with service providers. In these meetings we look at performance to make sure the service is delivering what the contract requires and what people in South Yorkshire need. Together we look with the service provider for any opportunities for improvements or any changes we might need to make.

External funding bid writing

We are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to secure some extra funding for our communities and for more services in South Yorkshire. We have had some real success on this front over the last few years, writing bids for various schemes and bringing partners together to make sure South Yorkshire gets a healthy slice of the pie! We were recently successful in securing funding to improve safety for women and girls in four parks (one in each borough) across South Yorkshire.

Gap analysis and research

If we identify a gap in service or our consultation work highlights an area for improvement, we conduct research into possible solutions. We may speak to colleagues across the country to establish approaches in other areas that might be useful. We also benchmark our performance and system nationally to ensure performance is good and we are achieving value for money. We will speak to all our partners at South Yorkshire police as well as the four local authorities.

Partnership Meetings

We also represent the Commissioner and his Police and Crime Plan at various partnership boards. Community Safety Partnerships and Youth Offending boards for example. In these meetings we ensure that the funding the Commissioner contributes is used effectively by the boards to tackle the issues facing our communities

Community Grants Panel

The Commissioner is keen to support the community and third sector groups. To help him do this we administer and manage the Commissioner's Community Grants Scheme. Community groups, charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding for projects that will benefit their community. We hold regular panels that review the bids and ensure projects align with the police and crime plan and necessary Terms & conditions.

Overall, it's a busy, fast paced job with lots of different parts to it. Our aim is to secure services for people in south Yorkshire and to take available opportunities to get extra funding. Its busy, but it's really rewarding.

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The nature of crime continues to evolve and whilst recorded levels of some crime reduced during Covid-19 restrictions, levels started to increase again once restrictions were eased. People's concerns around road safety and speeding started to increase and we saw an increase in attacks on emergency workers and those working in retail. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour needs a high degree of partnership working between the police and other agencies to be effective. Police, Fire and Probation also have a duty to collaborate to keep people safe. Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are a key way in which partners across South Yorkshire work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and to keep people safe. CSPs are made up of representatives from local authorities, South Yorkshire Police, health services, housing associations and Fire. During 2021/22, I provided funding of over £585,000 to help them work towards achieving the Police and Crime Plan priorities. Neighbourhood policing also relies on good partnership working with all local agencies including in 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. 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 2021/22.

- ✓ I ensured the Countywide Community Safety Forum continued to meet during 2021/22, albeit, for the most part, virtually. The forum allows the Community Safety Partnership leads across South Yorkshire to meet with me and discuss how partnership and PCC priorities will 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 PCC funding on projects that might still be being adversely impacted by the pandemic.
 - Focussing on key areas of national priority as well as local including violence reduction and violence specifically against women and girls.
 - Ensuring victims were still able to get the services they needed whilst the impact of the pandemic were being felt, 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:
 - Ensuring preparing the way for an additional uplift of officers in Doncaster to be able to create a new neighbourhood policing team.
 - The completion of the accredited Neighbourhood Policing Training Programme, delivered to over 400 officers and staff in SYP including to departments outside of neighbourhoods and a partner's module to increase understanding of different roles.
 - The creation of a Neighbourhoods Governance Team to continue to identify and drive improvements that will improve Neighbourhood Policing for the communities of South Yorkshire.
 - Re-introduction of Neighbourhood Action Groups focussed on identifying vulnerability and preventing crime before it occurs.
 - The introduction of an early intervention protocol with a public health approach to policing, working with partners to reduce demand and prevent crime.
 - The introduction of GPS trackers to conduct burglary patrols more efficiently and effectively to where they were most needed
 - Increasing the use of bikes (including electric bikes) by officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on patrol to increase visibility and reduce carbon emissions

Key activities and achievements during 2021/22.

- ✓ The neighbourhood action groups mentioned earlier have ensured a partnership effort on tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB), in particular those affected repeatedly by ASB and where partnership working and problem-solving approaches are needed to address the issue. For those who are vulnerable or subject to repeat incidents, risk assessments are completed, and appropriate partnership referrals are made. South Yorkshire Police continues to deliver the Problem-Solving Programme for ASB and Crime at a national level.
- ✓ Victims of ASB are generally less satisfied with the police response than those who are victims of crime. I have been keen to increase satisfaction in this area and was pleased to see the piloting in Rotherham during 2021/22 of an enhanced service for all victims of ASB whereby victims have received an additional call from an officer 24 hours after the incident to update on actions being taken and check on any additional support needed. The pilot is still being evaluated but there are some signs that it has improved the service for victims and improved satisfaction. If this proves to be the case, then I am keen that consideration would be given to rolling the pilot out across all districts.
- ✓ There has been a continual focus on the key priorities for local communities; residential burglary, speeding vehicles and drugs offences including:
 - The roll out, force wide, of a Barnsley initiative (7 x 3 Burglary Reduction Plan) which directs burglary reduction activity across all district policing teams and the continued use of problem-solving approaches in key burglary hotspot areas together with the use of property marking with SmartWater resulting in a reduction of burglaries in those areas.
 - The holding of a Road Safety roundtable partnership event in January to look at how the public could be better informed about the different roles each partner in South Yorkshire plays in relation to road safety and to improve partnership working in this area.
 - Introducing the ability for the public to upload dashcam footage in relation to driver complaints through SYP's online reporting portal.
 - Continual focus on SYP's Road casualty reduction work through Operation Illuminate including drug and drink driving campaigns and the use of Highways England's HGV to give officers a high-level view of illegal mobile phone use by drivers which resulted in 43 drivers being dealt with.
 - Increasing the focus and disruption of the illegal growing of cannabis plants with one operation alone in Rotherham netting 9000 cannabis plants with a potential street value of over £9m and targeted work in Barnsley netting 557 plants from just two cultivations.
- ✓ I have also continued to support the work of drug treatment services who conduct drug testing in custody (£893,000) in relation to certain offences. The services work in the 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. During 2021/22, SYP were successful in getting an additional £37,000 of funding from the Home Office to widen the scope of this custody drugs testing work.
- ✓ The focus on disrupting the activity of higher risk Organised Crime Groups (OCG) has continued through the work of the Fortify Teams within each district. The teams have seen some significant results in respect of tackling drugs supply and County Lines ⁽¹⁾ including by working together with other police forces. Results have included a large number of arrests, the execution of search warrants, recovery of drugs including class A drugs and assets including property, large amounts of cash, jewellery and watches and the protection of vulnerable people coerced by the OCGs. Practitioners from South Yorkshire together with other force colleagues have attended an OCG Masterclass event to maintain and increase skills within this area of work.

Key activities and achievements during 2021/22.

- ✓ The Armed Crime Team has continued to work successfully alongside colleagues in the Fortify Teams to tackle and reduce armed criminality particularly in Sheffield where there was a spike in armed crime during 2021/22. During the year the team were also able to start focussing their efforts in Rotherham including supporting weapon sweeps and open land searches in areas of Rotherham adversely affected by armed crime. Although the expansion into Doncaster full time was delayed until 2022/23, SYP have ensured that the team have been able to provide a resource to Doncaster when needed.
- ✓ Throughout the year, I have monitored closely the additional resource allocated to tackle serious violence through the GRIP funding provided by the Home Office. This has allowed SYP to undertake additional patrols and implement problem solving packages to those areas identified as being most subject to serious violence. Results so far have shown stable or reducing levels of violence in most of those areas, although those linked to town and city centres have not – mainly because of the removal of covid restrictions and re-opening of the night-time economy. I will continue to monitor the progress of the GRIP patrols and problem-solving plans during the coming year.
- ✓ As a result of my request for additional focus on retail crime, SYP have appointed a Chief Inspector as Retail Crime Lead. The Chief Inspectors has identified officers in each district to act as single point of contact who have started to make links with businesses in local areas to gain an in depth understanding of retail crime in each locality. In addition, SYP have been working on implementing a Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) to give the force the ability to handle CCTV footage obtained from retailers and other crime scenes more efficiently.
- ✓ The planned expansion of the Rural Crime Team has not happened as quickly as I would have wished during 2021/22. This is because of the need to allow new student officers, recruited as part of the Uplift Programme, to become embedded at districts before being able to release more experienced officers into the team. However, rural crime team co-ordinator posts have been filled and there is a Chief Inspector in place leading on rural and wildlife crime. Whilst the team awaits its full complement of resource, The Chief Inspector is in the process of merging the Rural and Wildlife Team with the Off-Road Bike Team to ensure bikes routinely patrol rural locations. The off-road fleet has also seen the addition of two dedicated off road four-wheel drive vehicles.
- ✓ 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 and the best use of police resources. The discussions at this meeting, together with public and wider consultation help inform the budget and strategic planning decision making in respect of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ I continued to develop and strengthen the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). There is more about the unit in the following page.

(1) County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend.

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Violence Reduction Unit

The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) was established in September 2019 and continued its work during 2021/22 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 VRU'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. With the removal of most legal COVID-19 restrictions, the VRU is now able to engage more fully in the community.

Key Activities and achievements

During 2021/22 the Unit's achievements included:

- ✓ The management of its grant funding round, the Violence Reduction Fund. This provided £199,677 of funding to 13 groups focused on preventing young people from becoming involved in violence. Visits have taken place to grant recipients to see the positive impact of this funding.
- ✓ Contributed to the inclusion of a Violence Reduction Action Plan within each of the four Community Safety Partnership's strategies. These plans address the priorities identified in the VRU's Area Profile and help ensure multi-agency commitment to reducing violence in local communities.
- ✓ Delivery of the Plan B Custody Navigator and A&E Navigator 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.
- ✓ Delivery of the Forging Ahead employment support programme.
- ✓ Delivery of The Mentors in Violence Prevention programme, which worked in school and encouraged children to challenge unacceptable behaviours.
- ✓ The delivery of 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 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.
- ✓ Supported South Yorkshire Police in its delivery of the GRIP programme, using Home Office funding to target violence hotspots.
- ✓ Worked in partnership with other organisations to tackle violence against women and girls and supported the development of a Statement of Intent, which has been sent to South Yorkshire organisations, asking them to sign up to a shared set of principles to tackle this issue.
- ✓ Developed a domestic abuse campaign. This was planned, managed and funded by the VRU, and had a positive impact, leading to an increase in contacts to support services.
- ✓ Sponsored a bear in the Bears of Sheffield Sculpture Trail, helping to raise money for Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

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 2021/22 compared to 2020/21*

- Total recorded crime in South Yorkshire (excluding fraud) increased by 4% compared to a 6% increase across England and Wales (1). *
- The recorded level of residential burglary has decreased by -4% compared to a -13% decrease across England and Wales. (1) *
- Recorded levels of drug offences have decreased by -2% compared to an increase of 1% in England and Wales (1) *
- Recorded levels of Anti-social behaviour recorded by SYP have fallen by -28% (2).
- Total recorded knife crime has fallen by -27% (1) *
- Recorded firearms offences (excluding air weapons) reduced by -27% compared to a fall in England and Wales of -5% *
- Recorded levels of violence against the person crimes increased by 11%. There was a 13% increase in levels in England and Wales (1). *
- Recorded levels of vehicle offences have decreased by -4% compared to a decrease of -6% across England and Wales (1) *
- Recorded volumes of hate crime have risen by 7%. (2)
- Adult re-offending has fallen by 1.6 percentage points. Juvenile re-offending has decreased by 2.7 points (3)
- The percentage of victims of selected crimes who are satisfied with the overall service from the police saw no statistically significant change – 74% satisfied in 2021/22 compared to 80% satisfied in 2020/21 (4)

➤ The South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit has:

- Provided funding of almost £200,000 to 13 groups across South Yorkshire focused on preventing young people from becoming involved in violence.
- Made positive contact with around 50 people per month through the Plan B Custody Navigator and Hospital A&E Navigators programmes.
- The Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme was delivered into eight schools despite the programme being impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and schools' recovery from those.
- Successfully organised and held two Violence Against Women and Girls engagement events, bringing together statutory bodies, victims, charities, community groups and support services.

* Data only for 12 months up to Dec 21 – will be updated for the 12 months to 31st March 2021 following ONS release on 21st July.

(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 still been curtailed to some extent 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.

- ✓ I have 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 provide specific assurance to me on equality and diversity and fair treatment issues.
- ✓ The panel's Lead Member profiles were refreshed during 2021/22 with lead member roles focussing on particular areas of work in more detail outside of the quarterly meetings. There are Lead Member roles for:
 - Stop and Search
 - Equality, Diversity, and inclusion
 - Hate Crime - including hate crime against police officers
 - Complaints
 - Ethical issues around digital policing
 - Use of Force
- ✓ The lead member and Chair worked closely with SYP's Stop and Search lead in developing and testing improved arrangements for the external scrutiny of stop and search by way of a panel made up of members of the public reviewing actual body worn video of stop and search encounters. The first public external panel meeting took place in February 2022, with some videos reviewed by IEP members prior.
- ✓ The Panel also provided some independent scrutiny of the issuing of Covid-19 fixed penalty notices on cases involving people from a black, Asian or other minority background. This was done by reviewing body worn video of each case. The Panel concluded that officers acted very professionally and proportionately, in line with the Policing Code of Ethics.
- ✓ The Chair of the panel successfully worked with SYP to provide advice on the ethical issues around the introduction of a GPS Tracker Pilot providing personal tracking devices for those who have been diagnosed with Dementia and are at risk of being a high-risk missing person.
- ✓ During the year, the Panel leads have sought assurance from SYP on pro-active work being undertaken to improve representation from those other than white in the SYP workforce. Leads found some good examples of pro-active positive action to attract interest in a career in policing from under-represented groups including the provision of additional resource in this area to support to lead officer, however, the Panel found that there is more work that still needs to be done to ensure the workforce is more representative of the communities that it serves. This is something I will keep a focus on in the coming year through the work of the Panel.

Key activities and achievements during 2020/21

- ✓ During the year SYP formed a new Race, Inclusion and Equality (RIE) staff association and I have ensured that my office has close links with the group so that I am aware of their work and the issues being raised and I can discuss with SYP's senior leadership if needed.
- ✓ I have also followed progress of the implementation of SYP's Leadership Academy which launched in January and has already seen a good response from those seeking to increase leadership skills and become skilled and supportive leaders within the force.
- ✓ To understand the issue of over-representation of some minority ethnic groups within the wider criminal justice system, I set up a working group as part of the Local Criminal Justice Board which includes representation from the police, CPS, the prisons, Youth Offending Teams and Probation to look at the issue of disproportionality. The group first met in February 2022 and has identified areas of focus and developed an action plan of work to be undertaken during 2022/23 based on those focus areas.
- ✓ I have continued to provide a Restorative Justice Service in South Yorkshire (£196,659) 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 is co-commissioned with the Probation Service which also provided part of the funding for the service.
- ✓ The arrangements in place for handling of police complaints continued to be embedded 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.
- ✓ I have continued to successfully run the Independent Custody Visitors scheme, by which random checks are made on the custody suites in South Yorkshire to ensure that detainees are being treated fairly and properly. The temporary scheme set up during the pandemic whereby custody records are checked remotely whilst visitors were unable to access custody has continued but physical visits did resume during the year.
- ✓ A round of Independent Custody Visitor recruitment took place, with new visitors being trained and starting to conduct visits during the latter half of 2021/22.
- ✓ A regular monthly meeting between my office and the Chief Inspector for custody has been set up whereby any issues found as a result of custody checks and actions to address these are discussed and monitored. Issues raised and processes changed or reviewed as a result of visits and checks include, for juvenile detainees, a focus on more timely provision of appropriate adults and a new process put in place to ensure safeguarding referrals are made to partners where needed.

Key Activities

As restrictions have eased during the year, I have been able to return to face-to-face engagement with communities but have still continued to utilise virtual meetings where necessary in order to meet with as many people and organisations as I can. During 2021/22 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.
- ✓ Continued to produce a weekly Blog to keep members of the public, partners and communities up to date with how I have been carrying out my role. This generated comments and questions from members of the public each week, allowing me another way of having regular and direct conversations with individual members of the public and community groups and has also led to follow up meetings and events.
- ✓ Consulted widely with members of the public and local businesses to gather views and insight to help me set the policing priorities within my Police and Crime Plan. This included:
 - Conducting a survey in October 2021 to understand what was important and what the priorities were for residents of South Yorkshire.
 - Consulting with local residents and businesses between December 2021 and January 2022 on the level of council tax precept.
 - Consulted with victims about their experiences within the criminal justice system.
- ✓ I have attended community and public meetings, including town and parish councils, to hear of their concerns and discuss issues relevant to them.
- ✓ Held a round table event with partners around road safety issues and responsibilities.
- ✓ Met with businesses and associated organisations to discuss how they are affected by business crime and what we can do to improve the policing response.
- ✓ Met with local farmers and rural communities affected by rural and wildlife crimes.
- ✓ Held engagement stalls in communities, often alongside neighbourhood policing teams and voluntary group, to speak to members of the public about the policing and crime issues that affect them in their areas.

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 road safety concerns, problems with drug dealing, speeding and off-road bikes as well as delays in reporting to 101 and through the online portal
- ✓ 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 2021/22, I allocated over £140,000 to community groups to spend.

During 2021/22:

- ✓ I re-launched the Community Grants scheme as the Proceeds of Crime Act Community Grants scheme in 2020/21 and the scheme has continued in this format during 2021/22. The scheme now sees money confiscated from criminals as part of the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), form part of the budget available for charities and organisations to apply for. During 2021/22, I was able to allocate over £140,000 to community groups. Some of the grant allocations included:
- £7,500 to the NSPCC's "Letting the Future In" project in Sheffield. A therapeutic intervention programme for children and young people aged 4 to 17 years old who have been sexually abused.
 - £7,500 to Crimestoppers to help people in Sheffield anonymously report concerns around firearms and serious violence linked to Organised Crime Groups. The work included a range of awareness raising methods including widespread messaging through social media campaigns.
 - £7,455 to Reds in the Community to deliver the Kicks project. This project delivers physical activity sessions to divert young people in Barnsley away from anti-social behaviour and other negative behaviours.
 - £7,500 to the Clifton Learning Partnership to re-start face to face early intervention and prevention service provision in Rotherham, particularly for those from minority ethnic communities. These interventions, which work much better in a face to face setting, have been severely limited by the pandemic lockdowns and needed additional support to get back up and running.
 - £7,120 to Eden House Community Links in Rotherham to help provide therapeutic sessions to families and young people who are in need of mental health and wellbeing support.
 - £2,300 to Hope South Yorkshire to provide support for traumatically bereaved families across South Yorkshire.

A full list of grant allocations for 2021/22 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 2021/22 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 2021 - March 2022 ⁽¹⁾ (Person searches only – self defined ethnicity)				
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 2021/22 compared to the end of the previous year, the number of SYP’s workforce from an ethnic minority background increased slightly from 4.9% to 5.0% of the workforce ⁽¹⁾

During 2021/22 my engagement team and I have:

- ✓ Collected and analysed the views of:
 - Almost 800 people to understand their policing priorities during October 2021 ⁽²⁾ and
 - Over 1,000 people on the level of Council Tax Precept for policing in December and January 2022 ⁽²⁾
 - Over 250 people in relation to the Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service ⁽²⁾
 - Over 1000 people on the subject of the South Yorkshire Knife Angel
- ✓ Used the views collected to set the level of Council Tax Precept for 2022/23, to determine the priorities and areas of focus for the 2022-2025 Police and Crime Plan “Safer Street, More Police” and to inform the re-commissioning of the ISVA service.

In addition:

- ✓ I have received and responded to almost 1,800 pieces of correspondence giving me insight into current issues for residents. ⁽²⁾
- ✓ Under the new complaints review process, I received 138 requests for a review – a 23% increase in last year ⁽²⁾. This increase is allowing us to work more closely with SYP in improving responses to complainants. ⁽²⁾
- ✓ Despite the restrictions, Independent Custody Visitors managed to undertake 38 visits to custody suites and 12 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 as responsive as possible, therefore 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 2021/22.

During 2021/22:

- ✓ The LCJB undertook a piece of work tracking the journey through the criminal justice system (CJS) of victims of rape who reported to the Police during a period in April 2021. The work looked in depth at each case and is being used to improve the experience for victims and enhance the support available during their journey through the criminal justice system.
- ✓ My team supporting the LCJB hosted a multi-agency event to share information relating to the needs and circumstance of vulnerable female offenders – in relation to both women and girls.
- ✓ Partners looked at ways to support vulnerable offenders to access the support they need that could help an alternative to going to court and address issues driving their criminal behaviour – and so increased opportunities available to make greater use of Conditional Cautions (an out of court disposal)
- ✓ Criminal Justice Partners continued to work together to support recovery of the CJS from the impact of the pandemic, which saw a significant reduction in the backlog of work waiting to be dealt with at magistrates' courts; the development of new and innovative working processes; & good use of new technology in the Crown Court to keep non-trial work flowing via the Fully Remote Court
- ✓ Partners introduced new resources to support the identification and delivery of Community Sentence Treatment Requirement orders, made at the direction of the courts – these orders help facilitate delivery of Drug Rehabilitation, Alcohol and Mental Health Treatment, or a combination of these in more complex circumstances. Initially available at the Sheffield courts, but with plans to extend to the rest of the county next year
- ✓ Changes were introduced associated with new legislation, including the Domestic Abuse Act, and worked with a survivor to conduct a survey to better understand the support needs of victims at court – both criminal and family courts – to help support activity of commissioners of support services
- ✓ I supported the development of the Departure Lounge at HMP Doncaster to support prisoners on day of release, with the aim of giving them best chance of resettling back into the community successfully
- ✓ My staff have worked hard to support changes to the Probation Service which took effect in June 2021, helping partners maintain contact with key probation colleagues throughout the changes, supporting new providers navigate the local partnership landscape, and make helpful new connections
- ✓ Being a member of the Yorkshire & the Humber Rehabilitation Partnership, we have made some good progress in a number of key areas of concern and priority for us – addressing challenges for offenders in relation to education, training and employment, & meeting emergency accommodation needs.

Transparency, Scrutiny and Holding to Account

One of my key responsibilities is to make sure the police and partners are delivering against the priorities, objectives, and outcomes I have set out in the Police and Crime Plan. Some of the ways in which I do this are outlined below and more information is provided on my website <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/>. In turn, I am held to account by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel who I meet with regularly throughout the year.

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. 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 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 in the Council Tax should be and the recruitment and dismissal of the Chief Constable.

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

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

During 2021/22, the Panel were also involved with me and my office in the recruitment of the new Chief Constable for South Yorkshire Police and the decision on the appointment was endorsed by the Panel in June 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Panel for their continued help and support during 2021/22.

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/>

Transparency, Scrutiny and Holding to Account

Arrangements	Purpose	Activity April 2021 to March 2022
Public Accountability Board. (Meet monthly)	An opportunity for the PCC and members of the public to question the Chief Constable and his team.	12 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 1 workshop 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.	5 meetings held as well as work between meetings undertaken by Lead Members.
One to one meeting 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 police custody are being treated properly. (Custody visitors also do animal welfare checks at police dog kennels.)	38 custody visits have been undertaken 541 custody logs scrutinised
Attendance at SYP performance meetings including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Force Performance Day (FPD). (Monthly) District and other Quarterly Performance Review Meetings (QPR). 	To understand and gain assurance in relation to work going on to meet the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan.	FPD – 11 attended QPR – 25 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.	72 decisions published
Dealing with complaints against the Chief Constable:	The PCC is responsible for investigating complaints against the Chief Constable following statutory guidance.	0 complaints recorded:
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 2021/22, the Panel supported my proposed annual increase in the policing element of the Council Tax (the precept) for 2021/22 of £15 for a Band D property, taking the precept to £213.04 for the year for a band D property. Over half the properties in South Yorkshire fall under band A. The £15 annual band D increase translated into a £10 annual increase for band A properties.

Key activities & outcomes

- South Yorkshire's Police Officer in year recruitment target for 2021/22 was 320 (business as normal, National Uplift and Precept Uplift). By the end of the year, this target had been exceeded by 20 officers, with 340 officers being recruited in total.
- Successfully secured Home Office funding of just over £3.16m for Serious Violent Crime and the Violence Reduction Unit. The Home Office has confirmed continued violence reduction unit funding until the end of 2024/25, subject to a satisfactory bid
- Good partnership working between my Finance and Partnerships and Commissioning Teams secured an extra £1.53m from the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to provide additional support to victim support services and prevention work. Further detail of this is provided in the following pages.
- An additional £1.4m was also secured from the Home Office towards 'Safer Streets' projects, the bids involving partnership working at a local level. The aim of these projects is to improve public safety and reduce crime in particular areas of South Yorkshire. More information about funding bids can be found in the following table.

Finance and Resources

Throughout 2021/22, the Government announced, sometimes at short notice, additional funding which PCCs were able to bid for. This was in addition to a regular annual grant from the Ministry of Justice used to commission victim services. The OPCC's Partnership and Commissioning Team, working with many local partners saw the external funding, totalling almost £5.8m, come into South Yorkshire. Information in the table below.

Whilst additional funding is always welcome, the impact of the additional work on the teams working both in the OPCC and at partners in writing and then managing 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 (MoJ)	Core Grant	£1,639,932	Regular annual grant from MoJ to commission victim services in South Yorkshire
Additional funding over and above the Core Grant secured during 2021/22			
MoJ	National Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) Fund.	£493,824	Extension of funding secured in 20/21
MoJ	Critical Support Fund.	£96,750	Extension of funding secured on 20/21
Home Office	Safer Streets 2	£432,000	Project to reduce acquisitive crime in the Sharrow/Ecclesall Road area. CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition, Target hardening, home security improvement scheme working with private landlords, Alley gates, Operation Shield Rollout.
Home Office	Safer Streets 2 (2 nd bid)	£418,000	Tri-borough partnerships targeting hotspots for acquisitive crime in the Dearne. Each local authority granted money for community engagement and purchasing CCTV. Operation Shield and Automatic Number Plate Recognition, also included in the bid.

Finance and Resources

Home Office	Safer Streets 3	£550,000	A project that focuses on improving safety in public areas, particularly that of women & girls.
Home Office	Perpetrator Phase 2	£232,027	Further funding announced in the spring budget. Funding for phase 2 was allocated to match that of phase 1 (detailed in last year's Annual Report) for a further six months from 1st October – 31st March 22.
Home Office	Perpetrator Phase 3	£321,228	Bid submitted to fund additional Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference work including programmes to tackle child/young perpetrators of domestic violence and to tackle stalking perpetrators
MoJ	Victims Uplift Grant	£314,701	Additional funding made available in year by MoJ. This was an open bid process run via the OPCC inviting applications from local organisations who support victims of domestic violence or sexual violence
MoJ	Victims Uplift – Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs).	£683,667	Additional funding for ISVAs or IDVAs - bid submitted to increase ISVA & IDVA capacity across South Yorkshire by 9 full time equivalent (FTE) IDVA's & 2 FTE ISVA's
MoJ	Critical Support Funding	£328,293	Made available to areas that have critical levels of high demand that the Victims uplift grant and previous expressions of interest will not sufficiently address

Finance and Resources

2021/22 Summary

Income	£000
Core Government Grant	£88,368
Other Grant Income	£10,530
Police Grant	£116,996
Council Tax	£76,019
TOTAL	£291,913

Revenue Outturn	£000
OPCC	£ 1,581
Partnerships & Commissioning	£ 2,685
Capital Charges	£ 2,288
Delegated to Chief Constable	£279,320
Legacy Costs	£ 2,683
Reserves	£ 3,356
TOTAL	£291,913

Workforce	Full Time equivalent
Police Officers	2,860
PCSOs	119
Police Staff	2,177
OPCC	31
Special PCs	125
Cadets and Leaders	59
Volunteers	89
TOTAL	5,460

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/>

Stop and Search External Scrutiny Panel

There are regular external scrutiny panel meetings looking at cases of Stop and Search, many through viewing actual body worn video recorded by police officers at the time. The external scrutiny panel is made up of members of the public who are able to feedback their thoughts on what they have seen directly to the SYP lead for Stop and Search so that the force can strive always to use best practice when using stop and search.

If you would like to join the external scrutiny panel, please see the information on the SYP website: <https://www.southyorks.police.uk/find-out/stop-and-search/>

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/>