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## Foreword

This is my third Annual Report as Police and Crime Commissioner, and my first since being re-elected in May 2016. Its aim is to look back over the last year – 2016/17 – and provide an assessment of progress with achieving what I set out in the Police and Crime Plan, and how I have discharged my legal responsibilities.

Last year was a difficult one. It started with the returning of 96 unlawful killing verdicts in the Hillsborough Inquests, after proceedings that took over two years to complete; the longest inquests in British history. The jury found that a number of failings by South Yorkshire Police had caused or contributed to the 96 deaths in 1989, and an unequivocal apology was provided by the Chief Constable immediately after the verdicts came in.

What happened next has been well publicised. I suspended the Chief Constable when he made a second statement to the media the day after the verdicts because I believed the Chief Constable was seeking to justify questioning during the inquests which had caused distress to the Hillsborough families. His statement was widely understood as a 'rowing back' from the apology he had given the day before. It was criticised in Parliament, including by the then Home Secretary. I wanted to stop any further erosion of public and trust and confidence in South Yorkshire Police, and I believed that suspending the Chief Constable while I considered his removal, was my best option.

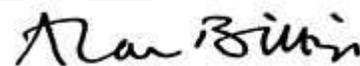
At the end of a long legal process set down in the legislation, the Police and Crime Panel recommended that I should call for the Chief Constable to resign or retire.

The Chief Constable resigned on 29 September after I called on him to do so, but he issued judicial review proceedings to challenge my decisions. I had to take an active role in the proceedings brought against me and legal processes are expensive.

Following the Chief Constable's suspension, the interim Chief Constable and I commissioned a peer review of South Yorkshire Police by a team of experts in policing from around the country. Their report concluded that fundamental change was required in the Force and its leadership. The peer report's recommendations allowed the new Chief Constable to immediately plan and implement the programme of change required. Retirements of the deputy chief constable and two assistant chief constables last year also meant that a new Senior Leadership Group was formed to lead this change.

I have strengthened the arrangements for holding the Chief Constable to account, and brought in an Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner specifically to lead important work that supports South Yorkshire Police in rebuilding public trust and confidence.

This Annual Report shows the work we have achieved despite the issues we faced last year; we have delivered really good work in partnership and in our communities.



Dr Alan Billings  
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

## Your Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire

As Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for South Yorkshire, I must fulfil my duties under The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) and the Police Act (1996) (as amended).

My responsibilities include:

- Securing an efficient and effective police force for South Yorkshire
- Appointing a Chief Constable, and holding them to account for the performance of the Force, and if necessary, dismissing them
- Setting the policing and crime objectives for South Yorkshire in a Police and Crime Plan (the 'Plan')
- Having regard to the views of the public of South Yorkshire about how they wish to be policed
- Setting the policing budget and determining the policing precept for South Yorkshire
- Contributing to the national and international policing priorities set by the Home Secretary
- Bringing together community safety and criminal justice partners to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for South Yorkshire

## The Policing Priorities

I am elected by you to be your voice, giving you a say in what you want your police service to do. I listen to your comments and concerns about policing in South Yorkshire, and provide a set of priorities that shape the direction of the Force for the next four years.

For 2016/17, the priorities were:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Tackling Crime and Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)
- Enabling Fair Treatment

Under each of these priorities lies a set of criteria against which I measured performance of the Force and the services I have commissioned on behalf of the public.

This document shows how I have done that throughout the year. It highlights the good work done by my office, South Yorkshire Police and partners in keeping the public of South Yorkshire safe, and also highlights where we can do better in future.

## The Aim

South Yorkshire  
will be and feel a safe place in which to live, learn and work

## The Strategic Priorities

### Protecting Vulnerable People

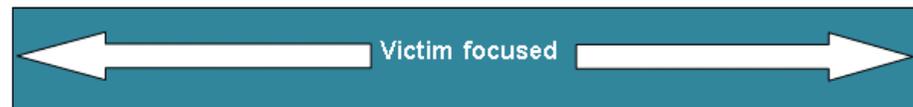
- Effective action tackling child sexual exploitation, rape and serious sexual offences.
- Effective response to threats to the most vulnerable people.
- Appropriate response by police and justice services to those suffering mental health issues.

### Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Effective action tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and re-offending.
- Targeted response to those who cause most harm in the community and intervention with others before they enter the criminal justice system.
- Prioritising the crime and behaviours that cause the most harm within the community.
- Finding the best outcomes for victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

### Enabling Fair Treatment

- Planned engagement that seeks public feedback to inform the delivery of policing and crime services
- Deploying resources to areas of highest demand based on threat, harm and risk
- Finding ways to understand and address appropriately feelings of safety
- Services that inspire trust in the general public
- Recognise staff confidence and morale and adherence to codes of ethics and professional practice as central to delivering an efficient and effective police service



## Demand on South Yorkshire Police 2016/17

*\*\*To be a page of infographics\*\**

1. How many 999 calls a day on average – 613
  2. How many calls to 101 a day on average - 1712
  3. How many arrests a day on average - 57
  4. How many new officers recruited – 179 (177 PCs & 2 SMT)
  5. Missing persons' reports (average per day) - 22
  6. Incidents involving mental health issues (average per day) - 20
  7. % public confidence with SYP in local area – 38%
- % increase/decrease in crime – +19% compared to 2015/16

## Holding to Account

I am responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for:

- Performance against the Police and Crime Priorities
- The efficiency and effectiveness of South Yorkshire Police, including value for money
- Having regard to national policing priorities detailed in the Strategic Policing Requirement
- Engagement with the public and partners about policing in their area
- Promoting equality and diversity
- Safeguarding of vulnerable people

Each force area has holding to account arrangements unique to its PCC/Chief Constable relationship and its local context. There is no right or wrong approach, but clearly, in a force area that has been criticised and which deals with a number of complex and high profile issues, it is right to expect my holding to account arrangements to be robust and probing.

I use a number of ways to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the Force against the priorities in the Plan, including performance reporting meetings, HMIC PEEL Inspection reports, independent scrutiny panels, partner reports and what I learn from services I commission and meeting people out and about around South Yorkshire.

I hold the Chief Constable to account during my now four-weekly Public Accountability Board (PAB), where I ask the Chief Constable to report on performance against the priorities set in the Plan (in 2016/17, the PAB met six-weekly). Members of the public can submit questions in writing to my office to be responded to during the meeting. Where an oral response is not possible, a written response is provided as soon as possible after the meeting. Topics I covered this year included:

Local Policing  
Emergency Services Collaboration  
Child Sexual Exploitation  
Financial Planning  
Mental Health  
Hate Crime  
Community Engagement  
Anti-Social Behaviour  
Code of Ethics  
Partnership Working  
Estates and Facilities Management  
Legacy Issues  
Stop and Search  
Community Safety  
Modern Slavery  
Domestic Abuse  
Contact Management  
Procurement  
IT

I am ultimately accountable to you at the ballot box during 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 your best interest. This includes decisions about what priorities are in the Police and Crime Plan, how much the policing precept in your council tax 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.

If you require any further details about the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel please visit:

<http://www.southyorks.gov.uk/webcomponents/jsecSYPCP.aspx>

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I commission a number of independent panels, where people from different walks of life and different communities volunteer to help me hold South Yorkshire Police to account on behalf of the public. The Panels have no decision making powers, but do make recommendations to me and the Chief Constable.

#### ***Independent Ethics Panel***

The Panel was formed in January 2015 to encourage greater public scrutiny of day-to-day policing. It is independent of me and South Yorkshire Police, and provides effective challenge and assurance around issues of integrity, standards and ethics of decision-making. The Panel has no decision making powers, but helps the Chief Constable embed the Code of Ethics across the functions and activities of the force.

Projects the Panel has been involved with this year include:

- Annual stop and search
- Bi-annual review of complaints
- Hate crime
- Use of force
- Advising the PCC on equality and diversity objectives
- Body Worn Video
- Business interests
- Training and recruitment

#### ***Advisory Panel on Policing Protests***

The Panel was established in March 2016, as a result of the September 2015 protests in Rotherham. Members offer comment on proposals for handling protest events, and work with the police in advance of any protest, as well as being in attendance to observe police activity and interactions with protestors on the day. They assist the Force to learn lessons and, where appropriate, make recommendations for managing future protests. This year the Panel assisted with four protests across South Yorkshire.

#### ***Independent Advisory Panel for Minority Communities***

The Independent Advisory Panel for Minority Communities (IAPMC) plays the valuable role of 'critical friend' to me and South Yorkshire Police. It is not a formal scrutiny board, but ensures the policies, procedures and practices of the Force meet the aims of the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy, delivering accessible and responsive policing services to minority communities in South Yorkshire. The Panel has 13 members from various communities across the county, and has helped me on issues such as hate crime, stop and search, BME Special Constabulary recruitment, domestic abuse and trust and confidence in South Yorkshire Police.

#### ***Joint Independent Audit Committee***

The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) supports both me and the Chief Constable. It is responsible for enhancing public trust and confidence in my office, and in South Yorkshire Police. It is a statutory panel that advises on good governance arrangements, provides independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control and risk management frameworks, and oversees the financial reporting process, including the annual governance statement. The panel is usually made up of five members and meets five times a year.

#### ***Independent Custody Visitors***

I run an Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) scheme across South Yorkshire. ICVs are members of the public who volunteer to attend custody suites to observe, comment and report on the health and welfare of detainees, and the condition of the detention facilities.

South Yorkshire has three custody suites: Shepcote Lane, Barnsley and Doncaster. In 2016, a new more efficient, modern custody suite was opened at Barnsley on the site of the old suite, to complement the new facility at Shepcote Lane, which serves Sheffield and Rotherham.

In 2016/17, 20,898 detentions were processed through South Yorkshire custody suites. The role of the ICV is vital in making sure the facilities are up to standard, and that the welfare of the detainees is maintained.

Shepcote Lane:

60 visits

545 detainees visited

Over 67 hours volunteered

Doncaster:

58 visits

258 detainees visited

Over 48 hours volunteered

Barnsley\*:

48 visits

153 detainees visited

Over 25 hours volunteered

\*Barnsley Custody suite re-opened in November 2016, before that visits were at Ecclesfield Custody Suite which was used exclusively for Barnsley detainees.

Issues raised by ICVs are more often than not resolved immediately, such as detainees needing more blankets, or a drink of water. Those that cannot be resolved there and then are brought to my attention, and I work with Custody Inspectors to ensure problems are resolved as soon as possible.

In February 2017, 94 year old Vera Miles retired after 25 years of volunteering to check the welfare of detainees in South Yorkshire. Vera visited custody suites across Sheffield, and became Panel Co-ordinator, which involved compiling the visiting rota, dealing with day-to-day issues, and chairing the quarterly panel meetings with police custody staff. She was also a member of the team that visited the dog section to report on the conditions in which the dogs are housed, trained and transported as part of my Animal Welfare Scheme. Vera said: "When I applied to be an Independent Custody Visitor in 1992, I was interviewed by Chief Constable Richard Wells and the Mayor. It was all very official! I was

pleased to see the Charge Office [on Bridge Street] close and a brand new state of the art custody suite open on Shepcote Lane. It's a wonderful place but huge. The staff must walk miles."

***Animal Welfare Volunteers***

ICVs are invited to take part in the Animal Welfare Scheme, where welfare visits are made to the police dogs and horses to check on their welfare, training and transport facilities. PCCs are not statutorily obliged to have an animal welfare scheme, but I recognise that it is good practice to ensure the welfare of the animals that help the police fight crime and maintain order. As with the custody detainees, any issues that cannot be resolved on the spot are brought to my attention, and I work with the Animal Handlers to ensure the maximum standard of welfare is maintained. This year, the ICVs visited the police dogs 10 times, and the police horses once prior to their move to West Yorkshire in May 2016.

## Commissioning

Though the priorities in my Plan have been set specifically for South Yorkshire Police, the Force cannot achieve the three priorities on their own. It requires a holistic approach from all the agencies involved in protecting vulnerable people, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and enabling fair treatment.

To support this, I provide financial support to a number of partner organisations who support the priorities in my Plan. The commissioning budget for this financial year was £5.3m, with £1.6m being funded through the Ministry of Justice grant. The different funding streams that support the delivery of commissioned activity are:

**Priority Response Fund** – The fund was created to allocate funding to issues and priorities that emerged during the financial year. In 2016/17, it supported outreach work to engage with vulnerable young people, and contributed to reducing anti-social behaviour.

**Community Grant Fund** – Community organisations who can demonstrate their project will help me achieve at least one of my priorities are invited to bid for up to £5,000 funding from my Community Grant Fund. This year I gave £88,337.52 to third, voluntary and charity sectors, who contributed to making a difference to people's lives across South Yorkshire.

**Partnership Fund** – This fund supports the activities of various partnership boards in keeping people in South Yorkshire safe, for example the Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children's Boards.

\*\* Case study to be inserted – Yorkshire Sport Foundation \*\*

**Community Safety Fund** – Up to April 2014 the Government gave funding to local authority areas in the form of a 'Community Safety Fund'. This grant provision no longer exists, but I have maintained a budget allocation for activities by the local authorities previously funded by the grant. In 2016/17 I maintained the fund for three categories: Drugs Intervention Programmes, Community Safety Partnerships and Youth Offending Services.

### **Drugs Intervention Services:**

***Barnsley*** – supports a Criminal Justice Navigation Team, working with offenders who use class A drugs and supporting them through the criminal justice system.

***Doncaster*** – supports effective integrated pathways for adult offenders at key points within the criminal justice system.

***Rotherham*** – enables qualified drug workers to assess, help and support people in custody in Rotherham and Sheffield with drug issues, with the aim of reducing or stopping drug use and drug-related offending.

***Sheffield*** – supports early identification of drug users, supporting them into treatment and recovery with an aim to reduce or stop drug use and drug-related offending.

In preparation for the move to the new shared custody suite for Rotherham and Sheffield at Shepcote Lane, I undertook early discussions to establish the best way to develop an efficient service in the new suite from the opening date. This resulted in a co-commissioned element being added to the wider drug treatment services being commissioned by Sheffield City Council.

### **Community Safety Partnership:**

This year I allocated £1.1m across the four local authority areas. The funding is used for projects that support the evidenced local needs of each area:

**Barnsley** – The funding has been used to fund the anti-social behaviour victims and witness service which has been enhanced and given resilience to work with the traveller community; increased capacity for ‘Prevent’ work has strengthened community cohesion; support for buildings and other infrastructure as part of an integrated approach to managing demand, providing dedicated case management and enhancing early help and intervention.

**Doncaster** – The majority of funding has supported the domestic abuse perpetrator programme, which offers a variety of interventions to people who recognise their abusive behaviour and want to work to change it. The rest of the funding is used on other projects and initiatives, including anti-social behaviour prevention measures.

**Rotherham** – The funding primarily supports the Community Intelligence Unit, which provides a data analysis resource for the partnership. It also funds several other services targeting the risk associated with the night time economy, including Street Pastors and the child sexual exploitation awareness campaign. It also meets the costs of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference coordinator to bring together relevant partners to address high risk cases of domestic abuse.

**Sheffield** – The funding supports five initiatives: risk management of high risk victims of domestic abuse, the Sheffield Working Women’s Opportunities Project, prevention and minimisation of harm from alcohol related offending for victims and perpetrators, a multi-agency drop in centre that identifies incidents

of hate crime and supports those who are vulnerable to domestic abuse, a Partnership Analyst who provides a regular analysis of crime and anti-social behaviour. Approximately £0.3m has been used to fund 10 PCSOs.

Throughout the year we had discussions about the funding of co-commissioned pan-South Yorkshire services. This year (2017/18) I will co-fund with partners a county-wide project to develop and co-commission a programme to engage with perpetrators of domestic abuse.

### **Youth Offending Service:**

In 2016/17 I provided £688,000 to support local youth justice and youth offending teams in preventing offending or reoffending by children and young people. Early discussions with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) indicate a county-wide concern about the sustainability of YOS should funding be reduced further. I will take this into consideration going forward.

**Victims of Crime Fund** – PCCs have been responsible for commissioning services for victims of crime since October 2014. In 2016/17, I funded services such as: the development of a new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC); victim support services, including initial assessment of needs, as well as onward emotional and practical support; Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) services; support for victims of domestic abuse; and Restorative Justice services.

For further information please visit my website [www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/About/Advice-and-Support-for-Victims](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/About/Advice-and-Support-for-Victims)

## Community Grant Fund – Case Study

### **Sharrow Community Forum – Adventures Youth**

In autumn 2015, incidents of youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the Abbeydale area of Sheffield reached an all time high, peaking on Bonfire Night. High rates of crime and anti-social behaviour were mainly committed by local young people, and worsened already challenging community relationships. Many people contacted me to express frustration with the problem, and that it seemed to be getting worse.

I was pleased to be able to provide funding to Sharrow Community Forum through my Community Grants Scheme to run an ‘Adventures Youth’ programme during 2016/17, aimed at engaging with some of the young people responsible for the anti-social behaviour. The project provided a year-round positive and stimulating environment for young people to take part in educational and skills-building activities, offered opportunities in volunteering and work experience, and provided a safe space for young people, members of the community and local agencies to come together and combat social exclusion and isolation.

The funding was used to run a Youth Club on Friday nights, regularly attended by 35-40 attendees aged 12 to 20 years old. Activities included basic cooking classes, music workshops and lantern-making workshops for the Lantern Carnival in April 2017.

Over the period 23 October to 7 November 2016, there was a 23% reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents, and a 60% reduction in firework-related anti-social behaviour incidents.

### Infographics:

2017 Sheffield Police Awards – Partnerships – winner

Over 2,500 children, young people and families access activities each month

60% reduction in firework-related asb incidents

23% reduction in asb incidents

No ASB incidents recorded on 5 November 2016

*\*\*Spoken to SFC, they are happy to be a case study and for us to use the logo\*\**

## Partnership Working – Case Study

In September 2016, I was pleased to be able to officially open the new South Yorkshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), along with Sarah Champion MP.

The project was a real team effort, and included partners from South Yorkshire Police, NHS England and Kier. Third-sector organisations provided valuable input as to how to make the facilities the highest standard possible to support victims of sexual assault.

The Centre supports victims of sexual assault from across Yorkshire and the Humber as part of a new regional SARC service, where each region has its own building, but a shared service with access to all of them, giving victims a choice.

The facility delivers as welcoming an environment as possible to those who have been subjected to a terrible ordeal. It is available 24/7 providing forensic, medical and initial support services to victims at a time and location to suit them.

The services are not just available for victims who have reported a crime to the police; victims are able to refer themselves at any time. The Centre also offers sign-posting to support groups to help victims of sexual abuse to cope and recover from the crime committed against them.

Investing in forensic and digital technology to improve the victim journey, the SARC has been identified by Mary Newton, Independent National Advisor for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences, as ‘gold standard’ for services for victims.

*The development and opening of Hackenthorpe Lodge clearly shows what can be achieved when partners come together to improve services to vulnerable victims of serious sexual violence.*

*By working in partnership with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, regional colleagues and providers I feel we are now a first class facility which we all can be justifiably proud of. Not only does the facility provide a safe environment for victims, from within South Yorkshire and those from across the Yorkshire, Humberside region, it provides police officers and other criminal justice agencies with an environment in which they can maximise the evidence gathering opportunities which are required in this type of crime.*

*“From speaking to colleagues and reading feedback from victims who have accessed the facility and services I have heard nothing but positive comments. In these days of savings and austerity it is testament to the vision of the Office of the PCC and the South Yorkshire Police Senior Command Team of their desire to ensure victims of rape and serious sexual offences are provided with the best possible facilities and help at a time in their life when they are most vulnerable.”*

*– Pete Horner, SYP*

## Performance against the Plan – focus points

### **Child Sexual Exploitation:**

*“Things have changed...”*

When I heard those words from a survivor of child sexual exploitation as her perpetrators were jailed in November 2016, I was bowled over. What she said was so important for South Yorkshire Police to hear. Her words show the hard work the force has put in to understanding child sexual exploitation, the impact it has on the victim, and how important confidence is for victims that they will be believed and supported.

Investigations into historic child sexual exploitation offences saw 20 suspects convicted in 2016/17 and sentenced to a total of over 280 years in prison. Five further suspects have been found guilty, and are currently awaiting sentencing. This is justice for hundreds of victims, and has removed 25 dangerous people from the streets of South Yorkshire. The Force has also brought 1060 offenders to justice for sexual offences, totalling 34.7% of all offenders for 2016/17.

In September 2016, South Yorkshire Police and the College of Policing met to determine the support that could be provided around tackling child sexual exploitation. Colleagues from the College reviewed and brought together all of the recommendations from various reviews and action plans, and a peer review was done by the NPCC National Child Sexual Exploitation Coordinator. This support from the College has provided a body of evidence to show how South Yorkshire Police has delivered against the actions and recommendations.

As part of this, I receive regular updates at my Public Accountability Board on Operation Stovewood and on-going child sexual exploitation investigations, meeting regularly with South Yorkshire Police and the National Crime Agency (NCA). The NCA provide me updates regarding progress with investigations and

any resource requirements, which helps me to decide if I need to apply to the Home Office for special grant funding.

I also continue to meet regularly with victims and survivors to offer my support, and ensure that lessons to be learnt are continually embedded within the force as we move forward.

As part of my Community Grants Scheme, I was pleased to be able to support local projects to tackle child sexual exploitation with young people. I granted £4,999.80 to the Golddigger Trust in Sheffield for their 'Choose Your own Adventure' project. The project, which ran in schools and in the community, allowed groups of young people aged 13-18 to explore the consequences and choices around child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and e-safety. It also engaged with parents and carers to support vulnerable young people in their care.

I also granted £3,280 to the Brathay Trust in Barnsley for their 'Streetwise' project. Working with partners, the team identified vulnerable young people aged 14 – 18 who might benefit from group sessions around raising awareness of child sexual exploitation. 98% of those who took part reported a better understanding of what constitutes a healthy relationship, with an improved knowledge on what qualities to look for in a relationship or friendship.

### Reducing Vulnerability:

Demands on policing have changed considerably over the past few years. As our understanding of complex, high-impact crime is developing, our understanding of the victim journey and what makes people vulnerable is also being challenged.

In February 2017 I was pleased to be able to offer funding from my Community Grant Scheme to Age UK Sheffield to provide training on key crime prevention issues to the charity's support workers, as well as the publication of awareness-raising leaflets for older people about crime prevention. As Steve Chu, Chief Executive of Age UK Sheffield said, older people can be amongst the most vulnerable to scams, distraction burglaries and cyber crime, but are often the ones who are least able to deal with the consequences.

Our understanding of mental health and supporting those who are suffering from mental illnesses has increased drastically over the past 12 months, with national awareness campaigns, such as Mind's 'Time to Change', helping to reduce the stigma and discrimination faced by people who experience mental health problems.

The last thing someone suffering from mental illness needs is to end up in a police cell. In 2016 South Yorkshire Police signed up to the Crisis Care Concordat, a multi-agency approach to ensure vulnerable people suffering from mental ill health are cared for in the community and do not end up in police custody. As a result, the number of people being detained in custody during a mental health crisis has reduced by 54% compared with 2015/16.



Following the tragic death of a young boy on a South Yorkshire building site in 2015, I supported the Active Response Security Services 'Bee Safe' initiative. It is aimed at protecting primary school children by educating them about such dangers as playing on building sites, farmyard safety, and basic first aid. The scheme was launched at the Digital Media Centre in Barnsley, and is available nationally with no cost to those who use it.

We all have a shared responsibility to keep our children safe and this is a common danger that presents itself to us often whilst providing security on sites. We wanted to develop a fun, interactive way of educating our young ones on how to recognise dangers and avoid them." – Michelle Bailey, Managing Director

The Illuminate campaign stepped up a gear in autumn, with a hard-hitting radio-advertisement warning people of the dangers of not 'belting-up'. It was not intended to frighten people, but to convey a very serious message about the consequences of not wearing a seatbelt. The advertisements, created by Hallam FM, were aired throughout September and October on a number of South Yorkshire radio stations.

'We need to raise awareness to drivers and their passengers about how important it is to belt-up. In a crash you are twice as likely to die if you don't wear a seatbelt. Drivers and passengers who fail to wear seatbelts in the front and back of vehicles are breaking the law.' – CI Glen Suttonwood, JSOU



### **Supporting Victims:**

In December 2016, I welcomed 100 guests to a South Yorkshire Victims' Showcase Event to let local organisations and practitioners know about the work being done to support victims of crime in South Yorkshire.

The event was opened by Victims Commissioner Baroness Newlove, who praised services in South Yorkshire for working together to do all they can to support victims of serious crime. Baroness Newlove said: "I know this will have been difficult, and I know you have done all you can to help support the many victims who have come forward. By continuing to work in unison, you can really make a difference to these victims and their journey to recovery."

Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Rachel Barber from South Yorkshire Police explained the police's obligation of meeting the Victims Code of Practice and what services officers in South Yorkshire are required to offer a victim and the minimum standard for these services.

Delegates heard first hand from a victim of crime about her experience through the criminal justice system, and bringing the offender to justice. Speaking through a video interview, she explained to the audience her ordeal at the hands of a man who is now serving a four year and a half year prison sentence. The officer in charge of her case talked through how such a case is dealt with by the police, and what services are on offer to victims of a sexual assault. In this case, the forensic examination was done in her own home rather than at the South Yorkshire SARC.

They also heard from His Honour Judge Julian Goose, who spoke about how victims and witnesses are supported in the most appropriate way possible throughout their journey through the criminal justice system. He later expressed support for my proposed development of a remote video link for vulnerable victims in South Yorkshire, funded by my office.

District Crown Prosecutor Michael Quinn, spoke about how victims, especially vulnerable victims, are supported and the services available to them in court. He explained how vulnerable victims are able to video record their cross examination before the trial.

The audience also got to hear about the work of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and how they offer practical and emotional support to anyone who has been subject to a sexual assault. Information on Children and Young People's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (CHISVA) was provided and future plans to award the Victims' Services contract after a competitive tender process.

## **Domestic Abuse:**

*“Around 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse”- NSPCC*

HMIC’s 2015 PEEL Effectiveness report said South Yorkshire Police ‘...needs to improve how it identifies and addresses risks to domestic abuse victims and their children.’ Since then, the Force has made improvements in the quantity, quality and timeliness of risk assessing domestic abuse victims, has held internal and external communication campaigns to encourage reporting, and to ensure officers consider the safety of children at domestic abuse incidents.

Last year there were over 22,000 domestic incident calls to the South Yorkshire Police. Of the incidents reported, 11,435 were recorded as domestic abuse crimes, of which 3,224 of the victims had been a victim of another domestic crime in the 12 months prior.

In 2016/17 I provided additional funding from my victim services grant to help support the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate service in each of the four districts. These specialist teams offer help and support to those at high risk of domestic abuse, with the aim of increasing safety and reducing the risk of further abuse.

In January 2017, I visited police officers, staff and partner agencies at the Mary Woollett Centre in Doncaster. Professionals from South Yorkshire Police and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council work closely together to safeguard vulnerable adults and children at risk of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation. Working in the same office allows partners to share vital information quickly and efficiently, rather than being caught up in emails and administration. “The Police cannot strive to safeguard vulnerable residents in Doncaster alone and we rely heavily on partner agencies, and they on us, to undertake and manage the huge risk that exists in accomplishing this task”, DC Matthew Jackson.

### **Preventing and deterring reoffending:**

In 2016/17, I worked closely with partners across the criminal justice world to improve services for offenders integrating into communities after release.

I supported the National Probation Service and South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company in making things safer for communities when offenders have been released from prison or are supervised in the community. The majority of offenders complete their sentences outside custody, and in order to minimise the risk of them reoffending I have been part of discussions to make sure offenders have structured resettlement arrangements, fulfil the terms of their sentences, breaches are followed through and licences recalled to protect the public.

Within South Yorkshire there are four Community Justice Panels, which I fund together with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and local authorities. The Panels are made up of trained local volunteers, and bring together victims and offenders of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour in a supportive, informal environment to discuss issues and look for ways to move forward and resolve any unwanted behaviour. These panels are best placed to deal with local issues as many of the volunteers working on cases are residents who have local knowledge of the area and can relate to the issues that people are concerned with. In Baroness Newlove's April 2016 report 'A question of quality: a review of Restorative Justice', a Restorative Justice (RJ) case in South Yorkshire is identified as good practice:

*"South Yorkshire PCC managed a case where an incident of criminal damage occurred between two neighbours. The circumstances highlighted that an RJ intervention would be beneficial to assist with the ongoing issues leading up to the criminal damage and following it. The RJ Manager allocated appropriate facilitators to the case by assigning one facilitator who lived in the locality and understood the local issues, and the other, by reflecting the age of one of the couples involved. This helped the participants feel that the RJ facilitation was*

*being dealt with by local people who had their interests at heart and that the facilitators had the experience, expertise and capacity to deal with the complexities of the case."* (Newlove 2016).

*"...seeing my victims has made me realise I've caused misery for victims over the years, I no longer want to live my life like that." - offender*

RJ was back in the news this autumn when a report by the Justice Committee of MPs advised that the provision for RJ was a postcode lottery. However, due to the 'RJ Hub' I funded in June 2015, this is not the case for residents of South Yorkshire. RJ offers victims the opportunity to ask questions of their offenders that they would not normally have the opportunity to do. When a crime is committed, many victims feel it as personal, that they are still unsafe and may find that they are struggling to cope and recover. By having opportunity to speak to those who have committed the crime, they will find this is not the case.



The Restorative Justice service is being supported by a Ministry of Justice grant, and is a partnership initiative led by the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board, which comprises criminal justice partners including my office, South Yorkshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service, HMCTS (Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service), South Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Offending Teams, Prisons, Legal Aid Agency, Victim Support, Witness Service, NHS England and local authority children's services.

In 2016/17, I continued funding for a Link Officer, along with West Yorkshire PCC and Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institute Wetherby. The role offers an in-custody contact who works closely with Wetherby case workers and Youth Offending Team case managers to provide support and interventions to young people in preparation for settling back into their community upon release. This

approach has been proven to be effective in building relationships with young offenders, and though it is too early to evaluate the delivery of successful rehabilitation plans and their effect on reducing reoffending, continuing the project offers the prospect of more fully assessing the longer term benefits and opportunities presented by the role.

National research and local experience inform us that the most high risk time for young people to reoffend is the period immediately following release from custody. With the correct resettlement plan in place, young people are much less likely to go on to reoffend in the community.

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## **Community Engagement:**

I am elected by you to be your voice, giving you a say in what you want your police service to do. I listen to your concerns and issues, and take these up on your behalf with the Chief Constable.

In 2016/17, my staff and I attended 104 community events, meetings and forums, talking to people from across South Yorkshire about policing and the issues that matter to them. By far the most important issues continued to be neighbourhood policing and the visibility of the police within communities, and contact with and from South Yorkshire Police.

In order to be as accessible as possible, I use a number of ways that the public can contact me to give their views on policing in their local area, and across South Yorkshire. I have a dedicated Caseworker who manages correspondence that comes into the office via telephone, email, letter, or via the website.

I have a Senior Communications Officer who manages my day-to-day media relations, my website and social media content, promoting awareness campaigns, and reaching those who prefer to receive their information online.

I also have an Engagement Team who help me as I go out and about in the communities of South Yorkshire, talking to members of the public face-to-face at numerous events throughout the year, attending community meetings, and building group and individual relationships to identify and act on the most important issues in local areas. Some of the places my team and I have visited with the public across South Yorkshire this year:



### **Fairness and transparency:**

In 2016/17, the Interim Chief Constable, Dave Jones, and I asked the College of Policing for support in conducting a Peer Review to see what South Yorkshire Police do well, and where there was room for improvement. The remit was broad and covered culture, leadership, ethics, integrity, organisational learning and various operational issues.

22 experts from across a range of policing fields, led by Lancashire Deputy Chief Constable Andy Rhodes, came to South Yorkshire to assess the Force against areas of national best practice and to talk to officers and staff about their experiences and view of the Force.

The report made clear that decision making had been isolated, staff had not been listened to and action had not always been taken on agreed plans. Financial and operational planning had not been linked and there had been an underinvestment in key areas. There had also been a disturbing move away from an effective neighbourhood policing model.

This gave the new Chief Constable Stephen Watson a clear picture of the strengths and weaknesses within the organisation, and allowed him to 'hit the ground running' when he came into post on 1 December 2016.

The Review concluded with a number of recommendations, aimed at stabilising the Force in the short-term and allowing time for the Chief Constable to develop a vision for SYP to 2020. Work continues with the Force to address the issues identified as part of the review, and progress is reported via my Public Accountability Board and my regular one-to-one meetings with the Chief Constable.

Further details about the Peer Review can be found at:  
[www.southyorks.police.uk/peersupport](http://www.southyorks.police.uk/peersupport)

Fair treatment of individuals and communities by the police is essential for them to retain trust and confidence. The police rely on you to tell them about what is happening in your community, and in turn you expect the police to act on that information in keeping you safe.

In September 2016 I ran an online survey to find out how the public feel about South Yorkshire Police, what they felt were the most important policing issues in their community, and what they would like the police to do about it. The survey sample was small (736 people), but gave an insight into public opinion about policing and feeling safe in South Yorkshire.

Of those who completed the survey, 49% stated they lacked confidence in South Yorkshire Police, whereas only 12% stated they lacked confidence in the police service nationally.

In answer to the question 'What do you want the police to concentrate on in your area?', 36% said anti-social behaviour, 20% said visibility or more police, and 17% said road crime, including nuisance motorbikes. This is consistent with what you have been telling me via other sources throughout the year too.

One respondent commented they wished the police to concentrate on low-level crime, such as fly tipping, littering, and illegal parking in their area. However, each of these issues are predominantly the responsibility of the local authority.

I recognise that it takes more than just the police to make an area feel safe, and as such I have asked South Yorkshire Police to work with partners in the coming year to address feelings of safety within communities, and to develop a joint action plan on how to tackle this together.

The Trust and Confidence Steering Group was established in the Autumn of 2016. It is jointly chaired by the Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner,

Sioned-Mair Richards, and the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing, David Hartley. It reports to the Public Accountability Board.

The aim of the group is to improve the trust and confidence that the communities of South Yorkshire have in South Yorkshire Police. To this end the group has been working on:

- The development of a baseline assessment of public trust and confidence in South Yorkshire Police
- The development of a new neighbourhood policing model
- Improving ways in which the public are able to contact the police
- How the police engage with the public
- Community engagement and community alerts
- Internal engagement with officers and staff

The baseline assessment is being commissioned to an external survey company with a brief to reflect the views of the many and varied communities of South Yorkshire. The findings, which are expected in the Autumn of 2017, will inform the work programme of the steering group in the coming year.

## Finance

The 2016/17 financial year has been a difficult period for South Yorkshire Police. The Hillsborough Inquests concluded with 96 unlawful killing verdicts, the National Crime Agency continues its work of investigating the cases of child sexual exploitation identified in the Jay report, and for a while it seemed as though the Government might agree to a formal public inquiry into Orgreave. All of this has caused additional expenditure.

£241.963m budget for 2016/17 *\*\*infographic\*\**

The funding given to me in 2016/17 saw a reduction of the government grant of £1m from that received in 2015/16. However, as the council tax for policing in South Yorkshire was the eighth lowest in England, I was given greater flexibility to raise the policing precept. As a result of both an increase in the precept rate and a larger increase in properties in South Yorkshire paying council tax than assumed by the Home Office, my total funding saw an increase of approximately 0.8% compared to 2015/16 (£1.8m).

The majority of this funding was delegated to the Chief Constable to fund the operational running of South Yorkshire Police. As part of the budget process the Force is required to produce a savings plan. I monitor performance against this through the Public Accountability Board. This year the Force has overachieved on their savings target, however there is further work to be done, especially as we roll out the new policing model over the coming year.

### *Income £000:*

Core government grant	77,465
Other grant income	7,219
Police Grant	100,597
Council Tax	63,901

### *Revenue outturn £000:*

OPCC	1,662
Partnerships and Commissioning	3,446
Capital Charges	3,100
Delegated to the Chief Constable	233,928
Legacy Issues	984
Reserves	6,062

### *Staffing info (FTE equivalent):*

PCs	2,483
PCSOs	208
Police Staff	1,876
Special PCs	268
Cadets	92
Volunteers	179

In February 2017 I consulted with the public to see if they would be willing to pay a little more towards South Yorkshire Police in 2017/18 as part of their council tax. 90% of respondents said they would, on the understanding that they see an improvement in local policing. As such, I have made the improvement of local policing one of my priorities for the coming year.

In addition, the Chief Constable has committed to take South Yorkshire Police from a force graded by HMIC as 'requires improvement' to one that is good and indeed excellent. I will support him in that in every way I can.

## Looking Ahead

Looking to the future and considering to what extent new local, national and global trends will impact upon policing and keeping people safe in South Yorkshire can be difficult in such a fast-changing world.

In the year ahead, I will be focusing on the following key areas:

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)

Cyber Crime

Collaboration with the Fire Service

I will be holding a number of public events, as well as online polls, to find out your views on these, as well as what you want your police force to concentrate on in the coming year. I encourage you to get in contact with me, either by attending an event or writing to my office, and let me know your thoughts and views on policing in South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire Police ended the year with stability and positive change ahead, but the job of policing becomes ever more uncertain and challenging. The funding provided by central Government struggles to match the demand caused by the changing nature of crime and the increased threats of terrorist attacks. But I am determined to work with the Force's new leadership team to make South Yorkshire as safe as we possibly can.

## **Get Involved**

### **Special Constabulary**

There are few, if any, organisations that offer the variety of experience you will find as part of the Special Constabulary in South Yorkshire Police. 'Specials' 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 great way of developing new skills and giving something back to your local community.

If you are interested in becoming a special constable, please visit: [www.southyorks.police.uk/work-us/specials](http://www.southyorks.police.uk/work-us/specials) or call 0114 219 7000 for more information.

### **Police Support Volunteers**

There are a number of volunteer roles within the police, such as a Community Safety Volunteer, Puppy Walker, Lifewise Volunteer or Digital Outreach Officer. Each role plays a vital part in supporting South Yorkshire Police, and is a great way of giving back to the community.

If you are interested in a Police Support Volunteer role, please visit: [www.southyorks.police.uk/content/volunteer-vacancies](http://www.southyorks.police.uk/content/volunteer-vacancies) or call 01709 832455 and ask for the PSV 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: [www.southyorks.police.uk/content/how-apply](http://www.southyorks.police.uk/content/how-apply)

### **Independent Custody Visitors (ICV)**

I run an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, where members of the public visit police stations unannounced to check people being held in custody are being treated properly. ICVs perform a very important role on my behalf, and I am grateful for their continuing involvement and contribution.

If you are interested in applying to be a custody visitor, please visit: [www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Independent-Custody-Visiting](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Get-Involved/Independent-Custody-Visiting) or call 0114 296 4150.

### **Independent Advisory Groups**

I run a number of Independent Advisory Groups to provide the valuable role of 'critical friend' to South Yorkshire Police and I. The groups give independent advice on a number of policy issues, and provide a safeguard against disadvantaging any section of the community through a lack of understanding, ignorance or mistaken belief.

If you are interested in being an Independent Advisory Group panel member, please email: [info@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:info@southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk) or call 0114 296 4150.

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