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Foreword

Security is an essential need of the soul.

Simone Weil, The Need for Roots

This Police and Crime Plan is an important document because it sets out the priorities for South Yorkshire Police for the year ahead. These are the priorities that have emerged from all the conversations I have had over the past year including with you, members of the public. I have met individuals and groups from every demographic, every ethnic and community group, young and old, urban and rural, inner-city and outer suburb. The over-riding messages have been remarkably similar. We want South Yorkshire to be a safe place to live and we want the police service to achieve this by:

- *protecting vulnerable people*
- *tackling crime and anti-social behaviour*
- *treating people fairly.*

These are the priorities. The police must now ensure that their activities in the coming year will deliver them, and I must ensure that they have the funds from the government and local taxation to do so.

I will be looking for a number of outcomes and holding the police to account against them. What you can read about in the rest of this Police and Crime Plan is how I will measure whether the police, together with other partners, are achieving this. I do that in many different ways, but one important and public way is through the Public Accountability Board. This is a regular meeting at Police Headquarters where I question the Chief Constable and his senior officers about different aspects of their work to see how the priorities are being met. Members of the public are welcome to come and can also ask questions. Details are on the website.

Last year was a turbulent year for South Yorkshire Police. A Peer Review and an inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary were critical of aspects of the Force's performance. But we now have a new Chief Constable and Senior Leadership Group who are determined to get the service into a good and then an excellent place, and a clear plan to do it.

Across the country, the tasks ahead for the police are formidable. The National Policing Vision 2025 describes a very different police service to what we have now. The police will have to do more with less money and far fewer officers and staff than even a few years ago. We will continue to look with them for more efficient ways of working. Some of this will come from working more closely with partners. Some will come through the use of new technology. A close eye will have to be kept on the way demands on the police service are changing – more vulnerable people, more internet crime, new threats posed by human trafficking and modern slavery, the rise in hate crime, and so on. This is why the Police and Crime Plan has to be reviewed each year.

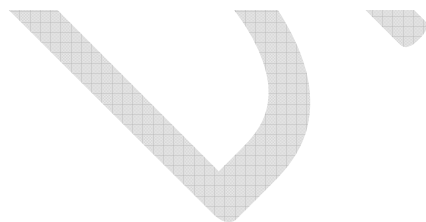
One partner that we will collaborate more closely with is the Fire and Rescue Service. The Police and Crime Act (2017) allows Police and Crime Commissioners to take on this service as well as the police.

I have said that I don't see the need for this at this time, provided that we pursue together all possible ways of working better as a partnership. I have set up a joint committee with Fire and Rescue to drive this forward.

Towards the end of the second world war, the French government in London asked one of the country's leading intellectuals, Simone Weil, to draw up plans for post-war reconstruction. I don't know what they expected but what they got was not a practical policy but a meditation on what would produce a sense of well-being after the traumas of war. One of her comments often comes to mind when thinking about policing. She said, "Security is an essential need of the soul". I think she is right. If the police work to the priorities in this plan, and achieve the outcomes set out here, we shall all feel and be secure. And that is fundamental to our sense of well-being.

Dr Alan Billings
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner

January 2017



Introduction

What does a Police and Crime Commissioner do?

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 them up with the Chief Constable. I write a Police and Crime Plan, and provide money to the police to deliver the priorities in the Plan. I am responsible for commissioning services from other organisations to help deliver those priorities as well. I offer grants to the voluntary and community sector to support them in helping those in South Yorkshire who need it.

I also contribute to national policing needs by having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement, a document that outlines the Home Secretary's views of national threats. In the Police and Crime Plan I ask the Chief Constable what South Yorkshire Police is doing to combat cross-border crimes such as terrorism, cyber-crime and child sexual exploitation.

In addition to this, I am responsible for hiring a Chief Constable to lead the force forward, and provide the best policing possible for South Yorkshire. In certain circumstances I can also dismiss the Chief Constable.

So what's the point of having a Police and Crime Commissioner and a Chief Constable?

You may see the words 'operational' and 'strategic' a lot throughout the Police and Crime Plan. The Chief Constable is 'operationally' responsible for the day-to-day running of the force; it is his responsibility to make sure that police officers and staff are able to do their job in keeping the people of South Yorkshire safe from harm. My responsibility is 'strategic' which means that I tell the Chief Constable where to focus his efforts in fighting crime and setting the budget. I then hold him to account for achieving the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.

It is important to remember that the Chief Constable has a duty to protect the public from all crime, not just the ones that I ask him to focus on. The Chief Constable and I work closely together to make sure we are both agreed on the priorities for the force, and that we do not work towards different priorities.

What is the Police and Crime Plan?

The Police and Crime Plan is a document I must produce that tells the police what you the public want them to do. The Plan is important as it sets out and communicates my policing and crime priorities to the public, police, partner agencies, the Police and Crime Panel, and others with an interest in how South Yorkshire is policed.

I must publish a new plan as soon as possible after my election as Police and Crime Commissioner, and review it each year.

What are 'police and crime priorities'?

A priority is simply something that is more important than everything else. For policing and crime, this means choosing issues that affect how safe people are or feel. It is these areas that South Yorkshire Police will work to address over the next four years, which is how long the Police and Crime Plan lasts.

My priorities for South Yorkshire are:

1. Protecting Vulnerable People
2. Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
3. Enabling Fair Treatment

How do you decide which organisations to give money to?

I give money to those organisations that can best provide a particular service. Most of the time this money is provided to the police. Where the police can't provide that service, or it would be more effective for someone else to, I make funding available to them. This other funding is often used to help victims after a crime, support the rehabilitation of offenders, or provide diversionary activities to stop crime happening in the first place. I do this in two ways:

1. I see a need that can be filled by an outside organisation, and request that organisation to do the work on my behalf. I decide on a service provider based on cost and quality of service. I publish my decisions, and the reasoning behind it, on my website so that you can check I am making good choices on your behalf.
2. I invite organisations to apply for a grant from a pot of money set aside to support projects within the community. These projects must help either prevent crime, or support those who have been a victim of crime. In order to get a grant, organisations must show how their project will help me achieve my priorities, and be able to prove that they have done this once the project finishes.

You make sure the Chief Constable is doing his job – who makes sure you are doing your job?

You do, by voting for the person you think is best suited for the job at the Police and Crime Commissioner elections. These take place every four years.

During those four years, I am held to account by the Police and Crime Panel. The Panel is made up of twelve 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. The Police and Crime Panel is also responsible for reviewing my proposed appointments of key officers, and for scrutinising my Annual Report. I have to report regularly to the Police and Crime Panel to account for what I am doing, or to be questioned by them and members of the public.

About South Yorkshire

TO INCLUDE MAP OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE
DESIGN TO BE FINALISED

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Overview of 2016

2016 has been a difficult time for South Yorkshire Police, and the public of South Yorkshire.

Between May and November we had an Interim Chief Constable. At the start of this period the Interim Chief Constable Dave Jones and I jointly commissioned a Peer Review, where colleagues from other forces around the country came to South Yorkshire to speak to officers and staff, and build a picture of how the force was functioning. The Review found both strengths and weaknesses. It told us where South Yorkshire Police was functioning well, and gave recommendations for where it needed to improve. This gave the new Chief Constable, Stephen Watson, a good understanding of South Yorkshire Police, and allowed him to 'hit the ground running' when he took up the post in December.

The 2016 Autumn Statement, where the Government set out how much funding they will give to each public body, reduced the grant again, but allowed us to make up some of the difference by increasing the precept – the money we raise locally through Council Tax. There will be further pressures on the police budget in future years as central government grant is reduced further. In addition the government intends to review the way police forces are funded. Long-term financial planning will be very difficult.

In October, I was dismayed by the Home Secretary's decision not to investigate the events of Orgreave in 1984. An investigation would have given South Yorkshire Police a chance to demonstrate a willingness to be open and learn from past mistakes.

It has not all been bad news though.

In 2016, I gave £88,337.52 to the third, voluntary and charity sectors as part of my Community Grants Scheme. All the organisations receiving funding from the scheme do exemplary work which makes a real difference to people's lives across South Yorkshire. All applications for funding must meet strict criteria, and must demonstrate how they will help me achieve the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan.

In May, I ran a 'Legal Highs' awareness campaign, targeted at vulnerable young people, informing them of the dangers of so-called 'legal highs'. This was launched with the support of all five South Yorkshire football clubs, Doncaster Belles and Sheffield Steelers. Promoted on social media using the hashtag #ill_legalhighs, the campaign reached 2.4 million Twitter users in the first week alone. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 now bans the production, supply and importing of these very harmful substances.

In the summer, I funded 900 hours of activities for up to 2000 children to take place during the school holidays. Yorkshire Sport Foundation and I awarded £42,000 to over 50 sport-based projects across South Yorkshire, aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour and providing young people with a safe place to learn new skills and meet other young people within their community.

In September Sarah Champion MP and I were pleased to officially open the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for adult victims of sexual assault or rape. This facility will provide as safe and welcoming an environment as possible for victims and survivors, co-commissioned with NHS England. It is available to anyone in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. Most importantly, victims can self-refer to the centre for help and support, even if they do not feel ready to report any incidents to the police.

In 2016, the Government moved forward with their plans to require the emergency services to work more closely together. The Policing and Crime Act (2017) makes this a duty, and also allows Police and Crime Commissioners to become responsible for Fire and Rescue as well as police.

I told the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority I do not intend to add 'Fire' to my job description at the present time, though pressure from the Government may mean I have to revisit this in the future. I suggested in the first instance we form a new joint committee to allow a more co-ordinated approach to how we work more closely together. This body could look at buildings, procurement and workforce matters to get greater efficiencies and effectiveness in both organisations. In October work also began on a new joint police and fire station in Maltby.

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The Commissioner's Policing and Crime Priorities

My plan aims to protect the most vulnerable by enabling the fair treatment of communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour to make South Yorkshire a safe place to live, learn and work. In the paragraphs below I set out what I require from the police to bring this about.

What does 'protect the most vulnerable' mean? Shouldn't everyone be protected?

Absolutely. However, through no fault of their own some members of our communities may find they are unable to protect themselves from harm, such as those suffering from mental ill-health. Others will have done all they can to protect themselves, but someone is still intent on causing them harm, for example, by breaking into their property.

It is of course better to stop something happening in the first place than repair the damage after it has happened. I believe the police and local agencies can have the most impact for vulnerable people by focusing on earlier intervention victims, witnesses and offenders. This will also help stop problems becoming too big and needing more expensive, resource intensive solutions further down the line.

Whether you are a victim, witness, offender or bystander, South Yorkshire Police will be there to restore order, investigate crime and protect the public. I will ensure you, the public, are receiving the best service that meets your needs. I believe all this is possible, even with the limited resources available, though this may mean the way services are delivered will change.

Requirement: I want South Yorkshire Police to intervene earlier with vulnerable people to prevent them becoming repeat victims or victims of more harmful crime.

Requirement: I want South Yorkshire Police to tackle offenders that cause the most harm in the community.

Who will be involved in helping the police do this?

Many of the people South Yorkshire Police and other local agencies come into contact with have multiple problems with issues such as health, employment, drugs or housing. Providing support earlier to these individuals will hopefully stop problems becoming unmanageable.

The majority of local agencies that work with South Yorkshire Police, known as 'partners', are already aware of the benefits of earlier intervention. Due to the complex nature of the problems people are facing, the best way to approach this is by working together.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I have the opportunity to drive forward greater coordination between South Yorkshire Police and partners, to look at the reasons why people may find themselves vulnerable, and how this links with crime and disorder.

Requirement: I want South Yorkshire Police to work alongside partners, other agencies and the community and voluntary sector to develop a plan during the next six months, that sets out how they will prevent and protect vulnerable people from further, more harmful crimes over the lifetime of this Police and Crime Plan.

What do you mean by ‘enabling the fair treatment of communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour’?

“To recognise always that the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, and not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.”

Sir Robert Peel, founder of the modern police service, 1829.

It is not just the absence of crime and disorder that makes a community safe, but that the community members all believe and feel that it is safe.

During many conversations with the public, I have been told that having more police in their community is one of the main priorities in their local area. It is vital that the public feel they are safe in South Yorkshire, but this needs to be balanced with the resources South Yorkshire Police have available. Where an area has a high level of incidents and crime, South Yorkshire Police and other agencies are going to be more visible than in areas of relatively low crime.

Nevertheless, areas of relatively low crime and anti-social behaviour also need to feel safe, and feel that they have a fair share of police resources. While it makes sense to tailor services to an area rather than try to treat every one the same, it is crucial to talk to communities and let them know why decisions are being made, rather than just imposing a new way of policing. I want South Yorkshire Police to help build capable communities and encourage active citizenship by discussing any future changes to local policing with the public before those changes are made, involving them in the design of those services as much as possible.

Advances in technology mean that officers can now remain in the community whilst they complete documents they would previously have written up at a police station. ‘Tough-book’ devices allow officers to stay in the community for longer, for example at libraries, supermarkets or even in the car. Combined with new ways the public can now contact the police, police buildings are being used less and less. By closing some under-used police buildings, or sharing spaces with partners, I can make sure money is spent on keeping up officer numbers. In a choice between buildings and people, I will always put ‘boots on the ground’ first. This may not always be what people initially want, but hopefully they will see the reasons for any decisions about buildings.

I want communities to have the confidence to report crime to South Yorkshire Police, and trust that the right course of action will be taken, even if they do not see a police officer on their street every day.

Policing should be done **with** you, not **to** you.

Requirement: I want the public of South Yorkshire to be satisfied that their views and opinions on the policing of their local area have been listened to and considered by South Yorkshire Police, and they understand the reasoning behind local policing decisions that are made in their community.

How will South Yorkshire Police know what's going on in my community?

It is absolutely vital that you have the confidence to report crime and anti-social behaviour to South Yorkshire Police, safe in the knowledge that it will be investigated promptly, and the perpetrator brought to justice. Without you letting South Yorkshire Police know what is going on in your community, however insignificant or small that information may seem, the police cannot build a picture to effectively tackle the issue.

I do, however, recognise that in the past year you may have had poor experience of contacting South Yorkshire Police. Frustration with waiting for their call to be answered on the 101 number has led to people giving up on reporting crimes and concerns. As such, incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour are being missed, and the police have the wrong picture of how often and where crime and anti-social behaviour are happening. This is not acceptable. I am committed to correcting this and in doing so will be consulting with the public around proposed changes to the way you contact South Yorkshire Police.

As with the development and implementation of any future policing, I want to see South Yorkshire Police involving you in the design of the future contact management plan.

I know there is a great deal of work to be done, to improve the public's confidence to report crime and anti-social behaviour. South Yorkshire Police need to ensure the 101 number is being answered in a timely way, and explore other options for reporting crime, such as online, or via email.

However, confidence in reporting crime is not just about making sure there is someone to answer the telephone, read the email or talk face-to-face. It is about acknowledging you have made contact, keeping you informed of what is happening with your crime, and updating you on the result of any action, whatever that may be. It is taking your concerns seriously, being courteous and polite, and being fair and transparent.

Requirement: I want the public of South Yorkshire to have trust and confidence in the way they contact South Yorkshire Police and when they make contact to be satisfied that they will be listened to, taken seriously and kept informed throughout any investigation, including being told about the result of any action taken.

What about the response to national threats that the police must address?

National requirements are detailed in what is known as the 'Strategic Policing Requirement', a document produced by the Home Office. Police forces in England and Wales carry the responsibility for tackling a wide range of harms, threats and hazards in order to cut crime and keep the public safe. Although many of these can be tackled by an individual police force within their own police force area, there are some that go beyond those traditional boundaries.

These national threats require a coordinated response in which resources are brought together from a number of police forces. Forces often need to work collaboratively, and with other partners, national agencies or national arrangements, to ensure such threats are tackled effectively.

However, the fight against serious and organised crime and terrorism begins with you. By being vigilant and reporting concerns where you live, South Yorkshire Police can contribute to the national fight against crime by disrupting and catching those who choose to get involved in gun crime, drug dealing and terrorism in your community.

Requirement: I want South Yorkshire Police to demonstrate how they will respond to regional and national policing requirements detailed by the Home Secretary in the Strategic Policing Requirement

What about other specific policing demands in South Yorkshire?

It is important the police are in touch with the needs of local communities. Local issues are often those that impact most on people feeling and being safe.

Balanced with this though is an evaluation of the risk to South Yorkshire from specific threats and harms. This evaluation, known as the 'Strategic Intelligence Assessment' (SIA), is regularly updated and communicated across the force. The SIA uses a procedure that measures likelihood, impact and the overall risk of a problem occurring or getting worse. It considers the impact on the victim, community and organisation. It also considers factors such as the force's ability to respond, the scale of the crime, and what intelligence has been gathered. The key issues for South Yorkshire Police identified through the SIA are:

Protecting Vulnerable People

- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Child Abuse
- Vulnerable Adults
- Domestic Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation

Serious and Organised Criminality

- Guns and Gangs
- Economic Crime
- Cyber Crime
- Drugs Markets

Requirement: I want South Yorkshire Police to demonstrate effective prevention and action to tackle those areas of crime listed in the Strategic Intelligence Assessment that have been assessed as 'Very High Risk', as well as those local issues that impact most on feelings of safety.

The financial and other resources which the PCC provides to the Chief Constable and Partners

Where does the money to run South Yorkshire Police come from?

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I must set the annual budget for policing. Most of the funding for South Yorkshire Police comes directly from the Government via the police grant, and the remainder comes from you as the police part of your Council Tax. This is known as the 'precept'. I also fund other services that support my priorities by commissioning some services and giving funding to organisations through my Community Grant Scheme.

The Government have agreed to give the police the same level of funding as last year in 'cash terms'. This means they will give me the same amount of money as last year.

However, this does not take into account inflation, increases in wages, or general increases in the cost of goods or services.

So, if the money stays the same, but the costs of running a police force are going up, savings have to be found if I am to balance the budget. I want to protect frontline services and will be working alongside the Chief Constable to ensure these savings do not impact upon local policing.

Is this why you are increasing the precept?

The Government have agreed to give Police and Crime Commissioners the same level of funding as last year, provided that we set the precept at the maximum level permitted. Although this decision is for each Police and Crime Commissioner to make, the implication of the announcement was clear: if you don't put the precept up, you cannot expect any additional help during the year.

In the case of South Yorkshire, this could be quite serious since I have had to ask for Special Grant help several times in recent years.

I consulted with the public in February to see if they would be willing to pay a little more towards South Yorkshire Police 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.

So how much extra am I going to pay?

I have agreed an increase in the council tax of £5 for a Band D property for 2017/18. As the majority of properties in South Yorkshire fall in the Band A bracket, most households will see an average increase of 6p per week.

I will use your money in the most effective and efficient way possible, making sure that the police service give value for money.

What is the money spent on?

The majority of funding is given to the Chief Constable for the day-to-day running of South Yorkshire Police. A small amount of funding is used to finance the running of my Office, which enables me to carry out my responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner. I commission services and award grants to organisations that help me achieve the priorities in this Plan, including specific funding for victim support services. I also have to cover the legal costs from any trials or Judicial Reviews South Yorkshire Police may go through, including any resulting compensation claims.

Requirement: We will secure an efficient and effective use of resources on behalf of the public of South Yorkshire, ensuring value for money of policing and crime services

1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016
Budget

Funding	£'000
Central Government Grants	189,943
Council Tax Precept	49,144
Collection Fund Surplus	1,041
Income (Fees, Other Grants etc.)	21,977
Reserves	4,464
Total Funding	266,569
Expenditure	
Employees	198,325
Premises	6,833
Transport	3,518
Supplies & Services	10,197
Support & Agency	25,349
Legacy	9,860
OPCC	1,563
Commissioning & Partnership	4,147
Capital Charges	2,755
Other Operating Expenditure	4,022
Total Expenditure	266,569

TO INCLUDE PIE CHARTS DETAILING:

1. Total revenue funding
2. Expenditure
3. Percentage breakdown of properties

How the Chief Constable will report South Yorkshire Police's performance to the PCC, including how the performance will be measured.

How will you know if your priorities are being achieved?

I hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering my priorities by asking him to show me how South Yorkshire Police are working towards protecting vulnerable people, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and enabling fair treatment. This is done at the Public Accountability Board, held every six weeks, and is usually given in the form of written reports or presentations.

The questions I will be asking the Chief Constable are:

1. What is the progress made against the requirement?
2. Where there is good progress, how do we know this to be the case?
3. Where there is little progress that has been made, how will this be corrected and what are the issues stopping it happening?

I will ask the Chief Constable to focus on one theme per meeting, meaning each priority will be reviewed three times a year. This will allow me time to fully understand what action has been taken, and gives South Yorkshire Police time to gather the necessary performance information.

Where I deem performance to be too slow, I can ask the Chief Constable to report back sooner, either at the Public Accountability Board, or during our regular one-to-one meetings.

How else will you know if your priorities are being achieved?

I will not rely solely on the Chief Constable to show me what he is doing to contribute to the requirements in my Police and Crime Plan. I will also be talking to you, the public, about your experiences of South Yorkshire Police. I will take account of HMIC inspections, such as PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) Inspections. I will be consulting my Advisory Panels, and asking them to report back to me. I will meet with community groups, councillors and MPs, and will be running a series of engagement campaigns throughout the year to seek your views on specific issues. Where I deem it necessary, I can also commission HMIC to inspect the force on a particular issue, or request an audit take place.

This way I can feed back to the Chief Constable which actions he is taking that are successful, and which ones may need more work or focus.

But who monitors your performance?

It is through the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel that you hold me to account for my decisions and actions. They make sure that I achieve the aims set out in this Plan, whose outcomes I report in my Annual Report.

Ultimately, I am most publicly held to account by you at the ballot box.

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Partnerships and the wider Criminal Justice System

You've mentioned partners helping with achieving your priorities – what exactly does this mean?

It is no longer the sole responsibility of the police service to tackle crime, as it is no longer the sole responsibility of other agencies to protect vulnerable people. In order to make a true difference, we need to work together.

Partners across South Yorkshire, such as Fire and Rescue, Local Authorities, probation, prisons, the NHS and voluntary bodies, have told me their priorities for the next year. These are very similar to the priorities I've set out for South Yorkshire Police in this Plan, so it makes sense to work together to achieve these. This will prevent us working separately on the same problem, and will lead to a better outcome for the victim, witness or offender.

I also pay attention to what other national agencies are doing, and have regard to what their priorities are and how this may impact on policing. All public bodies will have less money going forward, and will have to make cuts to balance the books. This means more pressure on existing services, and I work closely with the Chief Constable to work out what this means for South Yorkshire Police.

What sort of issues do the police and partners collaborate on?

South Yorkshire Police works closely with local authority and criminal justice partners on areas such as domestic abuse, missing persons, anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol misuse and mental health.

What if partners do not want to work with the police? What can you do?

As Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire I can use the influence of my office. Some partners, such as Fire and Rescue, have a duty to collaborate.

All local authority areas must have a Community Safety Partnership. Though I am not a statutory member of any of the Partnerships, due to the role they play in keeping your community safe, my Office is represented in each district.

If an area is suffering from a particular issue, I can ask the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership to provide a report on what is being done about the issue. The report will cover all the work being done by the agencies in that area, and from that report I can work out what part South Yorkshire Police play.

What about other Criminal Justice agencies?

The police service is just one part of a wider system of bringing people to justice, known as the 'Criminal Justice Service'. As well as police, there is the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Her

Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS), and third-sector agencies who support victims and witnesses through a trial, amongst others.

South Yorkshire Police's part is investigating the crime, catching the offender and providing evidence to the CPS. From there, the CPS decide whether to prosecute the offender. Sometimes frustration with perceived lack of action may be focused on the police or other agencies, when in fact it is no one's fault, but a result of a very complex system.

In order to address such frustration, I support a Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), which brings together local criminal justice agencies to create a system where the partners work together to achieve common goals and priorities. The key priorities of the South Yorkshire LCJB are:

1. Delivering services which focus on the needs of victims and witnesses.
2. Delivering criminal justice services efficiently and effectively
3. Reducing crime and reoffending

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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 or call 0114 291 7000 for more information.

Police Support Volunteers

There 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 or call 01709 832353 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

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. ICV's 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 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 or call 0144 296 4150

Contact Me:

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Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Yorkshire-Police-and-Crime-Commissioner/134311176610923>

Twitter: @sypcc

Instagram: @sypcc