
SAFER SHEFFIELD PARTNERSHIP

KEEPING SHEFFIELD SAFE



ANNUAL REPORT: 2023-2024

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Our Priorities for 2023-2024

Sheffield remains one of the safest cities in the United Kingdom.

The work of the Safer Sheffield partnership continues to complement the plethora of operational and strategic activity delivered across the city by a range of partners and third sector organisations ensuring we preserve and where possible improve upon this position.

The Safer Sheffield strategic plan 2021-2025 outlined the key crime and anti-social behaviour issues affecting Sheffield following analysis of police and partner data contained within the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA). From this document the Safer Sheffield priorities and measure of success were identified.

Please see table 1 below for a list of our thematic priorities, associated measures of success and appointed thematic leads.

Table 1:

Priority	Measures of success	Thematic Lead
Address Anti-social behaviour in Sheffield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in ASB issues in key locations. • Increase opportunities for joint working via local actions plans and neighbourhood problem solving forums. • Introduce a new ASB Priority Theme Group to provide strategic leadership and focus on key locations across the city. • Co-ordinate key activity over busy periods, such as our responses to anti-social behaviour over the Dark Nights period. 	Jim Dee SCC
Address the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the number of victims of crime - reviewed quarterly. • Reduction in calls for service relating to crime - reviewed quarterly. 	DCI Mark Oughton

<p>impact of crime and reducing re-offending in Sheffield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve community engagement in crime reduction via Local Area Committees, public forums and consultation, one-to-one engagement, and community surveys. • Increase opportunities for joint problem solving in order to protect vulnerable people and locations - reviewed through neighbourhood actions plans and Neighbourhood Action Groups. • Work with our local schools, colleges and universities to improve diversionary and educational projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Sheffield Plan to reduce re-offending. • Develop and monitor access to key services to ensure offenders are fully supported. • Develop effective and sustainable out of court disposal programmes. • Work collaboratively with the newly formed National Probation Service. 	<p>SYP</p>
<p>Protect vulnerable people in Sheffield</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support victims of domestic abuse, hate crime, modern day slavery, ASB and other crimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of domestic abuse perpetrators attending the Inspire to Change Programme. • Reduce hospital admissions due to acts of violence, alcohol and drug consumption. • improve engagement and increase referrals into the drug and alcohol treatment services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness around issues of risk and vulnerability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work collaboratively with Sheffield’s Safeguarding Boards. • Increase opportunities for joint working with the NHS, CCG and Mental Health Boards. • Work collaboratively with partners from the voluntary and community sector. 	<p>Insp Harri Sloane SYP</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Local Area Committees. 	
Tackle the supply of drugs in Sheffield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase support for drug users in Sheffield. • Positively impact on levels of violence connected to the supply of drugs. • Increase enforcement opportunities across the partnership to disrupt organised criminals and keep communities safe. • Assess and update the effectiveness of local area plans focusing on key locations and issues. 	DI Jamie Smith SYP Simon Mitchell SCC
Reduce violence against women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing support for victims and survivors; • Support an increase in the number of perpetrators brought to justice; • Increase positive interventions and engagement to increase public confidence in reporting incidents. 	Alison Higgins SCC
Address the impact of hate crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support victims of hate crime. • increase public awareness around issues of risk and vulnerability. • Continue to work collaboratively with Sheffield's Safeguarding Boards. • Increase opportunities for joint working with the NHS, CCG and Mental Health Boards. • Work collaboratively with partners from the voluntary and community sector. • Support the Local Area Committees. 	Huda Ahmed SCC

Priority 1: Address Anti-social behaviour in Sheffield (ASB)

The ASB Theme Group identified the following priorities for 2023/24:

1. Reduce ASB Issues in key areas.
2. Adopt an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy for the City.
3. Ensure an effective response during Dark Nights 2023.
4. Ensure there is a high-quality response for victims, witnesses and communities affected by anti-social behaviour.

What we did in 2023-2024:

To deliver on the above priorities we achieved the following:

1. Reduce ASB Issues in key areas.
 - Implemented a Hot Spot Patrol pilot, utilising Home Office funding, to increase visible, uniformed patrols in 12 ASB hot spot areas in Sheffield;
 - Developed a draft Public Spaces Protection Order for the City Centre and gone out to public consultation on this.
 - Secured Home office funding to install CCTV coverage in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant Park, Nether Edge.
2. Adopt an Anti-Social Behaviour Policy for the City.
 - We have reviewed and updated the Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, carried out a public consultation on the updated version. The policy was approved at the SCC Communities, parks and leisure committee on 11th March 2024.
3. Ensure an effective response during Dark Nights 2023
 - We coordinated services to ensure another relatively quiet year without significant disorder during the dark nights period.

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- We used theme group funding to support successful community events in Sharrow and Manor.
4. Ensure there is a high-quality response for victims, witnesses and communities affected by anti-social behaviour.
- ASB Awareness Week – launched guidance on begging and begging related anti-social behaviour for businesses at an event in the Winter Gardens (July 2023)
 - Commenced a trial use of the ‘ASB App’, using theme group funding. This trial will run into 2024-25.
 - Used theme group money to part fund the introduction of Body Worn Video the in the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and City Centre Management Team, to improve officer safety and evidence gathering capacity.
 - Used theme group money to provide training to officers on ASB Case Reviews (also known as Community Triggers).

Current and emerging challenges:

Anti-social behaviour trend data is not currently available to the Theme Group.

What we need to do:

Ensure effective use of all anti-social behaviour tools and powers, in-line with the new Council ASB Policy.

Priority 2: Address the impact of crime and reducing re-offending in Sheffield

The Neighbourhood crime and re-offending theme Group identified the following priorities for 2023/24:

1. To provide support to the delivery of problem-solving plans to address identified local crime hotspots for robbery, burglary and theft of/from motor vehicles.
2. Working with the business community, address acquisitive crime by supporting the delivery of problem-solving plans in local crime hotspots for business theft and burglary.
3. Focus on crime reduction plans to prevent residents of Sheffield becoming the victims of Neighborhood crime.
4. Assist in supporting groups who seek to stop reoffending to reduce criminality and channel offenders into positive lifestyles.

What we did in 2023-2024:

Action we took to improve our business processes;

- The new Neighborhood Crime and Reoffending Theme Group Chair was recruited in July 2023.
- The Neighbourhood crime thematic meeting has now been reconfigured and is co-chaired between Crime manager and CI Neighborhood's. Refreshed governance and information sharing processes have been introduced to ensure that key offenders and emerging threats are identified, actioned and reviewed using problem solving methodology.
- We re-established a monthly meeting schedule which now includes representation from key stakeholders including Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Neighbourhood Crime Team, IOM, Intelligence, Probation, Youth Services, Universities, SCC and Youth Services amongst others.

In support of our identified priorities we delivered numerous initiatives in partnership. In tandem with broader operational and partnership activity this have contributed to a general downward trend in Neighbourhood crime types including burglary, robbery and vehicle crime. A selection of these are detailed below;

- Preventing students becoming victims of crime: Participation in the “Welcome Week” at the University of Sheffield and Hallam University took place in September 2023. As part of this, the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams and dedicated university officers delivered a range of direct engagement activity via events, accommodation visits, talks, and house-to-house door knocking. A bespoke engagement plan helped share crime prevention advice with the student community on specific and relevant crime types supported by funding from Safer Sheffield Partnership.
- Burglary, Vehicle crime and robbery prevention: In November 2023, South Yorkshire Police launched a new neighbourhood crime campaign, aiming to tackle burglary, personal robbery and theft of motor vehicle. As part of this, the force delivered targeted communication and operational activity in hotspot areas for each crime type. This activity was supplemented by support from partners and funding from the Safer Sheffield partnership to support targeted engagement with those most vulnerable and distribution of crime prevention packs. In addition, faraday pouches to mitigate against the theft of high value motor vehicles from visitors into the city staying in the town centre were distributed via hotels and other key outlets along with crime prevention advice.
- Bike theft: Via the Safer Sheffield partnership Bike marking equipment has also now been purchased to intensify activity to reduce this type of offending. This is prevalent particularly in City Centre locations and amongst our student population. This initiative has been welcomed by Universities and students alike.
- Ariel Drone capability: Two drones have been purchased by the Safer Sheffield Partnership to support operational activity in the city. Pilots will be trained across the Neighbourhood policing teams to effectively and legally utilise these to gather information and intelligence to support POP plans, community tasking, warrant applications and for use at events. Additional equipment for use during warrants has also been funded. This includes equipment to secure entry and lighting to facilitate safe and thorough searches.

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- Supporting our retailers: Similar to the picture nationally, Sheffield has seen a rise in retail crime with more shop workers being the subject of threats and in some cases assaulted. Funding has been provided by the Safer Sheffield partnership to deliver conflict resolution training to a small number of independent retailers in Hillsborough. If successful this will be replicated in other areas and is part of a broader range of interventions aimed at addressing retail criminality.
 - CCTV: Funding has been provided by the Safer Sheffield partnership for police staff to be trained in the use of the CCTV vans held across the city in order to prevent and detect offences of all types. In addition and to support the work of the SYP neighbourhood crime team funding has also been provided to purchase IT to expedite CCTV enquiries at the scene and therefore progress enquiries much quicker.
 - Preventing re-offending: The Integrated Offender Management team were supported in providing travel passes for their cohort as part of the essentials package, to assist in reducing reoffending by enabling customers to attend relevant appointments with supporting agencies to encourage a move away from offending via employment, education and training.

Current and emerging challenges:

- The current cost of living crisis continues to fuel rates of acquisitive crime.
- Residential burglaries continue to cause upset and misery to our communities with the continued rise of addresses targeted for high value vehicles.
- Retail theft with threats and assaults on staff continue to rise in our neighbourhoods.
- Street robbery, particularly in the City Centre with some correlation with the NTE see spikes particularly as the nights get warmer.
- Vehicle crime offences particularly around the Attercliffe Corridor and Darnall continue to be of concern.

What we need to do:

- Continue to work with partners to highlight current and emerging trends and reduce instances of NHC.
- As part of Operation Hawkeye, six areas have been identified within Sheffield: City Centre, Crookesmoor, Burngreave, Sheffield Park, Highfield, Gleadless Valley and Woodhouse which suffer persistently high volumes of residential burglary. The operation aims to identify wider factors and drivers for burglary in these areas. Problem Orientated Policing plans have been developed in these areas to achieve a long-term reduction in offences.
- Work with colleagues in Safer Neighborhood Teams to ensure robust Problem solving plans are in place for high crime areas across all NHC types.

Priority 3: Protect vulnerable people in Sheffield (PVP)

The Protecting vulnerable people theme Group identified the following priorities for 2023/24:

1. Ensure there is continued support for rough sleepers/vulnerable street cohort in Sheffield City Centre.
2. Ensure fire safety is improved across the city.
3. To provide support/activity to remove vulnerable children from exploitation.
4. Assist in supporting young people across the city suffering with mental health issues.

What we did in 2023/2024:

- The Safer Sheffield Partnership welcomed a new thematic lead in November 2023 after a vacancy that placed the activity of the group on an unavoidable hiatus for several months. Since that time effort has gone into strengthening relationships between partners and re-establishing a regular meetings to identify challenges. This puts us in a strong position for 24/25.
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue has continued to lead on a number of fire safety initiatives across the city. We have worked to support these existing initiatives with an ambition to deliver them to a wider audience and in a more timely manner. The focus will continue to be on the more vulnerable groups highlighted via SYFR.
- The Safer Sheffield Partnership has provided funding support for the "Help us help" initiative in partnership with the Archer project. Begging and associated street culture ASB continues to be one of the top priorities for businesses within the city centre. The aim of the project is to reduce incidents of begging related

ASB, improve relationships with businesses and retailers and improve signposting for people on the streets.

The Safer Sheffield Community Team produced a city Centre Action Plan encompassing three themes;

- ✓ Engagement
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Enforcement

The project supported the education theme and contributed to;

- ✓ Provision of marketing resources – used at community engagement events, for example SYP informational stalls at public events etc.
- ✓ Posters and information packs for retailers/businesses.
- ✓ Updating retail guidance within the city centre.

Further information is available here:

[How the council is supporting businesses and people who beg in the city centre \(sheffnews.com\)](#)

[Help us help poster \(helpushelpsheffield.uk\)](#)

Tips for workers [Help us help poster \(helpushelpsheffield.uk\)](#)

Maps distributed amongst people on the streets and the general public.

[helpushelpsheffield.uk/blog/outreach-map](#) [helpushelpsheffield.uk/blog/healthcare-map](#).

- In advance of next year the thematic lead has been working hard to re-establish relationships and identify additional partners in anticipation of the 24/25 financial and performance year. A number of ongoing and new initiatives and partners have been identified. As an example dialogue with partners in the NHS has identified a nursing project in the city centre that analyses local health needs and focuses on

improving, maintain and regaining health through education, advice, advocacy and referral. It is hoped that the Safer Sheffield grant funding can support this work in the near future to increase awareness of support services available, provide better accessibility to appointments and services via support with travel in order to reduce future demand on services by intervening at an earlier stage.

Current and emerging challenges:

- Vulnerable groups not using services as they were intended for example rough sleepers not accessing support, allowing once minor medical issues to exacerbate and become serious then having to present at A&E.
- Knowledge of services available amongst practitioners to support effective signposting and support needs improvement.

What we need to do:

- Raise awareness of what support is available across Sheffield.
- Support service users getting to appointments and utilising those services fully.
- Reduce barriers to fundamentals of life – a home, health, food.
- Progress work getting businesses involved in reducing begging related ASB.

Priority 4: Address the Supply of Drugs

The Addressing the supply of drugs theme Group identified the following priorities for 2023/24:

1. Increase support for drug users in Sheffield.
2. Positively impact on the supply of illegal drugs in Sheffield.
3. Increase enforcement opportunities across the partnership to disrupt organised criminals and keep communities safe.
4. Assess and update the effectiveness of local action plans focusing on key locations and issues.

What we did in 2023-2024:

- Across the country, the impact of illegal drug supply is significant and wide-ranging, demanding coordinated responses from agencies across multiple disciplines. Safer Sheffield leads the strategic partner response to tackling the supply of drugs. A significant part of this work is coordinated and undertaken under the banner of *Fortify*, South Yorkshire's multi-agency approach to disrupting organised crime groups and preventing the exploitation of vulnerable people.
- Over 2023/4, the Fortify family of partners has continued to expand and provide a focus for targeted interventions, information sharing and raising awareness of the impact of drugs and criminal exploitation. The following is a snapshot of activity, with practice-based views on how we can further strengthen our approach in Sheffield.

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- **Fortify awareness sessions** - Raising awareness of Fortify, Cuckooing and County Lines amongst professionals. These have been expanded across the city, with the intention of providing professionals with a greater understanding of the impact of organised crime and exploitation. This year, sessions have been delivered to:
 - ✓ over 600 school/academy staff;
 - ✓ SYFR senior management, station managers, crews and safeguarding officers;
 - ✓ Crime and Vulnerability Meetings in key areas;
 - ✓ Team Around the Person (TAP) staff;
 - ✓ the new influx of Social Workers;
 - ✓ SCC Housing staff;
 - ✓ DWP staff; and
 - ✓ Bronze partners via a dedicated Fortify Masterclass.

In addition, Shelter have delivered x4 cuckooing sessions to staff across SCC, with plans to expand this to all frontline workers across SCC, Health and Social Care.

The impact of this work is not easy to measure, but the aspiration is for agency representatives to be able to confidently spot related issues, seek advice and submit intelligence so that we can continue to build a picture of activity in the city, and plan interventions.

Certainly, the presentations have been warmly received, and we have experienced an increase in partners contacting fortify@sheffield.gov.uk prior to submitting intelligence. We feel that this work has also bolstered the neighbourhood response via the Crime and Vulnerability meetings.

- **Joint working to increase positive outcomes for cuckooing victims**- Cuckooing is a key tactic deployed by our Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) It is difficult to decipher whether this is a growing problem, or if agency staff are getting better at spotting it and taking action. Whatever the case, OCGs have shown themselves able to quickly seize on vulnerabilities and make a profit. In addition to the training

sessions detailed above, agencies have worked together throughout 2023/4 to tackle cuckooing by:

- ✓ carrying out housing sustainability checks on vulnerable tenants;
- ✓ coordinating welfare checks;
- ✓ conducting joint patrols in key areas;
- ✓ target hardening properties and locations, including improving lighting and CCTV coverage;
- ✓ rehousing vulnerable tenants;
- ✓ coordinating NRM referrals; and
- ✓ pursuing Closure Orders and other legal tools and powers.

Increasing partners awareness and guardianship remains central to our work to reduce cuckooing. The next major step – now we have increased awareness – is to push for relevant agencies to specifically record incidents so that we can better quantify the impact of cuckooing.

- **Utilising partner enforcement tools & powers to tackle OC activity & reduce exploitation** - Over 2023/4, partners have used a range of tools and powers to target OCGs, including:

- ✓ over 30 closure orders, with possession pursued where breaches are recorded;
- ✓ seizing vast quantities of illegal vapes (£300k worth in Q3 alone), mobile phones and drugs;
- ✓ contributing to Operation Mille, with Immigration, Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking team, SCC Licensing, Trading Standards, DWP, HMRC, HSE & SCC Sustainable Communities Officers. 18 business premises visited resulting in arrest of illegal worker, seizure of large quantity of illegal tobacco & illegal vapes, identification of 3 individuals fraudulently claiming benefits and identification of multiple H&S issues.
- ✓ 11 Fortify drug warrants executed resulting in excess of 1300 cannabis plants destroyed to the estimated value at £1,300,000, 5.5kg of dried and prepared

cannabis valued a £24,000 recovered along with £10,000 in cash. 6 individuals arrested, 5 charged and remanded in custody.

- **Reduce the impact of County Lines** - Fortify Bronze has been, and will continue to be, the vehicle for coordinating work to reduce the prevalence of county lines, and protect vulnerable people affected by them. Over 2023/4, Bronze has led and contributed to the following actions:
 - ✓ provided support to the 10 neighbourhood-based Crime and Vulnerability Meetings, including tailored sessions to raise awareness of OCG and county lines activity, and increase intelligence submissions;
 - ✓ provided the forum for managing the risk to vulnerable individuals;
 - ✓ contributed to the roll-out of activity under Op Recover, targeting county lines and providing support to vulnerable people with addictions;
 - ✓ safely sharing information to strengthen the intelligence picture around our OCGs and the county lines they operate.

Current and emerging challenges:

- **County lines** continues to be the preferred model for OCG drug supply, with Sheffield criminals successfully exporting lines to other towns and cities. Where once conflict between OCGs tended to be about 'territory', it is now more often linked to the management of county lines supply, with notable impact on children and vulnerable adults.
- Work continues on raising awareness of **cuckooing**. This has increased focus on cuckooing, and so it is difficult to quantify whether this is an increasing problem. Certainly (and as with county lines) cuckooing is a popular tactic amongst OCGs, and often used to devastating effect.
- Increasing the confidence of staff to spot and report OCG activity and exploitation remains a key Fortify strategy. To date, there have been limited

opportunities to replicate this amongst community organisations and members of the public in key areas.

What we need to do:

- Encourage more collaboration with areas beyond Sheffield's borders to further disrupt county lines;
- Continue to raise awareness of OCG tactics and encourage staff to engage with Fortify;
- Progress work on the identification of cuckooing victims; and
- Expand Fortify Masterclass sessions into communities.

Priority 5: Reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG)

The reducing violence against women and girls theme group identified the following priorities for 2023/24:

1. Ensure there are high quality interventions available for perpetrators of domestic abuse to support behaviour change.
2. Ensure Sheffield City Council maintains its accreditation with the White Ribbon Campaign to end male violence against women and girls and encourage other partners to do the same through.
3. Maintain an active Violence Against Women and Girls Forum to enable discussion and consultation with women in the city.
4. Recommission community based domestic abuse support service.
5. Conduct a review of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process for high risk domestic abuse cases with an emphasis on, complexity, coercive control and effectiveness.
6. Increase victim confidence in the Criminal Justice System.
7. Ensure implications of law change re: Children as Victims of domestic abuse are fully understood by the partnership:
8. Conduct high quality Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) and other case reviews in order that agencies can learn the lessons and improve practice.

What have we done in 2023/24:

1. Ensuring high quality interventions are available for perpetrators to support behaviour change –

A perpetrator behaviour change programme was commissioned and delivered by Cranstoun on a countywide basis. The programme offered requires a 24 week commitment from participants.

- ✓ Cranstoun Inspire to Change received 116 referrals for service: April to December 2023
- ✓ 20 participants completed the 24 week programme: April to December 2023

2. White Ribbon Accreditation –

The White Ribbon Action Plan was approved by Sheffield City Council in October 2023. It was subsequently approved by the White Ribbon Campaign meaning that Sheffield City Council has maintained its accreditation as an organisation committed to end violence against women and girls. The campaign was promoted widely in November and December 2023;

[Sign up to the White Ribbon promise to end violence against women and girls | SheffNews.](#)

The Plan can be accessed [here](#). [Drinks mats](#) funded by SSP were distributed to 14 premises in the city centre.



Sheffield City Council employees supporting ending violence against women and girls

As part of the work to raise awareness and promote culture change a conference on Violence Against Women and Girls for schools and people working in education was held on October 10th 2023. 60 people attended representing both statutory and voluntary organisations. Keynote speakers included White Ribbon CEO Anthea Sully, survivor of domestic abuse Ryan Hart whose mother and sister were murdered by his father and Learn Sheffield. Speakers from local schools – Meadowhead, Newfield Green and Astrea Academy and Sheffield College shared good practice examples, plus local agencies Haven, Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre and IDAS spoke about their services. Operation Encompass was also promoted.

3. The Violence Against Women and Girls Forum –

The Forum has continued to meet bi-monthly throughout the year, supporting the White Ribbon Action Plan, the proposed Public Space Protection Order, the Safe Square initiative and combatting street harassment as well as many other issues. In February 2024 it convened in the Town Hall after the monthly vigil on the Town Hall steps to commemorate women and girls who have died as a result of male violence.

4. **Recommission community based domestic abuse support service –**

The contract for community based support for victims of domestic abuse was recommissioned during the year and existing provider IDAS were successful in their bid for the new contract which commenced in April 2024. As the incumbent provider IDAS will continue to provide:

- ✓ a helpline
- ✓ one to one support
- ✓ group work (both structured and informal)
- ✓ administration of and support at MARAC
- ✓ Sanctuary Scheme measures and support for survivors to be safe in their own homes
- ✓ training for the Sheffield workforce and volunteers

IDAS will also be supporting our wider efforts as a partnership to promote safe early responses to domestic abuse across the city by training domestic abuse champions in partner organisations and by developing a range of self-help guides to be available online. Overall commissioned service data summary:

- ✓ Domestic Abuse Helpline numbers – 4718 callers from April to December 2024 (target 3000 contacts per annum)
- ✓ The Independent Sexual Violence Advisors for Sheffield had an average of 266 cases open each month.
- ✓ An average of 26 families with 39 children received support and accommodation from Sheffield Women’s Aid between April – December plus 20 women with no dependent children.
- ✓ An average of 12 families with 28 children received support and accommodation in Safe Zones properties (provided by IDAS) between April and December plus 26 adults with no dependent children.

5. **Conduct a review of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process –**

Sheffield's MARAC process was reviewed (thanks to Safer Sheffield Partnership funding) in 2023 by national charity SafeLives through interviews with agency representatives and chairs of the process and observations of MARAC meetings.

The review was broadly positive. It acknowledged the strong commitment to the process especially from the domestic abuse partnership board and strong Marac governance, co-ordination and engagement amongst all partners.

A workshop was held in October 2023 to discuss initial findings and a full report and recommendations produced in early 2024. An action plan is now in development to implement the recommendations. A training day for representatives and chairs is also scheduled to progress the recommendations for improvement.

6. **Increase victim confidence in the Criminal Justice System -**

- ✓ The Domestic Abuse First Hearing Court in Sheffield was introduced in June 2023 and has run weekly since that time. It hears both Guilty Anticipated Plea and Not Guilty Anticipated Plea cases as well as domestic abuse Pre-Sentence Report cases and applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders and applications to vary restraining orders. The model reduces delay and provides timely support for victims. A District Judge and a specialist Domestic Abuse Prosecutor are assigned to each court hearing. IDVAs contact victims prior to the hearings and provide their views to the court on the day – which is 'invaluable' according to the CPS. The success of the Sheffield court has meant the model is now being rolled out in Barnsley and Doncaster.

- ✓ A guide to special measures for victims/survivors to feel safer when attending court is being finalised by SYP.

7. Ensure implications of law change re: Children as victims of domestic abuse are fully understood by the partnership –

There is a dedicated subgroup working on this that meets quarterly. This area is now a priority for the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board and a report on support for children affected by DA, local responses and gaps was presented to Children’s Safeguarding Exec Board in March 2024 with follow on actions agreed.

The sub-group has considered Child and Adolescent to Parent / carer Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) and local responses, and the Domestic Abuse Commissioners report into Family Courts. It also helped develop a new briefing for professionals to complement the refreshed children’s safeguarding Threshold of Needs guidance. Summary of commissioned service data is as follows:

- ✓ Haven’s specialist support service worked with 136 children from April – Dec 2023.
- ✓ Counselling for children and young people recovering from the impact of DA was provided to 40 children from April – December 2023.

8. Domestic Homicide Reviews –

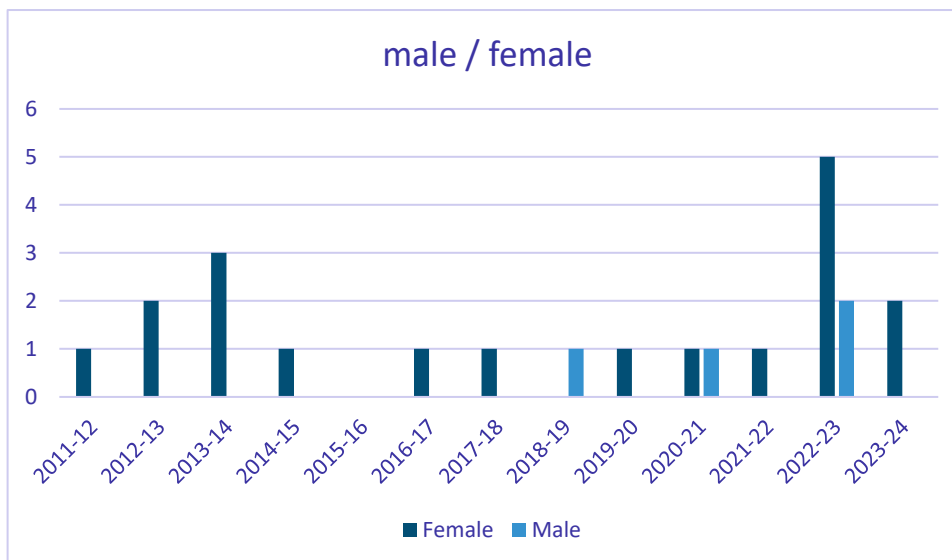
Two deaths in the city met the criteria for a DHR during 23/24. Another review started during the year however the death occurred in 2022.

Five other reviews continued to be progressed – three suicides and two murders. One review, Leah, was quality assured by the Home Office but is too sensitive to be published as the death was by suicide. The learning brief can be accessed here. Two other DHRs were approved by the Home Office, Imran and Kirsten and are being prepared for publication.

Learning was shared during the year via the DHR / SAR newsletters with specific focus on coercive control, professional curiosity and engaging people experiencing abuse in support, and at various events including the Parental Mental Health Conference in November, a Multiple Disadvantage Community of Practice event in February and the city’s Suicide Prevention Steering Group.

Current and Emerging Challenges:

- **Service capacity** - As awareness grows about domestic and sexual abuse and the support available this means that pressure grows on both commissioned and non commissioned providers in the city. This is compounded by the budget pressures for commissioners which do not currently allow for uplifts in contract amounts, combined with cost of living rises leading to issues for providers in retaining staff and uncertainty about funding from central government, some of which is due to end in March 2025.
- **MARAC case backlog** - The MARAC review highlighted a lack of coordination / admin capacity for MARAC leading to an unacceptable case backlog.
- **Increasing rate of Domestic Homicide Reviews** - Unfortunately there were six deaths that met the statutory criteria in 2022/23 but most of the work on the Reviews was undertaken in 2023/24. Two deaths met the criteria in 2023/24. The rate of DHRs since 2019, when agencies began identifying domestic abuse related suicides more effectively, is at 2.4 per year.



- **Crown Court Backlogs** - Crown court backlogs are a significant challenge for victims / survivors of sexual abuse in particular, and the services that support them. When they do get to court, cases can be cancelled at the last minute leading

to further delays and increased risk of victims / survivors withdrawing from the process.

- **Continuing need to for culture change to end violence against women and girls**
- Societal level change to harmful attitudes and practices is still needed before we start to see a reduction in and the hope of an end to violence against women and girls.

What we need to do:

- We will continue to seek funding opportunities from external sources and make the cost benefit case for investing in support around domestic and sexual abuse for both victims/survivors, their children and for interventions to change the behaviour of perpetrators.
- Work in partnership to implement the recommendations arising from the findings of the MARAC Review to ensure the process is as efficient and responsive as possible. Address the case backlog and consider options for increasing admin / coordination capacity for the longer term.
- Continue to work in partnership to undertake high quality Domestic Homicide Reviews and disseminate and implement the learning effectively to help prevent such tragedies occurring in the future.
- The issue of Crown Court backlogs has been escalated to the Local Criminal Justice Board and case studies illustrating the impact are being gathered.
- Culture change is being addressed through the White Ribbon Action Plan. Partners are being encouraged to consider White Ribbon accreditation as well. Campaigns and projects to raise public awareness, including what men and boys can do to end violence against women and girls, will continue. A new strategy on Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls will be developed during 2024 to support this work.

Priority 6: Address the impact of hate crime

The Addressing the impact of hate crime theme Group identified the following priorities for 2023/24:

1. Ensure the Safer Sheffield Plan is adhered to and made accessible to communities and groups representing all strands of hate crime.
2. Ensure that hate crime is monitored across the city in order to help us to create safer communities by tackling emerging threats, support victims and actively target offenders.
3. Chair and hate crime co-ordinator to participate in engagement events across all hate strand groups.
4. National hate crime awareness week takes place annually in October. Ensure the timely planning of engagement and media coverage of events taking place to mark the week within the city.
5. Hate crime co-ordinator to deliver hate crime awareness sessions to professionals, hate crime strand groups and communities.
6. Ensure that hate crime awareness is delivered within schools, colleges and universities within Sheffield.
7. Design a hate crime third party reporting centre logo to be displayed in all third party hate crime reporting centre locations.
8. Ensure victims of hate crime receive appropriate and timely advice and support information at the earliest opportunity following making a report of hate crime.
9. Review options and pathways for media releases to promote good news stories to communities.

10. Increase hate crime third party reporting centres within Sheffield.

11. Ensure that the SYP hate crime webpage is updated regularly to support victims of hate crime and be an effective resource for the public.

What we did in 2023-2024

According to home office data published on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner website the level of police recorded hate crimes in South Yorkshire has been increasing since 2015/16. South Yorkshire also has the third highest volume of these crimes compared to similar forces. To mitigate this and in support of broader operational activity the following was achieved;

- The new hate crime theme group chair was recruited in March 2023.
- Hate crime coordinator conducted an online survey to ascertain hate crime group membership's views on the purpose and effectiveness of the group. As a result, the meetings now take place every three months with an increased diverse membership. An elected member from the relevant council committee is now a member of the group.
- Since March 2023, recruited three new third-party reporting centers, two that reach out to the African Caribbean community, one to the Muslim community, and in the process of contacting the Jewish community.
- Produced a video with information that explains what hate crime is, how to report it, and how to access help and support. The video was sent to all Sheffield Primary and secondary schools and is on the Learn Sheffield website. In additional meetings held with primary and secondary headteachers with hate crime theme group chair and co-ordinator.

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- Produced an 'How to report hate crime leaflet' that was promoted at the national hate crime week in October. Potential to translate the leaflet to community languages.
 - Produced a third-party sticker to place in the window/mugs/reception areas of third-party reporting center across Sheffield. This is to make it easier for people to identify reporting centers.
 - The £20K hate crime fund has been targeted and allocated to projects that support all protected characteristics such as LGBTQ, Disability, Religion, and Race.

Current and emerging challenges

- The Palestine/Israel conflict has the potential to increased tension and disrupt community harmony.
- The hate crime coordinator often deployed to collaborate with communities to diffuse tension, offer support to groups that are at risk of hate crime.
- Online Safety Bill - Current resources do not allow for dealing with online hate.

What we need to do

- The Online Safety Bill is going through Parliament, Police and Sheffield City Council and other key partners will need to assess the impact this may have when dealing with online hate.
- The impact of the Palestine/Israel conflict on Sheffield communities needs monitoring, to ensure both the Muslim and Jewish communities receive relevant help and support if they are the victims of hate crime.
- Work with colleagues in Safer Neighborhoods to put together a bespoke victim support booklet (digital and physical copies).
- Continue to work with third party reporting centers and increase diverse membership.
- Maintain to keep the hate crime action log current and up to date.

Financial Summary;

<i>Budget Heading</i>	<i>Description/Basis of Costing</i>	<i>Q1- 4 Expenditure</i>	<i>YTD Total £</i>
<i>Employee Posts</i>			
	Fortify Analyst/ Police Officer Post	39,000	
	Hate Crime Coordinator	30,000	
	Information and Research Officer	29,998	
			£98,998
<i>Theme Groups</i>			
	<i>Anti-social Behaviour;</i>		
	Sharrow autumn carnival	5,020	
	Manor Fields community bonfire	3,000	
	Community trigger panel	250	
	Resolve ASB Team Membership	1,650	
	ASB Team case Man app	2,250	
	ASB Case Review Officer Training	2,000	
	Body worn video: ASB Team	10,000	
			£24,170
	<i>NH Crime & Re-offending;</i>		
	Ariel drone SE NPT	4,839	
	Student safety literature	2,605	
	Sheffield IOM/NPS Initiative	2,205.36	
	Faraday Pouches – Vehicle Theft	1,190	
	Crime prevention packs	4,999.20	
	Bike safe initiative	2,214	
	Burglary prevention flyers	177	
	NH Crime Team Equipment	1,662.50	
	NH Crime team laptop/equipment	1,399	
	CCTV training – SYP	800	
	Retail crime conflict resolution training	1,200	
	Ariel Drone NE NPT	4,839	

			£28,130.06
	<i>Protecting Vulnerable People;</i>		
	Sheffield Futures DA counselling and education for young people	1,152	
	Archer project – Help Us Help	5,640	
	Safe Spaces pilot: Safer Sheffield contribution (March 24)	11,439.85	
			£18,231.85
	<i>Hate Crime;</i>		
	Disability Sheffield (You're not my mate literature and training sessions)	492.40	
	SAY IT Project (Third party reporting)	3,922.20	
	SADACCA (Third party reporting)	1,749	
	Hate crime awareness week literature	3,292	
	JABM (RA) Mosque (Third party reporting)	1,050	
	Rainbow Owls Educational inputs	1,000	
	Rainbow Blades – campaign film	500	
	Disability Sheffield – Supplementary funding	1,000	
			£13,005.60
	<i>Addressing Supply of drugs;</i>		
	Organised crime and expert evidence course – SYP	3,120	
	Shelter Cuckooing training	6,600	
	Aspiring communities together	10,580	
	Evaluation: Harm reduction pathway	£3,500	
			£23,800
	<i>Violence Against Women and Girls;</i>		
	City-wide domestic perpetrator programme	20,000	
	DHR: transitional contingency	10,000	

	White Ribbon merchandise	385	
			£30,385
	<i>Violence Reduction Unit;</i>		
	Safe Space pilot - City centre	19,080	
	Prevention, education, awareness initiatives	19,320	
	NE LAC Dark Nights	4,993	
	Manor Fields Bonfire	1,985	
	Burton St Outreach	2,000	
	Sex worker project	1,022	
	NTE Activity	5,500	
	Sunday Centre	1,100	
			£55,000
YTD Total Spend:			£291,720.33

Points to note:

- I. Total OPCC grant funding for 23/24 was: £291,720.33.
- II. The Safer Sheffield partnership portion was £236,720.33. The full allocation has been spent.
- III. The VRU received a funding allocation of £55,000 and they have also achieved a full spend.