

# Public Assurance Meeting



<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	SERIOUS VIOLENCE INCLUDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG)
<b>REPORT BY</b>	CHIEF CONSTABLE
<b>DATE</b>	15 MAY 2026

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide assurance to the Police and Crime Commissioner that the Constabulary are making progress towards the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan Priority 1: Serious Violence including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

## ATTACHMENTS

*Appendix A: Case Studies on Safeguarding and Serious Violence*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To determine if the Commissioner can gain direct assurance that this area of business is being managed efficiently and effectively.

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## 1. **OVERVIEW**

- 1.1 Serious Violence including Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) continues to be a priority for Derbyshire Constabulary. It further builds on the strong partnership under Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board, which produces the Serious Violence Strategy and Delivery Plan, ensuring progression across the partnership.
- 1.2 In Derby and Derbyshire, domestic abuse and sexual violence are addressed through the work of the Derby and Derbyshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board, and therefore the Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board focuses on a definition of serious violence that does not include domestic and sexual abuse; however, includes the following:
- Violence resulting in, or potential to result in significant injury, with or without weapons, with the inclusion of all ages;
  - Crime groups including robbery, violence with injury (Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) and Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and above), any offences involving a knife or other weapon (including possession) and homicide.
- The definition has recently been updated and agreed by the Derby and Derbyshire Serious Violence Board to bring it in line with the force definition of serious violence, which includes Actual Bodily Harm.
- 1.3 The crime groups have this year been amended to include actual bodily harm, this came into effect from October 2025, thus bringing it in line with the definition applied by the force.
- 1.4 The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) continues to be hosted by Derbyshire Constabulary but has seen its numbers reduce due to the challenges of funding uncertainty. Funding has now been secured from the Home Office to support attempts to reduce and prevent serious violence in the 2026/27 financial year, including the continuation of the VRU. More information is detailed within this report.
- 1.5 The Angiolini Inquiry is an independent inquiry which was commissioned to investigate how an off duty Metropolitan police officer, Wayne Couzens, was able to abduct, rape and murder Sarah Everard. The inquiry was led by Rt Hon. Lady Elish Angiolini, with Part 1 published in January 2022 making 16 recommendations designed to prevent this situation arising in future.

- 1.6 The force continues to strengthen practices and policies in line with the recommendations whilst supporting national progress. This includes demonstrating full compliance to the amended College of Policing Vetting Authorised Professional Practice (APP) and the new Vetting Regulations in 2025. The introduction of an Annual Integrity Review process, along with a working group preparing for onboarding to the national Continuous Integrity Screening (CIS) later in 2026 will provide increased confidence in the standards and behaviours of officers and staff.
- 1.7 A Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Survey was conducted in 2025, to gain a better understanding of experiences of officers and staff, which resulted in a detailed report, risk assessment, and several recommendations, which are being implemented.
- 1.8 Professional Standards criminally investigate most Police Perpetrated Domestic Abuse (PPDA) allegations alongside any misconduct. There is now an internal Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service available to support officers and staff.
- 1.9 The completion of the College of Policing Code of Ethics e-learning has been mandatory, and the Upstander training has begun roll out across the force.
- 1.10 Reporting mechanisms, including confidential reporting through Crimestoppers and Bad Apple continue to be well used, with these being promoted to all staff, officers, and volunteers.
- 1.11 A Non-Contact Sexual Offences policy was developed and published in 2025, this along with mandatory e-learning to all officers and staff about non-contact sexual offences is raising awareness and confidence to deal with these allegations.
- 1.12 The force has made a public commitment to being anti discriminatory and have published the Inquiry's recommendations and our progress on the external website.
- 1.13 The first of two reports of Part 2 of the Angiolini Inquiry was published in December 2025, which has considered the prevention of sexually motivated crimes against women in public spaces and provides a further ten recommendations which the force are currently reviewing.

- 1.14 The Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office have led on work to implement the Young Futures Prevention Partnerships Panels pilot with the force, Youth Justice Services in Derby and Derbyshire and other partners. This government initiative is aimed at reducing serious youth violence, knife crime, anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls. The Panels bring together professionals from different services to identify and support children and young people aged 10-17 who may be at risk of being drawn into crime and anti-social behaviour. Focused on early intervention, the pilot supports children before they become involved in crime. Panels meet regularly to review referrals and agree support plans.
- 1.15 The government plans to intensify efforts to reduce knife crime by expanding Hotspot policing and focusing on the areas with the highest concentrations of knife offences. A new Knife Crime Concentrations Fund, worth £26.25 million in 2026/27, will be allocated to police forces that jointly account for 90% of knife crime in England and Wales. Funding will be distributed based on each force's knife crime volumes. Officials will shortly contact the relevant force areas to progress this work.
- 1.16 A hyperlocal problem-solving model - currently being piloted in 11 of the highest-harm locations - will be scaled up. This approach involves highly targeted interventions, including focused hotspot patrols where they can have the greatest impact.
- 1.17 The force continually adapts to changing legislation within this landscape. Part of the Serious Violence Coordinator's (SVC) role is to be cognisant of these changes to ensure the force is prepared for any new work streams. In the past twelve months there has been one legislative change:
- 1.17.1 Ronan's Law is a major UK Government knife-crime reform package announced on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025, aimed at delivering the "toughest crackdown yet" on the online sale of knives. It forms part of the Crime and Policing Bill and wider government efforts to reduce youth violence.
- 1.18 On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 changes to the Criminal Justice Act 1988 added 'Ninja Swords' to the list of prohibited offensive weapons.
- 1.19 The legislation identifies that it is now illegal to possess (in private and public), manufacture, import, or sell ninja swords under Ronan's Law. Penalties include

up to six months in prison, with potential for two-year sentences for illegal possession.

1.20 Anyone in possession of one of these types of knives was encouraged to hand it in to the police in a 'Surrender and Compensation' scheme, which ran from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.

1.21 Overall, the Surrender and Compensation Scheme was deemed successful with 196 ninja swords surrendered in Derbyshire. Many other knives, not fitting the ninja sword criteria were also surrendered, therefore, reducing the number of knives on the streets.

1.22 To facilitate the above, the force has responded in the following ways:

- SVC attended all national briefings in the lead up to the surrender and compensation scheme.
- SVC trained and prepared all front office staff to enable them to efficiently carry out their expected duties.
- SVC liaised with the national command structure throughout the operation.
- SVC collated all the results and attended post-operation debriefs, providing feedback to the national team.

1.23 Ronan's Law was enacted on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. This law bans the sale, possession and importation of ninja swords and other dangerous blades. Key aspects of Ronan's Law include

- Mandatory reporting of suspicious/bulk knife purchases
- Increased penalties for selling knives to under-18s (six months - two years)
- New offence: possession with intent for violence (maximum four years)
- Stricter ID and age-verification requirements
- Potential registration scheme for online knife retailers.

This will support the force and partners with the ongoing work to reduce and prevent serious violence.

1.24 The SVC links in closely with all partners at various multi agency meetings across the spectrum of serious violence. To this end, the SVC can see what all the authorities are doing to combat serious violence in alignment with the legislation within the Serious Violence Duty. With this horizon scanning the force can be prepared for any changes that are happening across the partnership and make changes to procedures accordingly.

- 1.25 In February 2025, the Crime and Policing Bill was introduced and there were a number of key measures which are designed to strengthen how victims are protected. These included giving courts the power to issue a Stalking Protection Order (SPO) without the police having to make an application.
- 1.26 Section 138 of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 came into force on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and criminalises the creation or request of non-consensual purported intimate images of adults meaning it is now a criminal offence for a person to create, or request the creation of, such an image without the subject's consent.

**2. SUB-OBJECTIVE 1: DEVELOPING JOINT APPROACHES TO CRACK DOWN ON KNIFE CRIME THROUGHOUT DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE**

- 2.1 The above table shows that Knife Crime (Home Office definition (HO)) has increased when compared with 2024, by 4.27%. However, when compared with 2023 it has decreased by 7.35%.

	YE Dec 25	YE Dec 24	% change Dec 24 to Dec 25	YE Dec 23	% change Dec 23 to Dec 25
Violence with Injury	399	393	1.5%	419	-4.7%
Violence without Injury	191	161	18.6%	192	-0.5%
Robbery - Personal	133	156	-14.7%	207	-35.8%
Robbery - Business	37	24	37%	13	184.6%
Rape	13	11	18%	9	44.4%
Other Sexual Offences	8	4	100%	3	166.6%
Total Knife Crime (HO)	781	749	4.3%	843	-7.4%
Proportion of all knife crime that is Domestic Abuse related	32.4% (253)	28.7% (215)	12.8%	31.7% (267)	2.2%

- 2.2 Work is ongoing to drive down the use and possession of knives by the force. Operation Sceptre is the national year-round initiative governing the ongoing work. There were two intensification weeks throughout 2025; held 19<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> May and 17<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- 2.3 Over the past 12 months, the force has worked in partnership with several football clubs — including Ilkeston Town FC, Chesterfield FC, and Derby County FC — to support ongoing efforts to raise awareness of knife crime. As part of the National Operation Sceptre campaign in November 2025, each club dedicated a fixture to promoting key messages on the dangers of carrying a knife, leveraging their social media channels and player influence to engage local communities. In addition, the Shattered Lives campaign received sustained visibility across all participating clubs' digital platforms, reinforcing the force's commitment to tackling knife-related harm.
- 2.4 Operation Zao is a force wide long-term initiative, which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and has been launched to identify, monitor and disrupt individuals who habitually carry knives, reducing the risk of serious violence and safeguarding communities across Derby and Derbyshire.
- 2.5 The operation targets anyone who habitually carries knives or offensive weapons, through intelligence led Stop Searches and educational home visits. Individuals visited at their home address will receive education on knife crime, including the impacts of carrying a weapon and the potential harm to themselves and others, including parents and caregivers.
- 2.6 Each person visited will be provided with signposting information for help and support. They will be given the opportunity to share relevant intelligence with the force and surrender any knives, supporting the ongoing Knife Amnesty.
- 2.7 Individuals found carrying knives will face appropriate enforcement action, including arrest where necessary. Young people identified through this activity will be referred to the Youth Offending service for education and support. Officers will also continue to promote and encourage the surrender of weapons as part of the ongoing Knife Amnesty.
- 2.8 This operation aims to identify, monitor and disrupt these individuals through enforcement and prevention strategies. The emphasis on home visits is engagement.

- 2.9 Since the operation launched, 32 individuals have been engaged, receiving advice and diversion support. Two arrests have been made, eight intelligence reports submitted, and eight referrals completed. Records show that 11 individuals have engaged positively to date.
- 2.10 Over the past 12 months as part of Operation Sceptre, Police Youth Engagement Teams (YETs) have delivered inputs to more than 154 schools and colleges across Derbyshire, providing guidance on the risks and consequences associated with carrying or using knives. This activity has reached thousands of young people county-wide. To enhance the effectiveness of these sessions, officers utilise Shattered — an innovative, force-developed board game — as an interactive tool to support prevention messaging and facilitate meaningful discussion.
- 2.11 During two weeks of intensification activity under Operation Sceptre, officers conducted 142 community engagement activities, including pop-up events at supermarkets, churches, retail parks, and local parks, utilising Surrender Bins to support the initiative.
- 2.12 Test purchase operations were conducted jointly with Trading Standards during the Operation Sceptre Intensification Weeks to assess compliance with knife-sale regulations for under-25s. Of the 14 test purchases carried out, two resulted in failures, and these premises will be subject to further follow-up and retesting by Trading Standards. In addition, officers and PCSOs visited 162 retailers. Ongoing partnership work with Trading Standards includes targeted leaflet distribution and the provision of advisory materials to promote responsible knife-retail practices.
- 2.13 Stencils were procured for use with semi-permanent chalk spray to reinforce key prevention messaging, featuring the slogan “Choose Life, Drop the Knife.” These were deployed by both Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) and the Serious Violence Coordination (SVC) team within identified hotspot areas. In addition, six metal detectors were purchased to support proactive knife-sweep activity during intensification weeks, as well as to meet wider operational requirements.
- 2.14 Over 100 knife sweeps were carried out throughout the County in Hotspot areas, parks and other areas where local intelligence directed.

- 2.15 Knife amnesty initiatives were delivered across all police stations in the county, as well as at a range of local community events. These efforts resulted in the surrender of more than 1,000 knives, contributing significantly to the removal of dangerous weapons from circulation.
- 2.16 Targeted enforcement activity was undertaken throughout the intervention period, focusing on offences related to the possession and use of knives. This resulted in six arrests for knife-related offences, alongside the completion of more than 100 stop and searches, reflecting a proactive approach to disruption and community safety.
- 2.17 Individuals identified through Serious Violence Tasking were reviewed to ensure that timely and appropriate interventions could be implemented at reachable and teachable moments. As part of this approach, subjects discussed at Tasking were visited at home, where officers offered tailored interventions and support aimed at reducing the likelihood of further involvement in serious violence.
- 2.18 Patrols, both plain clothed and uniformed were carried out in Hotspot areas.
- 2.19 Following each Operation Sceptre deployment, data is systematically collected to assess the effectiveness of both force-led and partnership interventions, ensuring that learning opportunities are identified and incorporated into future activity. This analytical approach has informed a shift away from a uniform, force-wide model towards a more tailored engagement strategy, shaped by the specific needs, demographics, and risk profiles of individual communities.
- 2.20 The majority of engagement continues to take place at a primary-prevention level within schools, youth groups, and community events, where the focus is on early intervention, myth-busting, and discouraging young people from carrying knives. Partnership work in this area is continuing to develop. Notably, discussions are underway with a Derby-based engineering company—also operating as an alternative education provider—to repurpose knives surrendered during amnesty initiatives. This collaboration aims not only to reduce harm by removing weapons from circulation, but also to support and empower young people through constructive, skills-based opportunities.
- 2.21 At present, evaluation of activity remains limited, making it challenging to evidence direct causal links between specific Operation Sceptre initiatives and measurable outcomes. However, reasonable inferences can be drawn that

sustained public education and efforts to reduce the number of knives in circulation are contributing positively to community safety. Additionally, the coordinated use of social media during the two intensification weeks has strengthened force-wide and partnership messaging, supporting consistent county-wide communication and enhancing public awareness of both preventative and enforcement activity.

- 2.22 Challenges remain in developing a comprehensive understanding of individual communities and determining the most effective methods for engagement. Delivering a tailored approach that supports long-term behavioural and cultural change must be balanced against the need for timely responses to emerging issues, which can shift rapidly and require continual adaptation.
- 2.23 Due to the structure of available funding, interventions are typically commissioned with a defined remit and planned in advance, with resources allocated to specific activities at the outset. This inevitably limits the organisation's ability to respond rapidly to emerging concerns in real time. During the 2025/26 financial year, this challenge has been partially mitigated through the allocation of a small proportion of the Home Office Serious Violence budget to focused deterrence initiatives, alongside a smaller, flexible allocation for responsive activity. A portion of this funding is currently being utilised to support targeted awareness campaigns within Derby City, providing a proactive and positive response to recent locality-specific incidents.
- 2.24 Further mitigation can be achieved by maintaining funded partnership arrangements with Safe and Sound, Remedi, and the Chesterfield FC Community Trust. These organisations are deeply embedded within their communities and are well positioned to support both the VRU and the force in delivering shared objectives. Their established relationships, local knowledge, and ongoing engagement enable more responsive, targeted, and sustainable interventions than could be achieved through force-led activity alone. These partnership arrangements have been resourced and commissioned through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner under the Serious Violence Duty.

**3. SUB-OBJECTIVE 2: PROACTIVELY TARGETING ACTIVITY, BASED ON NEED, TO DEAL WITH SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENDING ACROSS DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE**

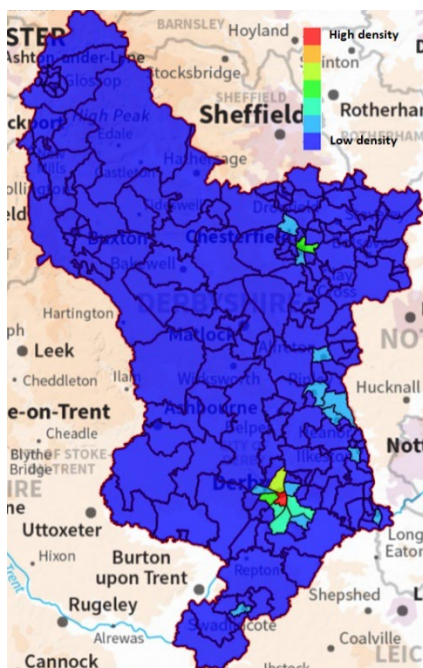
3.1 The data indicates a slight year-on-year increase of 5.3% in Home Office (HO) – defined Serious Violence, primarily driven by changes in the recording of Business Robbery, which has elevated the overall robbery total for 2025. An increase in recorded possession-of-weapons offences is also evident; however, this is likely attributable to enhanced police visibility and a higher volume of proactive patrol activity, rather than an underlying rise in offending.

	YE Dec 25	YE Dec 24	% change Dec 24 to Dec 25	YE Dec 23	% change Dec 23 to Dec 25
Violence with Injury	9,741	9,420	3.4%	9,344	4.2%
Possession of Weapons	1,051	945	11.2%	1,029	2.1%
Robbery	728	576	26.3%	722	0.8%
Homicide	12	10	20%	12	0%
Total Serious Violence (HO)	11,532	10,951	5.3%	11,107	3.8%

3.2 The table highlights the top 15 wards for Serious Violence, with each ward's proportion of offences shown. Offences are concentrated in the most densely populated areas of Derby and Derbyshire, with Derby City Centre, Chesterfield, Ripley, Ilkeston, Long Eaton, Swadlincote, and Alfreton town centres emerging as the primary hotspots.

Ward	District	Offence count	% of SV (HO) offences 2025
Arboretum	Derby	771	6.7
Darley	Derby	560	4.9
Spire	Chesterfield	446	3.9
Abbey	Derby	431	3.7
Alvaston North	Derby	349	3.0
Sinfin & Osmaston	Derby	275	2.4
Normanton	Derby	272	2.4
Alvaston South	Derby	222	1.9
Mackworth & New Zealand	Derby	219	1.9
Ripley	Amber Valley	171	1.5
Littleover	Derby	163	1.4
Rother	Chesterfield	157	1.4
Chaddesden West	Derby	154	1.3
Long Eaton Central	Erewash	149	1.3
Little Hallam	Erewash	145	1.3

3.3 29.6% of 2025 incidents occurred within Derby City wards (Arboretum, Darley, Abbey, Alvaston North, Normanton, Sinfin and Osmaston, Alvaston South, Mackworth and New Zealand, Chaddesden West), as shown on the below map.



District	SV(HO) YE 2025	Population	SV per 1,000 population
Amber Valley	1,111	126,489	8.8
Bolsover	752	80,475	9.3
Chesterfield	1,562	103,672	15.1
Derby	4,180	270,468	15.5
Derbyshire Dales	465	71,681	6.5
Erewash	1,124	113,047	9.9
High Peak	712	91,104	7.8
North East Derbyshire	728	102,315	7.1
South Derbyshire	797	108,063	7.4
Unknown area	100	-	
Grand Total	11,531	1,067,314	10.8

3.4 The above table shows the numbers of Serious Violence offences in each district and a ratio per 1,000 population.

3.5 During year 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 Derby City and Chesterfield maintained the highest rates for Serious Violence (HO) offences per 1,000 population, with Derbyshire Dales having the lowest rate.

Age range	% all victims	% male victims	% female victims
0-4	8.7	10.1	7.2
5-16	12.0	13.6	10.3
17-24	10.3	13.0	7.5
25-64	7.1	8.9	5.3
65+	1.7	2.1	1.3
All Ages	6.9	8.6	5.3

3.6 The data indicates that the highest proportion of victims falls within the 5–16 age group, accounting for 12% of all victims. For females it is 10.3% and for males it

is 13.6%. This highlights a notable concentration of younger victims. Male victim rates are consistently higher than female rates in every age bracket.

- 3.7 There is a notable difference between genders; male victims have a higher rate at 8.6, while female victims have a lower rate of 5.3. The data shows that for every 1,000 people in the population, approximately eight to nine males and five females are victims.
- 3.8 The force holds bi-weekly Serious Violence Tasking Meetings within each division, aimed at preventing low-level violent offenders from reoffending or escalating their behaviour. During these meetings, specific individuals are identified and discussed, and a coordinated multi-agency response is developed to provide an appropriate support package.
- 3.9 This is currently subject to a partnership review, with the aim of making the process more efficient and effective.
- 3.10 The Derby and Derbyshire Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) supports the force and the wider Serious Violence Partnership in fulfilling their responsibilities to prevent and reduce serious violence. Over the past 12 months, the VRU has funded and supported a range of interventions. The VRU also engages with other force areas to learn from effective practice, leading to the development of two new interventions due for launch in the coming months. The Home Office has confirmed that Derbyshire will receive further serious violence funding for the 2026/27 financial year, and partnership discussions will be required to determine how this allocation is best utilised. Currently, the VRU comprises a Serious Violence Programme Manager, supported by the force-based Serious Violence Coordinator.
- 3.11 The challenges largely mirror those outlined under Sub-Objective 1, as proactive initiatives rely heavily on effective community engagement. Additional difficulties include securing the full commitment of partners and external organisations, many of whom are already operating at or near capacity, as well as overcoming concerns around trust and confidence in the force's intentions. These issues are being mitigated through the continued development of strong relationships with key individuals, communities, and partner organisations, supported by funded partnership arrangements such as those detailed in Sub-Objective 1.

- 3.12 Regular liaison between force teams and VRU colleagues ensures that mitigation activity is continually monitored and adapted in response to emerging challenges. However, potential gaps remain, particularly around future funding arrangements and how resources will be allocated throughout the 2026/27 financial year. While the force already has the knowledge, structures, and partnerships required to reduce and prevent serious violence, appropriate and sustained funding is essential to maintain their effectiveness and ensure they can adapt to evolving needs. Strengthening relationships with community-embedded partners will further enhance the force's ability to target and tailor interventions.
- 3.13 A substantial amount of work has been undertaken to develop interventions addressing substance misuse and its links to a range of crime types, including Serious Violence and VAWG. A summary of these interventions is outlined below.
- 3.14 Operation Furnhurst is a multi-agency initiative aimed at providing a clear, visible, and supportive presence within the Night-Time Economy (NTE) across Derby City Centre, Chesterfield, Ilkeston, and other priority locations. The initiative brings together Derbyshire Police, Change Grow Live (CGL), the Derby Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, and the Derby Homes Rough Sleeping Team.
- 3.15 The primary aim of the operation is to engage proactively with the public by providing education on emerging drug trends. During the December trial, this included targeted messaging on ketamine use among younger audiences and the associated risks. The operation also offers clear pathways into support services, with referrals and signposting for individuals affected by substance misuse, homelessness, or other vulnerabilities. Operation Furnhurst, first delivered in December 2025, will continue to be deployed during periods of anticipated high footfall within the night-time economy, with officers operating for six to eight hours at a time. During the December activity, officers engaged with more than 250 individuals, providing signposting to treatment providers and other relevant support services.
- 3.16 The approach is deliberately safeguarding-led rather than enforcement-focused, with officers deployed in plain clothing to encourage engagement and build trust.

- 3.17 Contribution to Reducing ASB, Serious Violence and VAWG:
- Increased visibility and early engagement within Night-Time Economy (NTE) areas help disrupt conditions that can escalate into alcohol- or drug-related antisocial behaviour and violence.
  - Targeted drug education and harm-reduction messaging reduce the likelihood of substance-related harm, thereby lowering the risk of associated violent incidents.
  - A strong multi-agency presence enhances safety for vulnerable women and girls by providing immediate support, early identification of risk, and safer routes home, directly contributing to the VAWG strategy.
  - Building relationships with individuals at risk reduces their vulnerability to exploitation and coercion—factors closely linked to serious violence and repeat victimisation.
- 3.18 Spiking Intensification Weeks take place nationally twice a year, focusing on reducing incidents of spiking, pursuing offenders, and providing reassurance to victims. This activity aligns with the 4P model: Pursue, Protect, Prevent, and Prepare.
- 3.19 Derbyshire’s approach includes close collaboration with the University of Derby, work with 16–25-year-olds during Freshers’ Week, and partnership activity with licensed premises in NTE locations.
- 3.20 Although Derbyshire data shows no significant increase in spiking, this is attributed to strong early intervention and proactive engagement by partners.
- 3.21 Contribution to ASB, Serious Violence and VAWG Reduction
- Spiking acts as both a precursor and an enabler of serious sexual and violent offences; intensive prevention activity therefore directly reduces the likelihood of such harm occurring.
  - The campaign enhances safety for women and girls through targeted education, a visible safeguarding presence, and focused disruption of potential offenders.
  - Collaboration with licensed premises strengthens guardianship within Night-Time Economy settings, reducing opportunities for predatory behaviour and associated antisocial behaviour.

- 3.22 Multi Agency Outreach visits across Derby and Derbyshire target hotspot areas frequented by drug users and members of the homeless community, where vulnerability often intersects with ASB. Visits are conducted regularly in response to intelligence, incidents of Naloxone administration, or clusters of drug-related deaths. These visits have resulted in 62 referrals to treatment services, a further 70 individuals being signposted to treatment, and 25 referrals being made for housing support.
- 3.23 These visits aim to:
- Provide targeted support around substance misuse, housing, and wider needs.
  - Address root causes of behaviour linked to ASB.
  - Reduce reoffending and repeat calls for service.
  - Improve community confidence through visible partnership work.
- 3.24 The Multi Agency Outreach's Contribution to ASB, Serious Violence and VAWG Reduction
- Addressing underlying causes of chaotic behaviour reduces incidents of public facing ASB.
  - By engaging individuals at risk of exploitation, the approach helps prevent escalation into serious violence, including drug related harm and coercion.
  - Many women experiencing homelessness or addiction are disproportionately vulnerable to VAWG, domestic abuse, cuckooing, and exploitation, early engagement reduces these risks significantly.
- 3.25 Naloxone Deployment - Naloxone reverses an opioid overdose and works by blocking the effects of opiates on the brain and by restoring breathing. Naloxone will only work if a person has opiates in their system. Naloxone provision has been co-funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.26 Officers will continue to carry and administer Naloxone when required. Since May 2024, it has been deployed 56 times, with each use representing a potential life saved.
- 3.27 Deployments predominantly occur in ASB hotspots, aligning with ambulance service trends.

3.28 Naloxone Deployment's Contribution to ASB, Serious Violence and VAWG Reduction

- Naloxone use stabilises individuals in crisis, preventing further medical emergencies that generate public concern and ASB related demand.
- By demonstrating compassionate intervention, officers build trust with vulnerable individuals, including women at higher risk of exploitation therefore increasing disclosures and reducing hidden harm.
- Timely interventions help prevent escalation into violence or self-harm associated with drug dependency.
- Naloxone is utilised as part of a coordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that individuals identified as requiring support for substance misuse receive appropriate interventions. This coordinated response helps divert individuals away from harmful drug use, contributing to the reduction of serious violence.

3.29 Operation Trapped targets cuckooing through a strengthened, problem-solving, multi-agency model. Over the past year, the approach has shifted towards coordinated disruption visits designed to safeguard victims, address underlying causes, and prevent repeat harm.

3.30 Contribution to ASB, Serious Violence and VAWG Reduction

- Cuckooing locations are often associated with organised criminality, drug distribution, and serious violence; disrupting these environments directly reduces wider community harm.
- Victims — including vulnerable women and girls — frequently experience coercion, intimidation, exploitation, and sexual violence. Multi-agency attendance strengthens safeguarding and reduces the risk of repeat victimisation.
- Address-level disruption prevents broader patterns of antisocial behaviour linked to drug use, street dealing, and localised violence.

**4. SUB-OBJECTIVE 3: ENSURING INITIATIVES AIMED AT PREVENTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BEING DRAWN INTO SERIOUS VIOLENCE ARE MADE AVAILABLE**

- 4.1 Detailed information on all the Home Office funded interventions for the 2024/25 financial year can be found in the previous report for Serious Violence and VAWG. Funding for all the interventions apart from the Hope Hack, continued into the 2025/26 financial year, for which updates are provided below. All the interventions mentioned have been commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 4.2 The Schools Exclusion Programme for Roma children in Derby City reports positive progress. As of December 2025, there had been no permanent exclusions during the year. Attendance, punctuality and parental engagement have all improved. Support has been provided for 47 children previously missing education to submit school applications, and 34 young people aged 16+ who were not in education, employment or training have been guided into appropriate provision. Ongoing advice is being offered to 31 families, and staff awareness sessions are underway.
- 4.3 The “I Can, I Will” Active Bystander programme delivered 139 workshops across 37 schools by the end of 2025, reaching nearly 3,000 young people. Evaluations show significant increases in understanding of serious violence and active bystander behaviour, with strong feedback from schools. The project is now expanding to engage more vulnerable young people in residential care and Alternative Education settings.
- 4.4 The Leaving Care Wellbeing Worker intervention is now in its third cohort, supporting 15 young people. To date, 45 care leavers have received enhanced, therapeutically informed support, with around 62% in education, training or employment and only one recorded case of further offending.
- 4.5 The Chesterfield Vulnerability Hub receives reports of at-risk individuals from local bars and clubs via the town-centre radio system and provides immediate support to ensure their safety. Between April and October 2025, the Hub assisted an average of 16 individuals per night. Most were vulnerable due to alcohol or drug use, with approximately 23% presenting with mental health issues and 14% identified as homeless.

- 4.6 Since October 2025, the Vulnerability Hub has been operating at reduced capacity following the resignation of two Chesterfield Borough Council enforcement officers. Recruitment delays meant these posts could not be filled promptly, significantly limiting the Hub's ability to function fully during this period.
- 4.7 Youth-related violence has recently become a concern within Chesterfield's night-time economy. In response, the partnership is working with the Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust to deliver outreach and diversionary activities aimed at reducing this emerging issue.
- 4.8 Outreach activity within the night-time economy now takes place each Thursday and Saturday in Chesterfield, engaging an average of 55 young people per session. Complementary diversionary sessions are delivered at the Chesterfield Youth Hub on the same evenings, with around 21 young people attending to access structured activities, entertainment and refreshments.
- 4.9 The team has referred 22 individuals into the Chesterfield Community Trust Reboot programme, which is a project with local schools aimed at intervening with young people vulnerable to violence and anti-social behaviour.
- 4.10 Force data shows a clear reduction in violence and anti-social behaviour during periods when outreach and diversionary activities are taking place, demonstrating the positive impact of this targeted work.
- 4.11 **Remedi-Mentoring** - Remedi has been commissioned to deliver Restorative Mentoring to young people across Derby and Derbyshire. Between April and November 2025, 48 referrals were received from professionals. Recorded outcomes show clear benefits, with young people reporting feeling safer at home and in the community, experiencing reduced anger, and increased confidence in keeping themselves safe.
- 4.12 **Virtual Decisions School Programme** - As part of the Focused Deterrence interventions funded through the Home Office, several additional programmes were delivered alongside existing activity.
- **Street Doctors Sessions:** Derby City Youth Justice Service delivered two additional Street Doctors sessions, attended by 13 young people at risk of serious violence (with four failures to attend) and six staff members. The sessions explored attitudes towards violence and provided practical first-aid training, including how to respond to bleeding or unconscious casualties. The

aim is to empower young people to view themselves as part of the solution to reducing serious violence.

- Music Programme: Led by Derby YJS and delivered by Unit 03 Music, this summer programme (31<sup>st</sup> July–4<sup>th</sup> September 2025) supported eight children known to YJS. Access to a fully equipped music studio enabled participants to build confidence and engage in a safe, constructive activity. The programme also has the potential to inspire longer-term interest in the music industry and reduce the likelihood of offending.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025, a showcase event for the YJS and Unit 03 Music programme was held at Electric Daisy in Derby. Parents, caregivers and supporting professionals attended to celebrate the participants' achievements. The young people received high praise for their commitment and dedication throughout the programme.

- 4.13 **Operation Knightlow** - Additional out of hours visits have been completed by the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team to a selected cohort of offenders who are at risk of involvement in serious violence. The aim is to prevent reoffending via officer engagement, signposting to services and intelligence gathering.
- 4.14 To date 323 additional planned and unplanned visits have been carried out since the start of the operation in March 2025, by the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Team. It has been funded by Police, Safer Derbyshire, and the Probation Service.
- 4.15 These 'out of hours' visits have been targeted via the IOM tasking meetings and used for a wide variety of intelligence led compliance, such as testing the requirements of the offender's license conditions, curfews and associates. The visits are an opportunity for further engagement and referral for support that the scheme can offer to reduce the frequency and severity of offending.
- 4.16 292 police officer hours have been focused on this operation to date. These visits have led to:
- 195 intelligence items entered onto force systems.
  - 160 of the visits have some involvement with substance misuse.
  - 13 safeguarding incidents with further referrals.

- 4.17 **Op Vigilance** focuses on identifying potential perpetrators and victims of serious violence and VAWG within the night-time economy. It operates in hotspot areas during periods of heightened risk, working closely with CCTV operators and Street Pastors to safeguard vulnerable individuals and disrupt those displaying pro-criminal behaviour.
- 4.18 **Supporting Communities Youth Bus** - Additional evening sessions have been funded in Derby and Chesterfield, providing young people with a safe space, access to trained youth workers and virtual-reality resources covering themes such as serious violence and anti-social behaviour. Supporting Communities also offer ongoing guidance and can refer young people to other agencies where needed. The provision, funded by multiple partners, is proving highly popular. Safer Neighbourhood Team officers regularly attend, helping to foster positive relationships between young people and the police.
- 4.19 **Update from Supporting Communities:**
- **Chesterfield** - There continues to be strong engagement from young people attending the town-centre sessions. Despite winter conditions, staff have maintained high levels of participation and worked closely with McDonald's and other local partners to support effective collaboration. The Friday evening presence has also helped ease pressure on McDonald's by reducing large groups congregating in the store, which has been positively received.
  - **Normanton** - Provision in Normanton has remained fairly consistent across several locations. There has been a slight drop-off in activity on the streets during the colder winter evenings, particularly among younger age groups, with fewer young people spending time there.
  - **Summary**
    - Total attendance: 773
    - Average attendance per session: 25
    - Total number of sessions delivered: 30.
- 4.20 Round Midnight delivers the Virtual Decisions: KNIVES workshop in secondary schools across the city, using an interactive VR film aimed at young people aged 10–15. The experience explores why some young people carry knives, the associated risks and the potential consequences. Participants make decisions within the VR scenario, each leading to different outcomes, which are then

discussed in a facilitated, non-judgemental workshop. The programme helps challenge myths about knife crime, promotes safer decision-making and supports positive attitudes within the wider community.

- 4.21 Since April 2025, the programme has been delivered in seven different city education establishments, with some having multiple visits. They have reached a total of 856 young people from years 7 to 11.
- 4.22 **Young Futures Prevention Partnership Panels Pilot** - The Young Futures Prevention Partnership Panels form part of the national Safer Streets Mission, aimed at reducing serious youth violence, knife crime, anti-social behaviour and VAWG. The panels focus on 10–17-year-olds, providing early intervention to prevent escalation into the criminal justice system and offering support to parents and caregivers.
- 4.23 Derbyshire was selected as one of three non-VRU pathfinder areas to launch this initiative with local partners from October 2025, with potential national expansion from April 2027 subject to funding.
- 4.24 An evaluation is due in April, but early indications show promising progress. To date, 52 young people have been discussed at panel meetings, with 41 receiving additional support from partner agencies.
- 4.25 Operation Zao, referenced under Sub-Objective 2, responds to increasing concerns that a growing number of young people are routinely carrying knives across Derby and Derbyshire.
- 4.26 **Police Stop and Search Scrutiny Panels** - These panels were regarded as a success in 2025 and continue into 2026. Their purpose is to build trust with children from diverse backgrounds by promoting transparency and open dialogue. Sessions, led by a Superintendent and Inspector alongside the Youth Justice Service, teach young people about their rights and involve reviewing body-worn video of stop and search incidents. The footage is scrutinised and used to inform officer training. Young people's feedback has directly influenced policing practice by highlighting areas for improvement. The panels have also helped challenge negative perceptions of policing by creating a respectful space for constructive discussion.
- 4.27 Out of the 22 young people engaged in stop and search scrutiny panels in 2025, only two have re-offended to date.

- 4.28 The Youth Justice Service showcased the scrutiny panels at their recent inspection, and they received very positive feedback. His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Inspector said, "*This should be happening everywhere in the country*".

5. **SUB-OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOPING CAMPAIGNS WHICH AIM TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENT OFFENDING AND KNIFE CRIME**

- 5.1 An awareness event was held in a prominent city-centre location on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 to showcase the partnership approach to tackling knife crime. Officers from multiple departments were deployed to a key hotspot for anti-social behaviour and knife-related violence. During the operation, one individual was arrested for a drugs offence following a positive stop and search. The event generated significant engagement across a wide demographic, with numerous positive comments about the work of the force and its partners.
- 5.2 The force collaborated with Crimestoppers to deliver a three-week, targeted campaign across Derbyshire, including leaflet drops in serious-violence hotspots and tailored social-media messaging. Launched alongside Operation Sceptre and continuing for a further two weeks, the campaign reinforced that efforts to tackle knife crime are ongoing rather than limited to intensification periods. Operation Shango funding, provided via the OPCC, supported the awareness event, the Crimestoppers campaign, and the Operation Sceptre Intensification Week.
- 5.3 All interventions outlined in the sub-objectives above address elements of serious violence - including knife crime - either directly or indirectly. Most follow an early-intervention approach, educating young people on the dangers and consequences of violent crime. For example, Street Doctors and other partners challenge common myths about knife crime. National research shows some young people search online for so-called "safe places" to stab someone; professionals are working to counter this misunderstanding by emphasising that any knife wound can be fatal, with numerous national cases involving single, unexpected fatal injuries.

- 5.4 The VRU, the force and partners intend to further develop this myth-busting approach to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
- 5.5 Over the past six months, the VRU and force colleagues have worked closely with Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust (CFCCT), supported by funding from the Serious Violence Grant administered by the OPCC. CFCCT has led the development and delivery of a Hope Hack Action Plan, with progress regularly reported at Chesterfield Borough Council Community Safety meetings. The work focuses on key themes including relationships with police, social connection, substance use, and social media. Significant progress has been made through youth-focused interventions and the creation of safe, informative spaces. Collaboration with Safer Neighbourhood Team officers has been particularly effective, strengthening trust and improving relationships between young people and the police.
- 5.6 The Derby and Derbyshire Night-Time Economy (NTE) Group brings together Police, Licensing, Community Safety and other NTE stakeholders to address crime and anti-social behaviour linked to NTE activity.
- 5.7 The group monitors ASB and crime data between 6pm and 6am to identify trends and direct resources to areas of need. It has worked with the Serious Violence Board to promote the Walk Away campaign, developed festive-period NTE safety communications for partners and supported the establishment of the Chesterfield Safe Space initiative.
- 5.8 The group has also promoted venue accreditation schemes such as Purple Flag and Best Bar None, and delivered safeguarding inputs through Ask Angela to improve customer safety awareness in licensed premises.
- 5.9 Additionally, the group has reviewed and strengthened NTE tasking meetings, enabling better information-sharing and more proactive planning of NTE policing alongside partners in the areas with the highest activity.

**6. SUB-OBJECTIVE 5: ENGAGING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR CONCERNS TO INCREASE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE**

- 6.1 Engaging with the community remains a priority for the force, with a continued commitment to capturing victims' lived experiences. This is achieved through attendance at monitoring meetings, analysis of survey data and participation in focus groups.
- 6.2 As part of the VAWG Delivery Plan, the force is working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to better understand the experiences of domestic abuse victims in rural communities. This collaboration ensures that victims' voices inform services tailored to the specific challenges of rural areas.
- 6.3 The Learning and Development Team participates in the Lived Experience Contract Monitoring Meetings, chaired by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and attended by relevant force representatives. This ensures a comprehensive feedback loop to inform and enhance training development. Training bids submitted through the Force Training Commissioning Group help shape thematic content, which is frequently guided by lived-experience insights, national inspection findings, and super-complaints.
- 6.4 Divisional training days over the past six months have focused on improving investigators' skills through a stalking-related scenario, emphasising the victim's perspective within the VAWG context. This scenario runs across the four themed days, from initial report to court process, helping investigators understand the victim journey throughout.
- 6.5 Rape and Serious Sexual Offences First Response (RASSO-FR) training has been delivered to all frontline officers and control room staff and is now embedded for new starters. The training applies a victim-centred approach, supporting officers and staff to engage effectively with women and girls and build trust and confidence.
- 6.6 Regular curriculum reviews ensure all training materials remain current and that examples reflect the evolving VAWG landscape.
- 6.7 Ensuring all staff receive Continuous Professional Development (CPD) remains a challenge. A project is underway to introduce designated training days for Crime Directorate staff.

6.8 A Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) survey was launched in February 2026 through the force’s social-media channels, inviting victims to share their experiences of reporting incidents within the past twelve months. The feedback gathered will be analysed to identify any necessary improvements to the service provided.

**7. SUB-OBJECTIVE 6: DELIVERING INITIATIVES WHICH AIM TO ADDRESS CRIMES WHICH DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT WOMEN AND GIRLS SUCH AS DOMESTIC ABUSE, SEXUAL OFFENCES, STALKING AND HARASSMENT**

7.1 Overall, the number of VAWG related offences reported to Derbyshire Constabulary has fallen since 2023 as detailed in the table below:

	YE Dec 25	YE Dec 24	% change Dec 24 to Dec 25	YE Dec 23	% change Dec 23 to Dec 25
Violence with Injury	4,523	4,267	5.9%	4,465	1.3%
Violence without Injury	2,780	3,117	-10.8%	3,470	-19.9%
Stalking & Harassment	8,661	8,311	3.9%	9,205	-5.9%
Rape	1,162	1,123	3.5%	1,145	1.5%
Other Sexual Offences	1,663	1,524	9.1%	1,466	13.4%
Domestic Abuse	11,253	11,807	-4.7%	13,115	-14.2%
Total VAWG offences	23,854	23,944	-0.4%	26,346	-9.5%

7.2 In Derbyshire, figures for Violence with Injury increased by 6% from the year ending (YE) December 2024 to the YE December 2025, with similar national figures showing a 7% increase from the YE March 2024 to YE March 2025. Nationally, there was no change in police recorded Violence Without Injury offences (817,525 offences) in YE March 2024 to YE March 2025, whereas force figures showed a 11% decrease from YE December 2024 to YE December 2025.

7.3 For Stalking & Harassment offences, Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) national data showed no significant change in the number of people who

had experienced stalking (3% of people) and harassment (9% of people) in the YE ending March 2025, compared to the YE March 2024. Force data showed a 4% increase in Stalking and Harassment offences, from the YE December 2024 to the YE December 2025.

- 7.4 National figures showed no statistically significant change in people aged 16 years and over, who experienced Domestic Abuse from the YE March 2024 to the YE March 2025, while there was a 4.7% decrease in DA from the YE Dec 2024 to the YE Dec 2025 in Derbyshire.
- 7.5 Force figures showed a 13% increase in rape and other sexual offences from the YE December 2024 to the YE December 2025. Nationally, figures were similar with a 11% increase in YE March 2025 (209,556 offences), compared with the previous year (188,627 offences) for sexual offences. National figures showed approximately 34% (71,667 offences) of all police recorded sexual offences in YE March 2025 were rape offences. This is compared to approximately 41% of all sexual offences being rape, according to force data for the YE December 2025.
- 7.6 Work continues to understand the context behind increases in certain offence types. Potential contributory factors are likely to be improved recording of violent offences, changes to counting rules, and greater victim confidence to report.
- 7.7 Differences between national Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) data and force data must be considered. CSEW uses sample-based, self-reported interviews, whereas force data reflects recorded offences across the population. Additionally, CSEW covers April 2024–March 2025, while force data is presented for January–December 2023–2025, which may create discrepancies.
- 7.8 The most recent VAWG strategic profile was completed in 2022. A new profile was commissioned in March 2026 and is scheduled for completion by the summer.
- 7.9 A 2024 review of Derbyshire’s MARAC service identified development needs relating to referral pathways, demand and governance. All issues have since been addressed. Referral processes were aligned with SafeLives criteria, the MARAC Operating Protocol was refreshed, and force referral criteria were updated to include “Potential Escalation.” These changes are now embedded in the Safeguarding Coordination Hub’s Standard Operating Procedure.

- 7.10 MARAC demand increased significantly following the HMICFRS inspection and internal risk-assessment process review. Although demand remains above the SafeLives benchmark for Derbyshire (1,780 cases annually), it has stabilised and is now more predictable and closely monitored through the MARAC Steering Group.
- 7.11 A comparison in November 2025 (Q2 data) placed Derbyshire 3rd of 8 most similar forces for MARAC cases discussed. Q3 2025 data now places Derbyshire 2nd, with 2,558 cases. While this exceeds SafeLives expectations, contextual analysis shows that other forces manage demand across a greater number of MARACs (e.g., Staffordshire: 10; Kent: 6). Derbyshire operates only two MARACs, demonstrating both efficiency and the need to explore future expansion.
- 7.12 A MARAC triage process has been piloted since 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Based on SafeLives best practice, the aim is not to reduce demand, but to preserve the integrity of MARAC by ensuring the meeting focuses on cases requiring the highest level of multi-agency intervention.
- 7.13 The triage process currently applies only to repeat MARAC cases within 12 months of previous discussion:
- High-risk incidents automatically proceed to MARAC.
  - Lower-level incidents are reviewed to determine if re-submission is necessary or if risk can be managed outside MARAC.
  - A pre-triage information-sharing stage ensures partners contribute intelligence prior to decision-making.
- 7.14 **Triage outcomes to date:**
- 228 cases triaged
  - 29 repeat listings confirmed.
  - 199 cases assessed as not requiring MARAC
  - This equates to an average reduction of 7 cases per meeting.
  - Positive partner feedback.
  - All decisions, rationales and actions are formally recorded for scrutiny.
- 7.15 A full options paper is being prepared for the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board (DSA Board).

- 7.16 The MARAC Steering Group, established in 2024 and chaired by the force Domestic Abuse Lead, continues to provide strong oversight. Responsibilities include:
- Monitoring performance and demand
  - Overseeing the triage pilot
  - Ensuring effective multi-agency attendance and contribution
  - Escalating strategic issues to the DSA Board
  - Maintaining links with safeguarding and public-protection processes
  - Participating in Domestic Abuse-Related Death Reviews where required
- 7.17 MARAC partner attendance remains strong. Occasional attendance issues are addressed promptly through the Steering Group.
- 7.18 The force currently has adequate administrative capacity to support two MARACs. However, recent developments have changed the wider resourcing environment:
- The Integrated Care Board has withdrawn its MARAC administrative funding contribution.
  - A multi-agency review is underway to determine how to bridge this gap.
  - This is a sensitive and ongoing piece of work.
- 7.19 The wider MARAC review will consider whether maintaining two MARACs remains the optimal model or whether increasing the number would improve sustainability, partner workload distribution, and alignment with comparable forces. As this forms part of a broader partnership review, no specific timescale has been proposed at this stage.
- 7.20 Any expansion would require additional administrative and chairing resources. No decisions have yet been made; discussions continue at the Steering Group and DSA Board.
- 7.21 Management of high-risk outstanding suspects is discussed at Force Tasking, with resources deployed to arrest individuals and mitigate risks to victims and the public.
- 7.22 The Crime Directorate has introduced a tiering system for outstanding suspects based on threat, risk and professional judgement. Operation Hunted initiatives are conducted during periods of high demand to reduce outstanding suspect numbers.

- 7.23 For individuals who are not suspects, but pose significant risk, preventative measures are considered and implemented where appropriate.
- 7.24 The National Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Partnerships recommended the introduction of a Stalking Intervention Panel to provide a multi-agency framework for sharing information and managing risks to victims. This is currently being discussed regionally for implementation.
- 7.25 RASSO and precursor cases are reviewed continuously upon receipt of referrals. Each case is assessed promptly, with a clear focus on identifying precursor offenders and proactively considering the use of civil orders, such as Sexual Risk Orders, to prevent further offending.
- 7.26 Advances in technology are supporting this work. The force is exploring how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can assist in identifying individuals who require intervention, including Potentially Dangerous Persons (PDPs), to support effective management through civil orders such as Sexual Risk Orders or Violent Offender Orders.
- 7.27 A dedicated Mental Health Coordinator in the control room identifies suicide cases with known domestic-abuse history. The Domestic Abuse DCI reviews each case to determine whether it may be linked to victimisation. If so, it is referred for consideration of a Domestic-Related Death Review. No cases met the criteria in 2025, though one remains under criminal review.
- 7.28 Most recommendations from the HMICFRS Police Response to Stalking (September 2024) have been completed. The remaining nine actions are included within the force's Stalking Action Plan and will be merged with recommendations from the Suzy Lamplugh Trust review and the Coroner's findings from the Gracie Spinks inquest.
- 7.29 The force remains committed to a prevention-first approach, addressing root causes to reduce harm, reoffending and victimisation.
- 7.30 This commitment has driven the expansion of the Prevention and Partnerships Department, which now incorporates Substance Misuse, Out of Court Resolution, Youth Justice, Integrated Offender Management, and High Harm and Civil Orders teams, alongside the Strategic Lead for Stalking.
- 7.31 This integration provides a more coordinated, proactive and victim-centred approach, enhancing the quality and consistency of services for victims.

- **Earlier identification and intervention** - spotting individuals at risk of causing harm, whether due to substance misuse, escalating behaviour, youth offending, or repeat offending.
  - **Benefit to victims:** Potential offenders are identified sooner and supported or disrupted before violence or harm escalates.
- **Stronger Multi-Agency Coordination** - Better information sharing and more unified plans across policing, health, youth services and local authorities.
  - **Benefit to Victims:** Faster safeguarding decisions, fewer gaps, and a more seamless, joined up response.
- **Improved Management of High-Risk Offenders** - Teams can better coordinate to produce holistic plans that address risk factors, monitor behaviour and enforce civil orders.
  - **Benefit to victims-** Improved control and oversight of high- risk individuals reduces repeat victimisation and increases protection.
- **More effective use of Out Of Court Resolutions** - Out Of Court options can be aligned with prevention pathways- e.g. mandated behaviour change, alcohol/drug interventions, or restorative approaches.
  - **Benefit to victims:** Offenders receive targeted interventions designed to prevent reoffending, reducing future harm.
- **Better Local Insight and Problem-Solving-** Combined expertise gives a richer understanding of local patterns of harm, repeat offenders and communities most affected.
  - **Benefits to victims-** Resources can be targeted more accurately to areas and individuals where harm is most likely.

7.32 In January 2026, the force received the feedback report from the Operation Soteria team at the National Centre for Violence Against Women and Girls and Public Protection (NVCPP), following completion of the self-assessment undertaken last summer.

7.33 The report notes that the force is in a strong position, having clearly embraced Operation Soteria and the cultural changes required. A review of the Implementation Plan has been recommended and work on this is underway.

7.34 The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) has now achieved United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation. This demonstrates to victims that

they can trust the support offered at the SARC and have confidence that they will receive an excellent level of service.

- 7.35 The force is exploring behaviour-change interventions for domestic abuse linked to compulsive obsessive behaviour. Two perpetrator programmes are currently available: the Changes programme for standard-risk cases and the 180 Project for high-risk perpetrators. Sexual-offence related programmes remain challenging due to limited consent from offenders, as participation may be perceived as an admission of guilt.
- 7.36 Since April 2025, the Professional Standards Department (PSD) has led all Police-Perpetrated Domestic Abuse (PPDA) investigations, except those requiring specialist resources such as child or RASSO cases. A six-month review is underway, with early indications showing improved timeliness, stronger decision-making, and a streamlined victim experience through single-officer contact for both criminal and misconduct matters.
- 7.37 The force recently re-advertised its Sexual Harassment in the Workplace survey, alongside several measures introduced to mitigate previously identified risks.
- 7.38 A Sexual Misconduct Matrix is used to identify, assess and mitigate risk associated with officers and staff where intelligence indicates potential sexual misconduct. PSD performance meetings analyse trends, patterns and areas of vulnerability, while regular PSD tasking ensures action is taken where risks are identified. The Counter Corruption Unit (CCU) conducts routine audits of force systems and devices to detect misconduct, and a review of CCU proactive capabilities is underway to ensure sexual-touching risks are prioritised within tactics.
- 7.39 PSD investigations are victim-led, with support tailored to victims' needs. Service Level Agreements with PPU ensure high-quality victim care and investigative standards. The force promotes and praises those who report inappropriate behaviour and reinforces its zero-tolerance approach to PPDA. The internal IDVA service is now well established and operating effectively for all Derbyshire staff.
- 7.40 Training is delivered to all officers and staff to help them identify risk indicators and understand reporting pathways and support services. PSD is reviewing its

training strategy, including consideration of making the College Learn Sexual Harassment in the Workplace module mandatory.

- 7.41 Standards Ambassadors have been introduced across the force to strengthen PSD engagement with frontline staff, enhance communication and promote an upstander culture. All ambassadors have completed Upstander Training, and feasibility work is underway to incorporate this into a Sexual Harassment focused CPD day. Staff networks have also received the training and will support volunteer engagement and CPD delivery.
- 7.42 The force promotes a range of confidential and non-confidential reporting mechanisms, including Bad Apple and the Crimestoppers Integrity Line. A bespoke PSD engagement plan is in place to strengthen relationships across the organisation, build confidence to report concerns and support the development of a 'speak up' culture.
- 7.43 PSD-led focus groups with female operational staff capture insights into lived experience, barriers to reporting and confidence issues. All staff leaving the organisation now complete an exit questionnaire containing questions on sexual harassment.
- 7.44 A blog from the Head of PSD will shortly be published on the intranet, sharing survey findings and outlining the preventative actions being taken to reduce the risk of sexual harassment.

**8. SUB-OBJECTIVE 7: DEVELOPING INITIATIVES WHICH AIM TO EDUCATE BOTH YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS ON THE ISSUES SURROUNDING VAWG**

- 8.1 School-based inputs raising awareness of VAWG and preventing involvement in VAWG-related offences are delivered by Youth Engagement Teams (YETs) and Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs). Sessions are primarily classroom-based to support open discussion and deeper learning across multiple topics. A Clare's Law information booklet has also been developed to help children and young people understand how the legislation protects them.

- 8.2 During 2025, the following inputs were delivered:
- Primary schools: 149 sessions engaging 7,885 young people on topics including Hate Crime, It's Okay To Say, County Lines, Group Chats and Domestic Abuse.
  - Secondary schools: 162 sessions engaging 12,919 young people on subjects such as Knife-related crime, Controlling and Coercive Behaviour, County Lines, Domestic Abuse, Misogyny, Hate Crime, Nudes/semi-nudes and Stalking and Harassment.
- 8.3 Feedback from teachers and young people has been highly positive, with comments highlighting the value of the sessions. Teacher feedback forms capture suggestions for improvement, and input methods vary depending on the facilitator. Other forces have also adopted Derbyshire's Stalking and Harassment input.
- 8.4 The Licensing Team has delivered Safeguarding and Bystander Intervention training as part of the Ask for Angela package to staff and managers of licensed premises across Derbyshire. The training improves understanding of vulnerability, risk indicators, and how to respond appropriately. To date, 150 people have attended, with further sessions scheduled for 2026.
- 8.5 The Call It Out campaign continues to be successful since its 2024 launch, with over 1,500 students briefed in schools and colleges, and campaign videos shown at Derby County and Chesterfield FC match days. The initiative has expanded into the night-time economy, encouraging venues to adopt a zero-tolerance approach, with males displaying such behaviour removed from premises. Following a successful pilot in Chesterfield in December 2025, the campaign will roll out to Derby city centre in Spring 2026.
- 8.6 A Domestic Abuse support pack will be released in early 2026 to provide guidance for families and friends concerned that someone may be in an abusive relationship. It will offer advice on recognising warning signs and how to provide safe, appropriate support.
- 8.7 A multi-agency tasking and coordination pilot has been introduced in North East Derbyshire to target the most prolific domestic abuse perpetrators. Offenders are offered access to self-help programmes, and where this is declined, partners

consider alternative disruption measures. Early results are positive, and a review is underway to assess its effectiveness and potential for wider rollout.

**9. SUB-OBJECTIVE 8: INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE VAWG VICTIM/ SURVIVOR SUPPORT AND AFTERCARE AVAILABLE AND CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFER**

- 9.1 Officers and staff can access all relevant victim support services and resources via Connect, the force intranet. A suite of short videos from each service provider explains the support available and how victims can be signposted, including self-referral routes.
- 9.2 Victim support services in Derbyshire are commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure effective delivery and continuous improvement. The force participates in quarterly contract-monitoring meetings focused on data quality, referral consistency, issue resolution and identifying barriers to access. The OPCC also commissions a Lived Experience service to gain further insight into victims' needs, supporting commissioning decisions and helping to understand victims' experiences with the force.
- 9.3 Several victim support services contributed to frontline officer training in early 2025, outlining the support they provide. While these sessions were successful, a wider organisational knowledge gap was identified. In response, the force and OPCC produced short videos describing each service's offer; these are now available to all staff on the force intranet.
- 9.4 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner commissions all victim support services in Derbyshire, ensuring the force is fully engaged throughout the process. This collaborative approach ensures victims receive specialist support that is informed by operational insight and aligned to local priorities as well as individual need.

**10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The force is committed to reducing and preventing serious violence and this can be demonstrated by the ongoing expansion of the Prevention and Partnerships Department. There is an understanding that the reduction will most successfully come from partnership working, sharing knowledge, expertise and resources in the public health style approach, via the Serious Violence Partnership.
- 10.2 In regard to Serious Violence, the next 12 months will look to consolidate on the achievements to date and to continue looking at evidence-based interventions to address any established and developing concerns. Force and VRU colleagues will continue to liaise with other force/VRU areas to learn from any innovation and positive results they are having. The force/VRU and the wider partnership will then look to adapt positive practices to Derbyshire.
- 10.3 Building the trust and confidence of women and girls is a priority for the force and will therefore be a key focus in 2026. The National VAWG self-assessment will be completed in the coming months. This is an opportunity for the force to evaluate its performance, conduct a gap analysis and establish whether any changes are required in order to improve service delivery.
- 10.4 Any gaps or risks identified once discussion around funding has been completed, will be shared with partners to see if there are ways to combine resources and expertise to overcome the obstacles.

## 11. APPENDICES

### **Safeguarding Case Study**

Derbyshire Constabulary received a report concerning the welfare of a 13-year-old girl who was believed to be in a relationship with a 29-year-old individual who had a position of trust in relation to the child. When Local Policing Unit officers attended her home address, she was found to be missing. A search of her school bag located property belonging to the suspect and a positive pregnancy test.

A high-risk Missing Person report was created, and the Missing Persons Investigation Team (MPIT) assumed responsibility for the investigation. Enquiries quickly established that the girl was with the suspect, and officers successfully persuaded both parties to attend a police station. The suspect was arrested on suspicion of rape and child abduction. Immediate safeguarding measures were implemented, including taking the child into police protection.

Multi-agency safeguarding processes were initiated, including a Section 47 strategy discussion and a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) meeting, to plan longer-term protection for the victim and assess risk to the wider public given the suspect's employment. The Child Sexual Exploitation Unit holds primacy for the criminal investigation and continues to ensure that safeguarding remains in place throughout.

## **Serious Violence Case Study**

As detailed under Sub-Objective 4, the VRU, the force and wider partners have continued to benefit from the support of Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust (CFCCT) in delivering the Serious Violence Action Plan. The more structured working relationship has significantly strengthened community engagement, particularly with young people, by drawing on CFCCT's expertise and trusted presence within local communities.

This approach has enabled police officers to be introduced into existing youth projects by youth workers whom young people already trust. This has proven highly effective in helping young people to view officers as individuals rather than solely as authority figures, and in demonstrating that the police are there to support them in accessing pro-social activities and building healthy, positive connections.

Feedback from staff indicates that young people generally respond very positively to officers and PCSOs from Safer Neighbourhood Teams. In one example, after speaking with an officer for the first time during a session, a young person disclosed that they had an air rifle. The officer explained why they could not keep it and collected the weapon without issue. The young person understood the reasons, appeared relieved and the interaction may have prevented a potential negative outcome. While unusual, this example demonstrates the impact a single, trusted encounter can have.

Below is a summary of feedback received directly from young people during Premier League Kicks sessions.

Below is some feedback from the young people.

### **Thoughts on or experiences with police:**

- 'Some young people are brought up not to like them.'
- 'If they know the officers, then they are sound.'
- 'Explain calmly and talk through why we are in trouble and just be a bit more respectful.'

**Safety:**

- 'They make us feel a bit safe, but sometimes they can also make us feel unsafe as we don't know if we can trust them.'

**Building trust and relationships:**

- 'Engage with us more often.'
- 'Come and play football or sports with us.'

**What can help build better relations between young people and the police?**

- 'Attend schools more often.'
- 'Dress in normal clothes when talking to young people.'
- 'Be more on the streets, so young people feel safe.'