

Key Messages

- 72% of PSVs had less than 3 years' service with 9% having been a volunteer for over 5 years.
- In total, 23 PSVs completed the national survey, achieving an estimated 28% response rate from South Yorkshire Police.
- The results show that PSVs in South Yorkshire compared to the national average were:
 - More likely to agree that the Force maximises the use of the time that they give;
 - More likely to feel supported by their line manager;
 - More likely to feel the Force communicates sufficiently;
 - More likely to have stronger relationships with staff;
 - More likely to feel they received sufficient ongoing training to remain effective as a volunteer; and
 - More likely to feel their morale was good and more likely to agree they felt valued.
- The most common suggestion to improve the PSV experience in South Yorkshire were for more opportunities to volunteer which better utilised their skillsets.

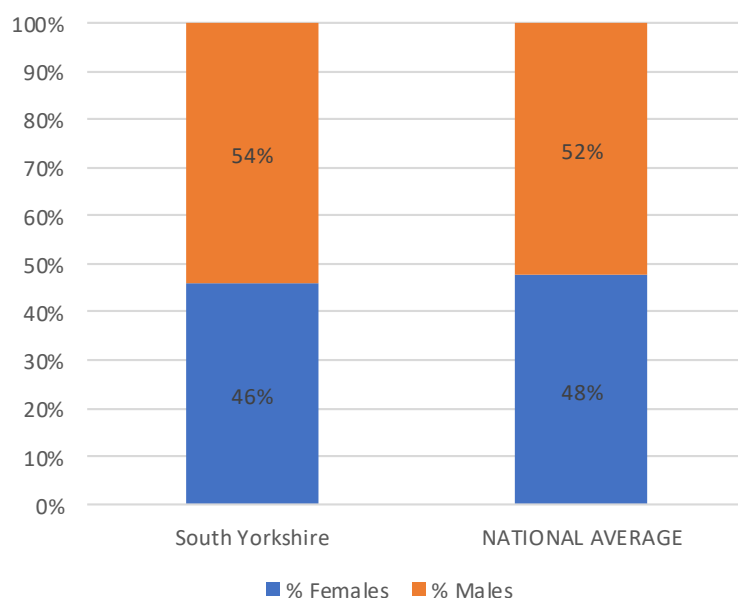
Introduction

The purpose of this police brief is to summarise the key findings from the national reports and contextualise the results relating to South Yorkshire. Therefore, it is supplementary to the national benchmarking report (Britton *et al.*, 2021) and the national survey results report (Callender *et al.*, 2021).

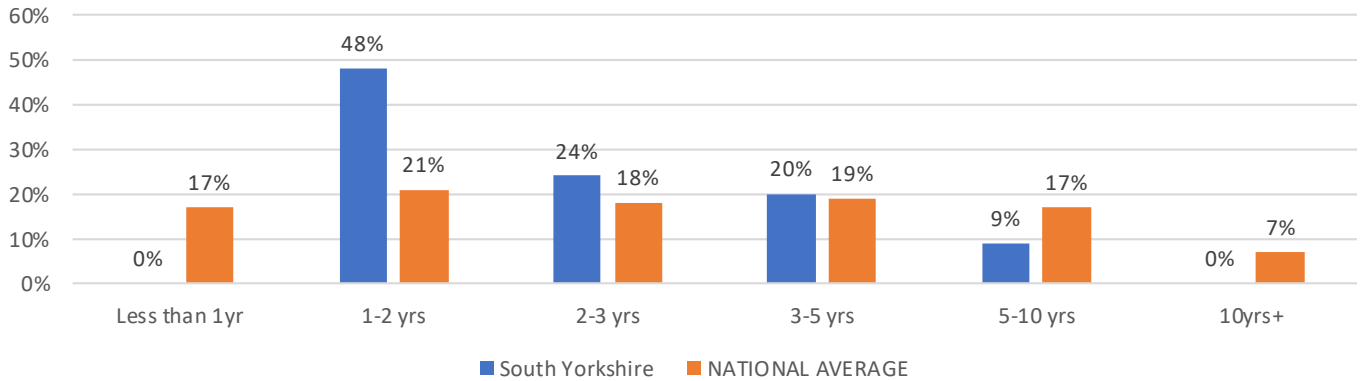
Key Statistics from Benchmarking Report

Of 25 forces (out of 44 surveyed) which provided data on hours served by PSVs, it was estimated that on average each PSV completed **25 hours per year**. Based on the estimated total number of PSVs nationally, this equates to approximately **190,000** hours total. It is noted, however, this data has been gathered over the Covid-19 period, when the vast majority of forces have seen a marked reduction in PSV activity due to lockdowns, shielding, and other health and practical concerns. In terms of demographic profile, compared to the national average, South Yorkshire has a slightly higher proportion of male PSVs and more PSVs with less than 3 years' service. No data was provided detailing the total number of PSV hours completed and PSVs' age.

Gender Profile



Length of Service Profile



Leavers

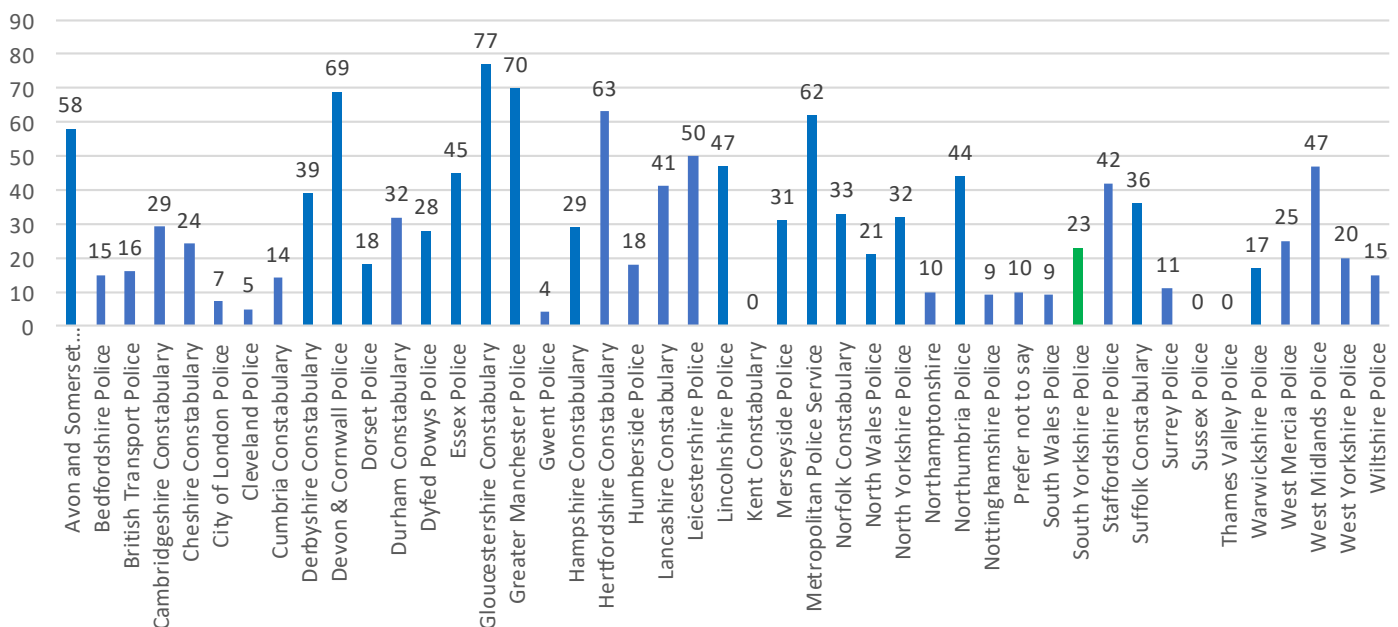
Nationally, the majority of PSVs included in this leavers data had left after at least 4 years of service. The average number of months a PSV had served prior to them leaving was 39.3. Personal Reasons were the most common reason for leaving the PSV role, with 31.7% of the sample leaving due to this. 14.4% were stopping being a PSV due to a career change and 10% had their voluntary employment terminated.

In South Yorkshire, there were 31 leavers captured in the benchmarking file for the year 20/21. The most common reason for leaving was given as 'Personal Reasons' (42%), followed by 'Volunteering Ended' (27%).

Key Findings from the National Survey of PSVs

Overall, **1,305** Police Support Volunteers (PSVs) completed the survey, which represents a **17%** response rate against benchmarking data where it is detailed that there are approximately **7,632** PSVs nationwide. There were **23** PSVs who completed the survey from South Yorkshire, which represents a **28%** response rate against benchmarking data where it was detailed there are **82** PSVs.

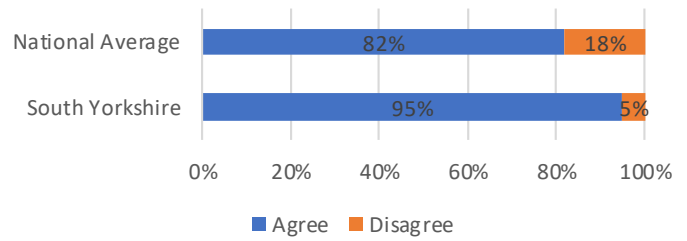
PSV Survey Responses per Force



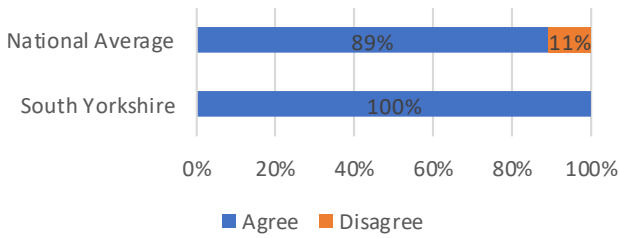
Key Findings

MANAGEMENT: Compared to the national average, a higher proportion of PSVs in South Yorkshire feel their Force maximises the time they give, feels supported by their line manager, feels the Force communicates with them sufficiently.

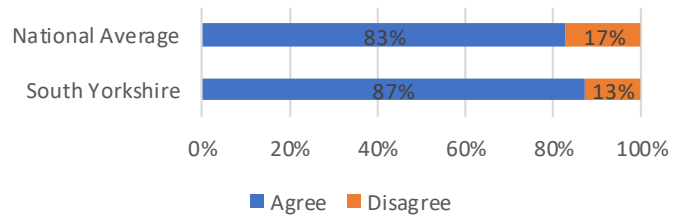
The Force maximises the time I give them



I feel supported by my line manager



The Force communicates sufficiently with me as a volunteer

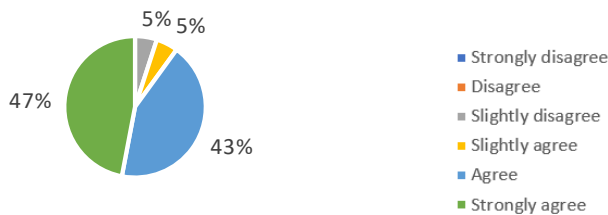


RELATIONSHIPS WITH OFFICERS AND STAFF:

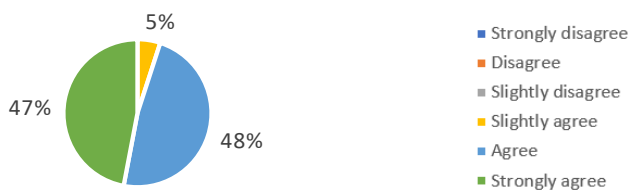
Relationships with officers and staff were very positive, however the strength of agreement for feeling respected and having a good relationship was slightly stronger for staff. Very few respondents disagreed with the following statements.

“(I) have always felt appreciated by colleagues and supervisors”

I feel respected by officers



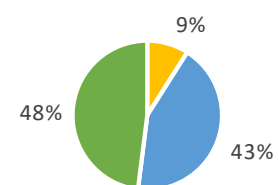
I feel respected by staff



I have a good relationship with officers



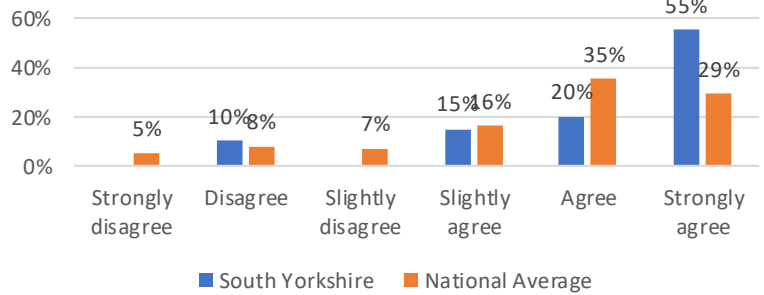
I have a good relationship with staff



“I think giving more time to officers to focus on other jobs while I go out there as a volunteer is important”

I am receiving sufficient ongoing training to remain effective in my volunteering role

TRAINING: In terms of training, more PSVs agreed that they received sufficient ongoing training to remain effective in their role as a volunteer (90%) compared to the national average (80%).



South Yorkshire Police PSV Feedback: How can the volunteering experience be improved?

7 PSVs from South Yorkshire Police recommended ways in which their volunteering experience could be improved. PSVs suggested there should be more opportunities to volunteer which better utilised their skillsets.

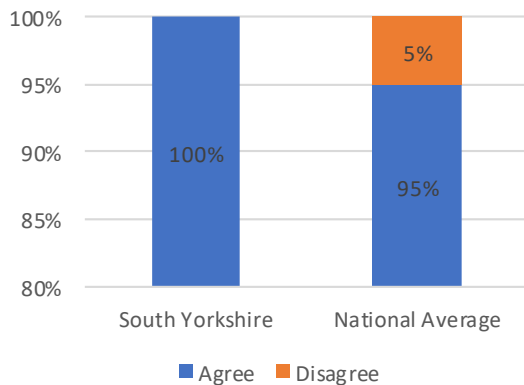
“Be able to volunteer more or have a bit more range in the types of volunteering”

“Working in various departments”

“A skills audit by the force and understanding of the policing background and skills would be a good start. Then apply it to a useful purpose”

MORALE AND VALUE: Compared to the national average, a larger proportion of PSVs from South Yorkshire felt valued by their Force, and all PSVs from South Yorkshire described their morale as good.

I would describe my morale as good



I feel valued by my Force

