

**Please see below for a message from Superintendent Sarah Poolman:**

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**Dear Community Members,**

As you will all be aware, Manchester Police are treating the tragic incident that occurred on Monday evening (22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017) as a terrorist attack. My thoughts, and those of South Yorkshire Police officers and staff, are with Manchester and those who have been affected by this tragic event.

The UK threat level has been increased to **critical**, which means that the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre assesses that an attack is imminent – I can assure you that the Police Service, locally and nationally, have been preparing for this eventuality, together with other partners, for some time and it has now unfortunately become a reality.

Across South Yorkshire, we are providing additional high-visibility patrols at key locations such as religious establishments, transport hubs, crowded places and events. This means that in Rotherham, you will see additional police and PCSOs.

I am conscious that the Prime Minister has authorised the army to support the police at this time of high threat. Please be advised that, at this time, there are no plans for the army to be deployed on the streets of South Yorkshire.

**Your safety**

We need your help and support to keep our communities safe. You know your neighbourhood and/or workplace and are best placed to recognise something that is out of place. We ask you to remain vigilant, trust your instincts and report activity that seems suspicious to the police.

It may be nothing, but if you see or hear anything that could be terrorist-related, trust your instincts and call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321. In an emergency please call 999.

**Reporting hate crime or incidents**

In the UK, there has been an increase in hate crime following previous terrorist attacks in other countries and following the Westminster Attack in March. South Yorkshire Police treat any report of hate seriously. In no way is it right for someone to be threatened, abused, assaulted or targeted in any way because of someone else's prejudice.

If you have been attacked, threatened or have suffered physical or verbal abuse because of who you are, or have witnessed a hate crime or incident take place, please report it to South Yorkshire Police on 101 or via the online reporting site True Vision ([www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)). You can also report incidents to your local council or 3rd party reporting centres in Rotherham (available on SYP's website), or Crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

If we can be of further support to you or your community, please contact your local neighbourhood team or call 101.

Kind regards,

Sarah

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