

Release: Embargoed until Monday 10 July

Media Invite: you are invited to a press conference on Monday 10 July at 10am to be held at the SYPTE offices, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield. S1 2BQ. Key members of the Safer Roads Partnership will be available to provide interviews on the day. Unfortunately, no other interviews will be given before or after the press conference.

All road users urged to take more care on the roads to save injuries and lives!

Safer Roads Partnership chiefs have given a cautious welcome to the news that the total number of casualties injured on the roads in South Yorkshire in 2016 has fallen.

Whilst the number of people killed on the roads also fell in 2016, when compared with the previous year, the number of serious casualties increased significantly. The number of people slightly injured in road traffic collisions also saw a decrease.

The increase in serious injuries is thought to be linked to the introduction of a new Police recording system which categorises serious injuries in a different way. Similar increases in the number of serious casualties have also been seen in other Police force areas where the new recording system is being used.

There were reductions in the number of people aged 0-16 years who were injured in 2016, as well as a reduction in overall casualties amongst the 17-24 year old and 25-59 year old age groups. However, casualties aged 60 years and above increased by almost 5% in 2016.

Car user casualties remained at a similar level to that in 2015 but there were decreases in the numbers of pedal cyclist and motorcycle rider casualties. Pedestrian casualties rose by 3% in 2016.

Joanne Wehrle, the Safer Roads Manager, "Whilst the overall number of collisions and casualties has not increased this year, we would have preferred to see a bigger decrease in casualties. The increase in the number of serious casualties in 2016 is disappointing but we feel that the introduction of the new Police recording system last year has resulted in improvements to the accuracy of the data being collected which should provide a more reliable picture of casualty severity going forward.

"We need to step up our efforts to improve road safety and that is why the Safer Roads Partnership is also today launching its new strategy. This sets out our approach to reducing road traffic collisions and their associated casualties and highlights how the partners will work together to deliver a wide range of road safety activity - from education and engineering to enforcement – in a bid to keep people safer on the roads and save needless deaths and injuries."

Also unveiled today is the Partnership's new website, where members of the public can find a host of road safety information and advice. The new website can be accessed at www.sysrp.co.uk and provides advice in line with the priority road user groups, as highlighted in the new Safer Roads Partnership strategy.

Joanne Wehrle said, "The Safer Roads Partnership offers a vast range of safety activity for all ages and all road users. Whether you are a pedestrian, a cyclist, a motor-cyclist or a driver the Partnership can provide advice, training, support and information on a variety of topics. Many courses we offer are geared to particular age groups, such as 'Drive for Life' for the 17 to 24 year age group, who are just about to start driving. Details of all our activity, including our events and campaigns calendar, can be accessed via the new website.

"Road users can do a lot to help and protect themselves by abiding by some key rules; drivers can ensure that they drive to the conditions of the road and don't speed, never use a mobile phone while at the wheel, don't drive when under the influence of drink or drugs and always ensure that they and their passengers wear a seatbelt. Remember that we all have a responsibility to keep ourselves and other road users safe. Look out for other road users and respect their needs when out on the roads."

In figures announced by the Safer Roads Partnership, 2016 saw a total of 4,396 casualties arising from 3,053 collisions on the roads in South Yorkshire – a drop of 0.1 percent.

Some 579 people were seriously injured in road accidents, 227 more than in 2015. Fewer people – 3,780 - were slightly injured in 2016, compared to 4,000 in 2015.

There was a 0.4 per cent drop in the number of road collisions involving personal injury to 3,053. Of these, 549 involved fatal or serious injuries - 190 more than the year before.

A total of 37 people were killed, which was 12 less than the year before (2015) and which saw most of the districts observing a decrease.

Each district experienced an increase in the number of seriously injured compared to the year before.

As in previous years, car users - drivers and passengers - experienced the highest number of casualties, which increased slightly from 2,988 to 2,996 in 2016. The number of car users killed or seriously injured rose to 279 but, the number of fatal car user casualties fell to 19 in 2016. This accounted for more than half – 51 per cent – of all fatalities across the county.

Also as in previous years, car occupants were the largest killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualty type at 45 per cent of KSI casualties, with pedestrians in second place at 26 per cent, motorcyclists at 15 per cent and pedal cycles at 9 per cent.

The number of pedestrian casualties increased by 3.0% per cent to 587. The number of pedestrians getting killed also increased by 3 to 14.

The number of casualties involving powered two wheelers – motorbikes and scooters – fell by 35 to 267 last year. The number of killed and seriously injured fell to 90 with 3 of these being fatal, 6 less than in 2015.

All pedal cyclist casualties fell to 269 in 2016, although the killed and seriously injured total rising from 45 to 56. Unfortunately, as in the previous year, one pedal cyclist was killed in 2016.

Enclosed are the casualty dashboards including for the South Yorkshire data and data for each of the local authority areas.

ENDS

Note to Editors

The aim of the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership is to reduce the number of people injured in road traffic collisions and make South Yorkshire roads safer.

The Partnership Team is available to provide advice, training, support and information on a variety of topics including safety for pedestrians, cyclists, powered two wheeled riders and drivers. If you would like some road safety advice, please visit us at www.lifewise999.co.uk/road-safety or email saferroads@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

The South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership is made up of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Councils, Highways England, SYPTE, the University of Sheffield, the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, public health bodies, South Yorkshire Police (including South Yorkshire Safety Cameras), Peak District National Park Authority and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

Further information can be found by visiting the Safer Roads Partnership website www.sysrp.co.uk, by calling 01709 832462 or by following on Twitter at @safer_roads

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