

**PH012 – CRIME AND DISORDER – POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS**

|  |                |  |              |
|--|----------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Service Name:</b>   |                | Crime and Disorder – Police Community Support Officers   |              |
| <b>Which 'start year' does this option relate to 2018/19, 2019/20 or 2020/21</b> |                | 2018/19  |              |
| <b>Gross budget 2017/18</b>  |                | £0.319m  |              |
| <b>Income 2017/18</b>  |                | £0.000m  |              |
| <b>Net budget 2017/18</b>  |                | £0.319m  |              |
| <b>Savings Target and Profiling (discrete year):</b>                             |                |  |              |
|  |                |  |              |
| <b>2018/19</b>   | <b>2019/20</b> | <b>2020/21</b>   | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>£m</b>  | <b>£m</b>      | <b>£m</b>  | <b>£m</b>    |
| -0.220   | -0.045         | 0.000  | -0.265       |
| <b>FTE implications:</b>   |                |  |              |
| <b>2018/19</b>   | <b>2019/20</b> | <b>2020/21</b>   | <b>Total</b> |
| 0.00   | 0.00           | 0.00   | 0.00         |
| <b>Decisions needed to deliver the budgeted savings</b>                          |                | Agree to cease funding for Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) posts currently part funded by Lancashire County Council (LCC).   |              |
| <b>Impact upon service</b>   |                | Lancashire County Council provides funding, but does not directly employ the PCSOs. However two PCSOs are embedded in the Council's Safe and Healthy Travel Team, managed on a day to day basis by officers of LCC, and deal with issues of crime and disorder on the bus network, especially in relation to young people travelling to and from school. |              |
| <b>Actions needed to deliver the target savings</b>                              |                | <p>Consultation required with LCC colleagues e.g. in Children and Family Wellbeing Service, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Constabulary and PCSO staff.</p> <p>A minimum of four months' notice to Lancashire Constabulary is required.</p>   |              |

**What are the risks associated with this saving and how will they be mitigated**

If funding is removed there is the possibility of low level crime and disorder escalating into more serious criminal activity, which has a higher community and public service costs associated, including:

- An increase in youth offending criminal behaviours
- An increase in harm / reducing support to the most vulnerable individuals / communities through e.g. anti-social behaviour
- A reduction in restorative justice approaches and behavioural change work
- A reduction in delivery of multi-agency initiatives to reduce low level crime and disorder e.g. through diversionary activities
- A reduction in capacity for community engagement / cohesion activity
- A reduction in capacity to deliver multi-agency Early Action interventions, which may impact on delivery of outcomes for children and young people delivered through the Children and Family Wellbeing Service e.g. Troubled Families Programme.

It is anticipated that the proposal will reduce PCSO capacity in the County. There are currently 281 PCSO posts (265.72 FTE) in Lancashire Constabulary, of which 50 FTE are part-funded by a mixture of schools, colleges and local authorities.

LCC currently part funds 17 Lancashire Constabulary Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), generally employed in Early Action roles across the County; with 2 posts embedded in the Council's Safe and Healthy Travel Team, managed on a day to day basis by officers of LCC, and dealing with issues of crime and disorder on the bus network, especially in relation to travel to and from school.

Should LCC withdraw funding, it is understood that the Constabulary is likely to consolidate the remaining budget, resulting in the likely retention of 9 out of the current 17 posts.

LCC will also continue to work strategically with partners to reduce crime and disorder in the County.

## **What does this service deliver?**

### **Context:**

A police community support officer (PCSO) provides a link between the community and the constabulary. Their roles vary widely and can include working to reduce vehicle speeding, reporting vandalism, and reducing antisocial behaviour. PCSOs don't have powers to arrest, but instead they work, often with partner agencies, to protect the community through collaboration.

Currently there are 281 PCSO posts (265.72 FTE) in Lancashire Constabulary, of which 50 FTE are part-funded by a mixture of schools, colleges and local authorities.

LCC has a statutory duty to work with partners to reduce crime and disorder (as do all local authorities) under the Crime and Disorder Act. The PCSOs support the work of LCC, whilst also providing the visible operational commitment of LCC to community safety, albeit under the auspices of the Constabulary.