

External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 5 March 2019

Electoral Division affected: All

Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Agreement 2019

Appendix A – Strategic Assessment

Appendix B – Community Safety Agreement 2019-2022

Appendix C - Community Safety Partnership Structure

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the Strategic Assessment, which in Lancashire is produced on a three yearly cycle, with an annual review of key findings. The Strategic Assessment, and related district profiles, sets out key issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour for partners to resource and address in line with the Community Safety Agreement. These will be approved at the Lancashire Public Services Board, being the strategic level board of Chief Officers from all the responsible authorities which undertakes the role of the Community Safety Strategy Group in Lancashire, to take effect from 1 April 2019.

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Review the Community Safety Agreement for 2019-2022
2. Note the arrangements for reviewing Community Safety Partnership working.

Background and Advice

The statutory obligations of community safety partners are set out in a range of legislation:

- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established the duty of public bodies to consider the impact on crime and disorder through the delivery of its services and activities.
- The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have in place arrangements to scrutinise the functioning of their Strategy Group, which includes the Lancashire Public Service Board in its role as the Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group.

- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out a requirement for community safety partnerships / county strategy groups to have due regard for the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places statutory duties upon specified authorities, under the 'Prevent' strand of the CONTEST strategy (the UK's Counter Terrorism Strategy) to have "due regard in the exercise of their functions to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Agreement 2019-2022

The Strategic Assessment (**Appendix A**), provides an account of long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour, providing the main evidence base that underpins the Community Safety Agreement for 2019-2022 (**Appendix B**), local partnership plans, [The Police and Crime Plan](#) and the Constabulary control strategy.

In Lancashire a single assessment is carried out on behalf of the Lancashire Public Service Board in its role as the Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group; unitary and local Community Safety Partnerships and the Police and Crime Commissioner, ensuring a shared evidence base through which to set priorities. It is produced on a 3-year cycle, with an annual evaluation of key findings.

Work on the current Strategic Assessment began early 2018 and was finalised in October 2018. It is the result of research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partner agencies, all 14 local authorities and community engagement through the Living in Lancashire questionnaire.

The Community Safety Agreement is the strategic agreement between the responsible authorities identifying how we will work together to address the community safety priorities. This Community Safety Agreement is designed to reflect the issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour evidenced in the latest Strategic Assessment.

Key Findings from Lancashire Strategic Assessment (2018)

The 2018 Strategic Assessment identifies the top crime and Anti-Social Behaviour categories in Lancashire, based on local and national data. These categories are the key issues, but Community Safety Partnerships can supplement with others and are likely to address them in different ways to reflect the circumstances in their communities.

The categories include:

- Violence against the person
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual offences (including child sexual exploitation)
- Acquisitive crime
- Road Safety
- Exploitation (including Workforce Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery, Serious Organised Crime)

The Strategic Assessment highlights some of the key issues and risks across Lancashire which affect our local communities. These include:

- **Health.** These are becoming more apparent as factors relating to community safety, particularly in relation to mental health.
- **Vulnerability.** This theme is throughout the Strategic Assessment and is an issue for different age groups including:
 - **Young people.** An increase in missing from home episodes, links to domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, anti-social behaviour, road safety, domestic abuse, mental health and links to serious organised crime (county lines).
 - **The elderly.** An increase in missing from homes, victim of fraud and cyber-crime, domestic abuse, road safety, mental health and fire safety within the home.

Review of Community Safety Partnership Working and Governance Arrangements

Over the next four months a review will be undertaken to consider how Lancashire County Council works in partnership to support community safety. It should be noted that Lancashire County Council already contributes positively to delivery against key issues identified in the Community Safety Agreement. This is through the work carried out by services such as Trading Standards to protect vulnerable people; Childrens Social Care to protect children from exploitation; Adult Services to protect vulnerable adults and Public Health to provide services that support vulnerable people, including those affected by substance misuse and domestic abuse, as well as working in partnership to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on Lancashire's roads.

The review will be overseen by the Public Health Specialist (Safe and Healthy Travel and Partnerships) who has an overarching role in the Council in co-ordinating activity relating to community safety. It will be undertaken in partnership and will include working closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Safety Partnership lead officers from across Lancashire, with the aim of maximising resource and capacity and strengthening links between the activities carried out by local partnerships and the strategic/partnership boards (**Appendix C**). The review will also include proposals on how to support the Lancashire Public Service Board in undertaking its role as the Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group more effectively.

Consultations

Consultation on the Strategic Assessment and development of the Community Safety Agreement and associated district profiles has been undertaken with practitioners from statutory organisations, service providers (e.g. housing associations) and the voluntary, community and faith sectors.

The Living in Lancashire questionnaire has been used to survey the residents of Lancashire as to their concerns regarding crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety. This has been supported by research from PACT (Police and Communities Together) panels.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

The Community Safety Agreement is produced by the Partnership Analyst Team based within Lancashire Constabulary. The team is currently jointly funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council.

Legal

The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have in place arrangements to scrutinise the functioning of the Community Safety Strategy Group.

Crime and Disorder

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established the duty of public bodies to consider the impact on crime and disorder through the delivery of its services and activities.

Risk management

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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