

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on 4 March 2011

Electoral Division affected: All

Safer Lancashire

Role and performance of Safer Lancashire Board in:

- reducing crime and disorder
- promoting community safety

(Appendices A and B refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report covers the role and performance of the Safer Lancashire Board and its Responsible Authorities, specifically focussing on anti-social behaviour and domestic violence. It also identifies the priorities that have been set by the Safer Lancashire Board for the next three years.

Key Points

The Safer Lancashire Board (SLB) determines its priorities, actions and use of resources based on information provided in the annual Strategic Assessment, in consultation with all community safety partners and through public engagement.

The production of a Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is a requirement for responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The purpose of the SLB is to help co-ordinate community safety related activity across the county and support cross-district working, identifying where value can be added by working on a multi-district or county level.

The statutory responsibilities and those of the other responsible authorities are to:

- Prevent and reduce crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment
- Reduce the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- Reduce re-offending

Recommendation

The Committee is asked:

1. To note the progress to date and comment on the activity of the Safer Lancashire Board in delivering the current Community Safety Agreement.
2. To note the refresh of the Strategic Assessment and the areas of focus identified by the Safer Lancashire Board for 2011-14.

Background and Advice

On 27 March 2008, the former Communities and Partnerships Committee considered a report on the development of the first Lancashire Community Safety Agreement following legislative changes enacted by the Police and Justice Act 2006 (PJA). It was resolved that the Committee endorsed the draft Community Safety Agreement and that they would receive exception reports on a six monthly basis on progress. Following the Local Government Act 2007 and the expectation of a committee to scrutinise the work of the relevant partnership, this for Lancashire County Council, is the Safer Lancashire Board.

Role of the Safer Lancashire Board

The Safer Lancashire Board (SLB) was formed officially in April 2008 as the statutory County Strategy Group for community safety. It merged existing county-level groups to ensure there was a single forum to provide strategic direction and coordination of all community safety-related partnerships in Lancashire. The SLB is made up of executive level officers from partner organisations and all Chairs of the district and unitary Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). The County Council elected member with the community safety portfolio is a member of this group and has the role of Chair.

Specifically, the SLB identifies priorities and strategic approaches in the following areas of work:

- Crime and Disorder including Domestic Abuse
- Anti-social behaviour, and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment
- Substance Misuse
- Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism
- Reducing Offending and Re-offending
- Fire Safety
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Road Safety/Accident Prevention

The SLB is required to develop a rolling three-year Community Safety Agreement, identifying the main priorities for Lancashire and how they will be achieved. The Agreement complements and supports the partnership plans of each CSP as it is informed by the strategic assessments that each local partnership is required to undertake. The delivery plan element is refreshed annually and provides the foundation for allocating the Area Based Grant committed to community safety by Lancashire County Council. As coordinating body for the county the SLB makes the recommendations to the Cabinet Member on the distribution of funding to support community safety activity.

Progress and Performance of the Community Safety Agreement

Partners have been working together to deliver the shared outcomes in the Community Safety Agreement, using agreed performance indicators to reflect progress and improved delivery.

Improving Reassurance and Feeling of Safety, Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour

- Bright Sparx continues to be delivered annually which aims to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour often associated with Bonfire Night and the preceding weeks
- Restorative Justice and Restorative Approaches have been rolled out across the county and more schools are engaging each term with this method of resolving internal issues and anti-social behaviour.
- A countywide anti-social behaviour pledge to residents was developed to inform citizens of Lancashire of the service levels they could expect following a report or incident.
- Over the summer a countywide Confidence operation was undertaken to work with targeted communities and to deliver key messages. This included the development of the Love My Lancashire Facebook site (run by the Constabulary); Hate ASB, Love Respect campaign.
- ASB Risk Assessment Conferences have now been implemented in every area, enabling partner agencies to identify and support victims who are more at risk.

Further detail and information about the ASB Pledge and Risk Assessment Conferences is available in Appendix A.

Tackling Domestic Abuse

- All the courts in Lancashire remain fully accredited as Specialist Domestic Violence Courts to meet the unique needs of victims and provide essential support services for them and their families. In 2010/11, the SLB committed £110,000 to ensure the provision of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers remained consistent. A further contribution for 2011/12 has been provisionally agreed as match funding for a bid submitted to the Home Office, which would maintain a provision until 2015.
- The SLB and partners also support Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in place in each area to reduce repeat incidents to victims.
- Lancashire County Council has implemented an Employers Domestic Abuse policy to ensure that victims are able to be supported and working with perpetrators to stop the cycle of abuse.

Improve Road Safety

- Education and enforcement activity has continued to be supported and through targeting Lancashire has seen reductions in the number of deaths and injuries from accidents involving motorcycles and other two-wheeled powered vehicles.

- The SLB has contributed further resources to improve the provision and infrastructure for Automatic Number Plate Recognition across the county to ensure there are no gaps and that no community is put at risk.

Priorities for 2011-2014

The Committee will recall that under the provisions of regulations made under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended, strategic assessments must be reviewed at least annually and the Community Safety Agreement delivery plan be amended as appropriate. The county strategic assessment has been updated and previously circulated to the Committee. The County Assessment integrates the assessments of the twelve district and two unitary areas as well as information from consultations and individual agencies. At its away day on 10 February 2011, the Safer Lancashire Board identified the following thematic areas for 2011-14:

- Reduce alcohol and drug misuse
- Reduce re-offending
- Change attitudes and behaviours
- Protect and support vulnerable people

In achieving improved outcomes under these themes it is anticipated that activities will be better able to tackle the cross-cutting nature of community safety and reduce duplication by services.

The Safer Lancashire Board has further improved its links with the Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards, Children's Trust and the developing Health and Well-Being board to again remove duplication and ensure services are targeted appropriately.

A draft of the strategic assessment undertaken is attached at Appendix B for the Committee's information. The delivery plan element of the Community Safety Agreement is currently being developed following the away day of the Board.

In addition to this report the Committee will be receiving a brief presentation at the meeting on the performance to date of the Board.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications:

Risk Management

There are no risks to be considered as this committee will only make recommendations on the information provided; not service decisions.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
Community Safety Agreement	27 March 2008	Colleen Martin, Community Safety, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 33438
Approval of the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2008-11	10 July 2008	Colleen Martin, Community Safety, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 33438
Allocation of Funds in Support of Community Safety Deliver Commissioned Activity by the Safer Lancashire Board	17 March 2009	Colleen Martin, Community Safety, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 33438
Allocation of Funds from the 2009/10 Crime and Disorder Budget	23 September 2009	Colleen Martin, Community Safety, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 33438
Allocation of Funds from the 2010/11 Crime and Disorder Budget	31 March 2010	Colleen Martin, Community Safety, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 33438
Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2010	20 December 2010	Colleen Martin, Community Safety, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 33438
	10 Feb 2011	Melanie Greenslade, MADE Officer, Policy Unit, OCE Ext 32864

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A