

External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Monday, 29 November 2021

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022-2025
(Appendix A refers)

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;
Protecting our environment;
Supporting economic growth;
Caring for the vulnerable

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Brief Summary

The undertaking of a Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for community safety partnerships as outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The aim of this Strategic Assessment is to provide an account of long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire.

It is the key evidence base that supports the Community Safety Agreement, local partnership plans, the Policing and Crime Plan and the Constabulary Control Strategy

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Review the key themes within the Strategic Assessment, as the main elements that will feature in the Community Safety Agreement. They will be the issues that underpin the development of local partnership plans, and the setting of priorities for the next three years.
2. Recognise that the Strategic Assessment and local district profiles will be used as evidence to support commissioning activity and targeting of issues across the County.
3. Support the Strategic Assessment as the evidence base to enable further work on the related issues, for example, domestic abuse, exploitation (criminal/sexual), vulnerability and safeguarding, and cyber-crime.

Detail

The statutory obligations of community safety partners are set out in a range of legislation. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the responsible authorities (councils, police, fire and rescue, health, probation) in a local government area must work together to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder in the area, including anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing reoffending.

Each local government area is required to have a strategy group or community safety partnership (CSP) to prepare strategic assessments and prepare and implement a partnership plan. County areas are required to have a county strategy group which prepares a community safety agreement for the county area, based on the strategic assessment. The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board (LCSPB), chaired by the county council's Chief Executive, Angie Ridgwell, is the county strategy group for Lancashire.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board takes responsibility for ensuring that in Lancashire a single Strategic Assessment is carried out on behalf of the County Strategy Group, unitary and local community safety partnerships and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), ensuring a shared evidence base through which to set priorities. It is produced on a 3-year cycle, by the partnership analyst team, with an annual review of key findings.

The draft Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022 - 2025 is attached at Appendix 'A'. The purpose of this Strategic Assessment is to highlight significant crime and anti-social behaviour threats and issues that impact on community safety. It is the key evidence base that supports the Community Safety Agreement, local partnership plans, the Policing and Crime Plan and the Constabulary Control Strategy. Research, study and analysis draw out key conclusions to aid strategic decision-making in developing control measures to reduce the threat and harm from crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Strategic Assessment highlights some of the key issues and risks across Lancashire which affect the local communities. The MORILE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) assessment tool has been used to rank various threats and issues identified by Lancashire Constabulary. The key risks and threats impacting across the county include:

- Domestic abuse
- Violence
- Exploitation – criminal and sexual
- Serious Organised Crime
- Road safety

They require multi-agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the well-being of communities. Health and well-being issues have become more and more apparent as factors relating to community safety, which is supported by wider research. The

need for a public health approach and partnership working are recognised as important factors in tackling crime and disorder. The 'causes of the causes' include:

- Alcohol and drug use
- Child poverty and unemployment
- Education, employment and training
- Parenting, families and communities

The Strategic Assessment also considers the impact of the Covid - 19 pandemic on crime and disorder.

Consultations

The Strategic Assessment was presented to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board on 1 November 2021 and is the result of 6 months research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partners and all 14 local authorities. The process included 3 area workshop consultations (June 2021) attended by councillors, partners and service providers. The 'Lancashire Talking' community survey tool has been used to gather the concerns of the residents of Lancashire regarding crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety. Similarly the Trading Standards Young Persons Survey 2020 has provided an insight into young persons' behaviours, thoughts and perceptions around alcohol and knives.

A Bite Size Briefing for members was held on 20 October 2021 outlining Community Safety issues in Lancashire, including an overview of the Strategic Assessment.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

The Strategic Assessment is produced by the Partnership Analyst Team based within Lancashire Constabulary. The team is currently jointly funded by Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council.

There are currently no dedicated funding streams allocated by central government to community safety partnerships. Locally, the Police and Crime Commissioner has provided an annual grant to each unitary and district council for local community safety projects and interventions.

Legal

Strategic Assessments are part of the statutory framework for community safety partnerships under community safety legislation.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have in place arrangements to scrutinise the functioning of the local community safety partnership,

and for the County Strategy Group in two tier areas. At county level this is fulfilled by reporting to the External Scrutiny Committee of the county council.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022 -2025	November 2021	Lee Sculpher 01772 413590

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A