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Lancashire Community Safety Agreement

2022~2025

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1. Executive Summary

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement sets out how the responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder. It is a statutory requirement of the County Strategy Group, the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board.

It is informed by the Lancashire Strategic Assessment which provides an account of the key long term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire and is the key evidence base supporting the Community Safety Agreement, the Police and Crime Plan and district community safety plans. The Strategic Assessment (along with 14 local district profiles) is the result of six months research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partner agencies and all 14 Local authorities in Lancashire.

The key risks and threats identified across Lancashire are:

- Domestic abuse
- Violence
- Exploitation (criminal and sexual)
- Serious organised crime
- Road safety
- Anti-social behaviour

Lancashire has mature partnership arrangements in place and partners are committed to addressing community safety issues. The responsible authorities, as defined in legislation, work in partnership through the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, district community safety partnerships and the complex and evolving structure of partnership arrangements in the County.

Membership of the Board comprises Lancashire County council, 12 district councils (Lancaster, Wyre, Fylde, Preston, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn, South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancs), Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board. Board meetings are also attended by representatives from Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council.

The key issues identified in the Strategic Assessment are addressed through our priorities:

- Working together to protect the vulnerable
- Working together to protect our communities from harm
- Working together to empower our communities to feel safe

The Community Safety Agreement is anchored in the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, however the key issues are owned and delivered across a wide range of partnerships and agencies. The Community Safety Agreement is an overarching, strategic document, with the detail of operational and local delivery included in local community safety plans and other action plans owned by thematic groups reflected in the delivery framework.

In recent years there have been many changes, both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety including new legislation around anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, safeguarding and serious violence. The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on community safety, and the longer term impacts remain to be seen.

Addressing the key community safety issues and risks affecting our communities requires multi-agency engagement, and our approach to empowering our communities to feel safe includes taking a public health, trauma informed, strength based approach and working together through a number of initiatives and programmes including: Changing Futures programme; reducing reoffending: safer streets: team around the school and family hubs.

A number of cross cutting themes have been identified as intrinsically linked to addressing key community safety issues including:

- Reducing vulnerability and building resilience
- Improving mental health
- Tackling drug and alcohol abuse
- Data, information sharing and community feedback.
- Prevention and early intervention
- Drawing on community and lived experience to plan and develop our services

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement **is** reviewed annually to ensure that it remains current. Lead strategic boards and partnerships for each of the key issues ~~will~~ report on progress to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board on a regular basis. The Board also receives quarterly performance reports and an annual performance and priorities update produced by the Partnership Analyst.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board is accountable to the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of Lancashire County Council.

2. Introduction

The primary aim of this Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is to set out how the responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder. The Community Safety Agreement is a statutory document that is a requirement for two tier local authority areas such as Lancashire, as is a County Strategy Group to bring together all relevant partners at district and county level responsible for community safety activity. In Lancashire the County Strategy Group is the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, established in 2019.

Community Safety responsibilities are primarily set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), as well as the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011. Collectively this legislation specifies the requirement for responsible authorities and co-operating bodies to form partnerships at both a district and county level to address community safety issues. These partnerships are required to undertake an annual strategic assessment and formulate partnership plans at a district level, and a community safety agreement at a county level, to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and re-offending. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 placed an additional duty on community safety partnerships to work to reduce serious violence.

The specified responsible authorities are: all local authorities; police; fire and rescue service; probation service and integrated care partnership. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 saw the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners, and whilst not a responsible authority in legislation, there is a duty of mutual co-operation.

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement sets out how we will work together to address the key community safety issues for the communities of Lancashire. It is owned by the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, which brings together representatives from the responsible authorities to set the strategic direction and coordinate partnership activity to help people to feel safer by tackling crime and disorder. District partnership plans reflect the strategic direction whilst being tailored to local need and are developed and delivered by local community safety partnerships (CSPs). A number of related Lancashire partnerships and strategies are also integral to addressing our key community safety issues.

We have a strong history of partnership working in Lancashire and are committed to continuing to make it a safe place to live, work and visit. Key partners include:

Blackburn with Darwen Council	Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner
Blackpool Council	Lancaster City Council
Burnley Borough Council	Pendle Borough Council
Chorley Borough Council	Preston City Council
Fylde Borough Council	Probation Service
Hyndburn Borough Council	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Lancashire Constabulary	Rossendale Borough Council
Lancashire County Council	South Ribble Borough Council
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service	West Lancashire Borough Council
Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board	Wyre Borough Council

3. Context

In recent years there have been many changes both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety.

Changes to legislation -

Anti-Social Behaviour: The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy to give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Updated statutory guidance from the Home Office released in December 2017 (further updated in 2021) has brought greater clarity around the use of the tools and powers introduced by the Act. More importantly it strengthened the focus on victims and communities. In Lancashire there has been great use of the new powers to the advantage of our most vulnerable. Particularly, using Community Protection Warnings and Notices and Public Space Protection Orders.

In March 2023 the Government published its Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and Community Safety Partnerships and Anti-Social Behaviour Powers consultation launch. The Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan includes a mix of measures targeting anti-social behaviour in different settings, as well as the causes of it, and covers drug use, homelessness, environmental crimes and anti-social behaviour within properties, as well as measures for dealing with those who commit anti-social behaviour. The Community Safety Partnerships and Anti-Social Behaviour Powers consultation launch includes proposals to strengthen a number of anti-social behaviour tools.

The Action Plan included additional funding via Police and Crime Commissioners for an increased police presence to tackle anti-social behaviour, targeting hotspots. Lancashire is a pilot area for hotspot policing, receiving £2m over 2 years. The recently launched Operation Centurion will see extra police patrols in anti-social behaviour hotspots across the County.

[Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Domestic Abuse Act 2021: The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent and became an Act of Parliament on 29 April 2021. The Act aims to introduce greater and tighter legislation that is vital to the protection of victims of domestic abuse and their families. The Act affects both how professionals support survivors of domestic abuse and their children and how they respond to alleged perpetrators. Immediate changes included a statutory definition of domestic abuse; the introduction of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner; new duties on all Local Authorities to provide support for survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing in safe accommodation, of which implementation is overseen by a newly established Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. Other changes include new offences created, as well as changes to some current offences and processes, and revised domestic abuse protection notices and orders (which will be developed at a later date).

Safeguarding: A number of pieces of legislation have been introduced in recent years to provide authorities with additional tools, powers and statutory duties to tackle community safety and safeguard vulnerable people particularly the Care Act 2014, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and subsequent amendments in 2019), Serious Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. More recently the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent statutory guidance has been introduced regarding inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 provides statutory guidance for inter-agency working for Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups (now Integrated Care Partnerships), Police and other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) provides the partnership oversight.

The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board is ultimately responsible for all safeguarding/adult protection activities in the County.

Serious Violence: The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 includes various duties that will affect partners and partnerships. A range of detailed factsheets are available:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets>

The Serious Violence Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. Prisons, youth custody agencies and educational authorities may also need to work with these core partners. There is an emphasis on early intervention with young people in order to prevent them from becoming either a victim or perpetrator of serious violence.

Lancashire has made good progress in reducing serious violence through the work of the Violence Reduction Unit, established in 2019 and renamed Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, funded by the Home Office. It is one of 20 established in the areas most affected by serious violence. Violent crime cost Lancashire £346 million in 2017- 2018, but the human impact is much greater. The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network consists of a collaboration of specialists who bring partners and organisations across Lancashire together to better understand why violence happens and to take action to prevent it. [Tackle Violence Together | Lancashire Violence Reduction Network \(lancsvrn.co.uk\)](#)

The work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network has put Lancashire in a strong place to meet its commitments under the Serious Violence Duty. Lancashire received one of the highest judgements in the country for how we were assessed as being ready for the Duty. Five out of the eight areas that were measured were judged as the highest level of preparedness. Partners now need to work on the operational embedding of the duty and it has been agreed that the responsibility of the Serious Violence Duty sits with local Community Safety Partnerships in Lancashire, supported by the Violence Reduction Network and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. A new Lancashire Serious Violence and Community Safety Board is being established to provide governance.

Licensing Act 2003: Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises as defined within the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Act has 4 objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; the protection of children from harm. Each district council is defined as a Licensing Authority and their approach to fulfilling this function is outlined in their Statement of Licensing Policy.

A number of Lancashire community safety partners are defined as Responsible Authorities in Licensing. These include Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire

Trading Standards, Lancashire Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board and district environmental health teams.

Wider Context –

Impact of Covid pandemic: From March 2020, the Covid pandemic had a significant impact on residents and businesses across the county. Local businesses have struggled to survive, which has in turn put a financial burden upon residents – this affects their livelihood and wellbeing. There has been the impact of social isolation for both the young and the elderly, and a reliance on technological advancements throughout this period, as residents became housebound. As young people were not able to socially interact due to the pandemic restrictions put in place, those at risk of exploitation became even more so.

When looking at crime, the impact of restrictions and increased guardianship of residential locations with more of the population being at home for longer periods of time reduced the opportunity for offenders to commit such offences as burglary. Reductions in robbery, theft, violence and sexual offences are thought to have been directly linked to the closure of retail and the night-time economy. Transport-related incidents also reduced as a result of dramatic reductions in the volume of traffic on the County's roads.

Crime in 2021/22 increased as would have been anticipated after the lockdown periods throughout the previous year. However more recent data has shown that in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22, all crime, burglary, violence against the person, sexual offences have all shown reductions. There have however been an increase in theft offences – in particular shoplifting and making off without payment, which have seen increases of 16%.

In the short term, all theft offences have been increasing since the removal of pandemic restrictions, but there is less volume than in 2018/19 and 2019/20. In relation to property – theft of pedal cycles and vehicles have seen notable increases during 22/23 compared to the previous year (the theft type offences highlighting that with 'free' movement there is opportunity for offenders to commit crime, as opposed to the restrictions within the pandemic period).

Cost of living increases: There is increasing evidence that the current sharp increase in the cost of living is impacting on crime and anti-social behaviour. Shoplifting offences are increasing across the county and other theft offences including fuel from garage forecourt amongst others are also increasing. Previous research has shown that during times of hardship and recession this offence type increases, as it also includes the theft of copper, lead, and stone for example, with these commodities being traded for cash.

Beating Crime Plan: published in 2021, the Beating Crime Plan sets out the Government's plan to deliver on the shared vision of fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods and a safer country. It sets out the Government's strategic approach: cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime; exposing and ending hidden harms; building capability and capacity to deal with fraud and online crime. It sits alongside other strategies and plans, including the new domestic abuse and national cyber security strategies.

National Drugs Strategy – From Harm to Hope: There are significant implications associated with drugs and alcohol. Individually impacting on health, crime, healthy relationships and wider societal impacts about feeling safe, criminality around serious organised gangs and feeling safe in the community. In December 2021 the Government published a 10-year plan to cut crime and save lives

by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. Drug and alcohol misuse is a major cause of crime and antisocial behaviour: 300,000 heroin and crack addicts in England are responsible for 50% of all burglaries, robberies and other acquisitive crime; drug misuse drives 50% of all homicides and over a third of those in prison are there due to crimes relating to drug use. The UK is now Europe's largest heroin market and a target for international drug trafficking gangs.

Nationally there will be an investment of over £3 billion over the next three years and Lancashire will benefit from significant funding through the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant. Lancashire County Council's funding has been confirmed as £4.2 million for 2023/24. Funding is focused on treatment and recovery and local targets have been set.

Local government and delivery partners are the foundation of the Strategy and each local area is required to have a strong partnership that brings together all the relevant organisations and key individuals. The Lancashire Alcohol and Drug Partnership, formed in 2022, aims to reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol by delivering activities in a collaborative approach to complement and supplement other strategic partnerships around the three strategic priorities: Breaking drug supply chains; Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system; Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs.

Violence Against Women and Girls: In July 2021 the government published its Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy, followed by a National Action Plan in December 2021. Lancashire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner have led on the response in Lancashire, including the launch of Operation Night Guardian in December 2021 which aims to protect pub and club goers by deterring and detecting drink spiking offences.

Co-ordinated by the Police and Crime Commissioner, a VAWG summit was held in December 2022, announcing the intention of the OPCC to bring together partners to tackle VAWG in Lancashire through the establishment of a strategic board and the development of the strategy. A Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Board has been established and is taking forward work to develop a strategy.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Lancashire Constabulary have jointly established a Scrutiny and Advisory Group, made up of six members of the community following application, interview and vetting. This group will support policy and communications developments around VAWG.

Partnership bids for the Safer Streets 5 funding have a VAWG focus, with proposals to expand delivery of the Bystander project across the county, empowering students to speak up and out against VAWG, and enhanced CCTV projects to keep women and girls safe when accessing the night time economy.

Hate Crime: The Pan Lancs Hate Crime Strategy 2022 - 2025 sets the strategic direction and coordinates a partnership response to address hate crime within the region. It is underpinned by a comprehensive delivery plan which will remain a live document and will be governed by the Strategic Hate Crime Group.

<https://www.lancashire.police.uk/media/1347311/pan-lancashire-hate-crime-strategy-2022-2025-final.pdf>

Counter Terrorism - The Contest strategy sets out nationally the Government's approach to tackle terrorism and extremism. Across Lancashire agencies must work together to deliver all four elements of the strategy referred commonly as 'the 4 P's; Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare. The Contest Board provides strategic governance and oversight of the delivery of the Contest strategy by partner agencies to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach is in place to mitigate the risk from terrorism related activity within Lancashire and the wider threat to national security. The Contest Strategy was updated in July 2023.

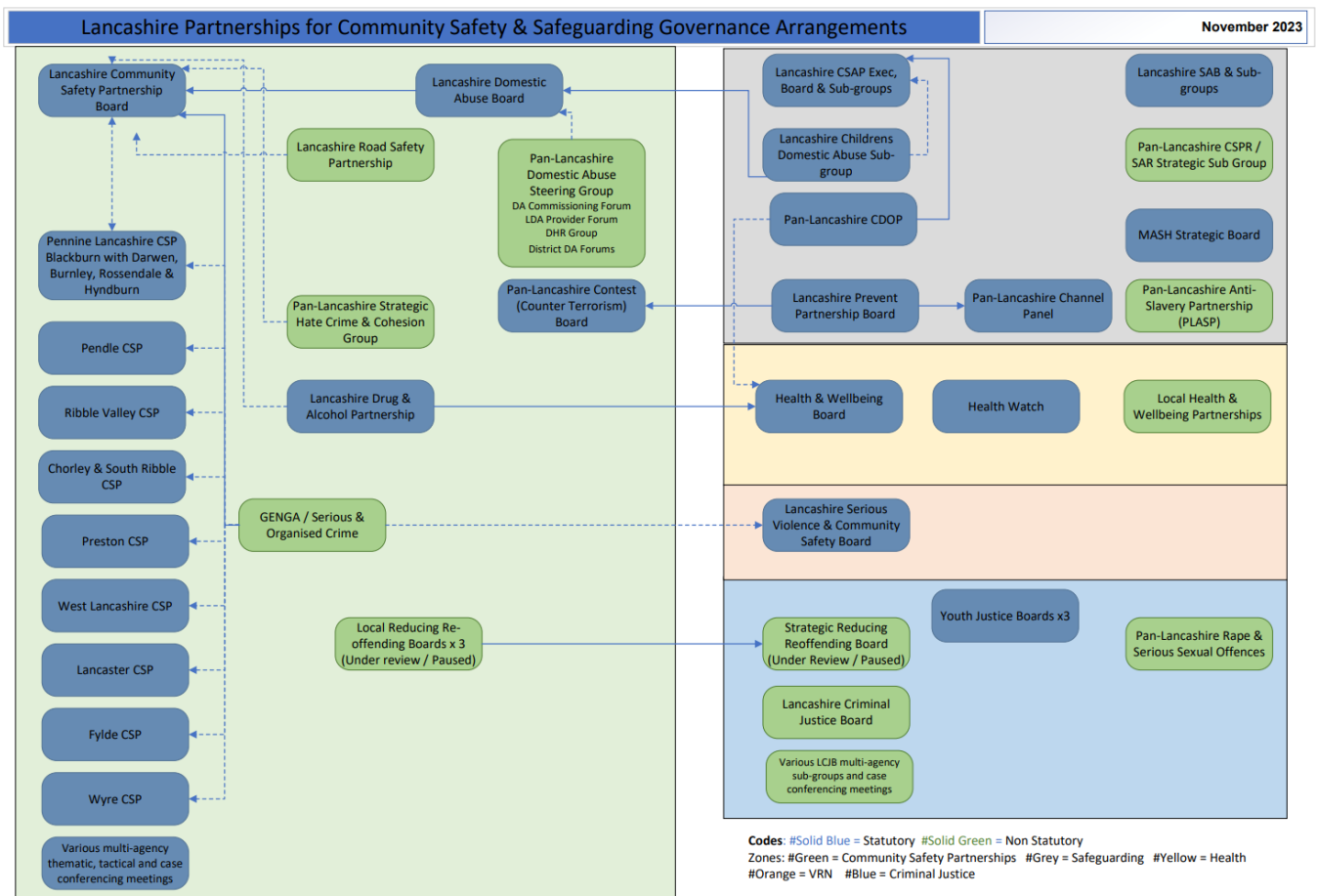
Community Safety Partnership Review: In March 2023 the Home Office launched a Government Consultation as part of its Review of Community Safety Partnerships and Anti-Social Behaviour Powers. The CSP review arose from part two of the review of Police and Crime Commissioners, which found that, whilst the importance of local partnerships such as CSPs was widely acknowledged, they were not being used as effectively as they could be and recommended a full review of CSPs. The targeted consultation was the first part of the CSP Review, which focused on the accountability of CSPs and the role of CSPs and PCCs in tackling anti-social behaviour. Further details about the timescale and outcomes of the review are not known at this stage.

4. Governance and Partnership Structure

In Lancashire the County Council works in partnership with the 12 district councils (Lancaster, Wyre, Fylde, Preston, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn, South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancs), Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, and Integrated Care Partnerships through the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board. Board meetings are also attended by representatives from Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Councils.

Lancashire has mature partnership arrangements in place and partners are committed to addressing community safety issues. However, the landscape in which partners operate is complex and continually evolving and in 2020 the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board commissioned a review of governance and partnership arrangements.

The diagram below illustrates the current Lancashire community safety partnership arrangements (currently under review).



Governance Review

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board and Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned a review of Governance and Partnership Arrangements in September 2020 around existing practice, governance and partnership arrangements with a view to providing initial recommendations for rationalisation. The review focused on Community Safety, Safeguarding and Health & Wellbeing. Its scope included partnership and governance arrangements operating at county, district, and unitary levels in Lancashire. A report was presented to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board in March 2021. The review acknowledged that the scale of the exercise and the complexity of the issues involved are challenging. Recognising the complexities around governance and partnership arrangements, rather than recommending a single definitive governance model at this stage, the review's findings represented a staging post and discussion point for assessing the optimum way forward. The Board agreed to take forward an overall Governance Framework, offering a choice between two alternative approaches for further consideration: a thematic model or a geographic clustering model, both of which were considered viable and both satisfy the key virtue of linking District and Unitary Councils to the county level in a clear, performance informed structure.

Following further consultation, the Board agreed in July 2021 to work towards establishing a geographically based model, and a Task & Finish Group was set up to implement the Board's decision. Through the Task and Finish Group work was undertaken to map the current and developing partnership structure identifying statutory and non statutory partnerships and lines of accountability, and to identify common issues / priorities across districts that offer the opportunity to work together in a geographical cluster. In the East of the County partners already work together in the combined Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership.

Work continues to revise and clarify governance arrangements. A Tactical Community Safety Group linking into the Board has been established, focussed on joint priorities identified as part of the development of the community safety agreement and district community safety plans. A partnership or board with lead / strategic responsibility for each key issue has been identified together with the delivery mechanism, as detailed in section 8.

Lancashire Constabulary have developed a performance framework which includes Tactical Tasking and Coordinating meetings in each Business Command Unit (West, East and South) into which district community safety partnerships link, with a specific CSP agenda and local priority tasking meetings. The role of analysts within Lancashire Constabulary has been reviewed with local CSP Analysts re-named Tactical Tasking Analysts aligned to the above and the performance framework. The structure will see a Thematic Analyst aligned to the Senior Analyst to compliment pan-Lancashire work identifying specific themes/topics. CSP meetings will continue to receive a police report delivered by the local policing lead. CSPs now also provide regular reports to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, on a cluster basis, on how their priorities are agreed and addressed.

The development of the Lancashire Serious Violence and Community Safety Board, which will undertake a monitoring role for the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty across the County, will further support governance and accountability.

Lancashire County Council is developing a Stronger and Safer Communities Framework which will pull together details of the work that county council services do to help tackle key community safety issues. This will support links between county wide services and district community safety plans, and in particular will feed into local serious violence plans.

5. Evidence from the Lancashire Strategic Assessment

The Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for community safety partnerships as outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The aim of the 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 and the police and crime plan.

The Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022 – 2025 highlights the key community safety issues and risks across Lancashire which affect the local communities. They require multi-agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the well-being of communities. The highlighted risks and threats and the key themes in the Strategic Assessment form the basis of this Community Safety Agreement and inform local community safety and other partnership plans. The key risks and threats across Lancashire are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Violence
- Exploitation (criminal and sexual)
- Serious Organised Crime
- Road Safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour.

The Strategic Assessment (along with 14 Strategic Assessment local profiles) is the result of six months research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partner agencies and all 14 local authorities. The process included three area workshop consultations in 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. The Trading Standards Young Persons Survey 2020 has also provided an insight into young persons' behaviours, thoughts and perceptions around alcohol and knives.

This assessment is accompanied by 14 local Strategic Assessment profiles that detail significant issues in each area of the county. Existing partnership intelligence assessments, and local analytical profiles have been used to provide supporting evidence, additional research and analysis. The Strategic Assessment local district profiles provide a breakdown of local threats and issues and demonstrate the geographic and demographic diversity of Lancashire. Local variations must therefore be considered in all approaches to tackling crime and disorder.

Hate crime is referenced in the Strategic Assessment, which highlights the impact on the wider community as well as the individual victim. The majority of reported hate crimes are racially motivated, but an increase has been noted in the reporting of sexual orientation and transgender motivated hate crimes recently. A joint approach to tackling hate crime is co-ordinated by the Strategic Hate Crime and Cohesion Group.

[Strategic assessments and partnership plans - Lancashire County Council](#)

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board endorsed the recommendations in the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022 – 2025 in November 2021. Lancashire County Council External Scrutiny Committee received the draft and also endorsed the recommendations.

Links to other plans

Our approach continues to build on the strong history of partnership working at the county and district level and collaboration with other key organisations. In December 2021 the Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2021 – 2025 was launched by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police and Crime Plan strongly aligns with the Strategic Assessment priorities at both the county and local level, and the Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes the approach adopted by community safety partners to deliver activity that supports the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan.

[The Police And Crime Plan - Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner \(lancashire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)

These Police and Crime Plan priorities align closely to the key risks and threats identified in the Strategic Assessment and taken forward in the Community Safety Agreement. The table below shows the links between the two. The table below illustrates the close alignment between key issues from the Lancashire Strategic Assessment, the Lancashire Police and Crime Plan and the Strategic Assessment Local Profiles produced for each of the 12 Districts in Lancashire.

Key issue / risk / threat in Strategic Assessment / Community Safety Agreement	PCC priority / Police and Crime Plan	Strategic Assessment Local District Profile
Domestic abuse	Tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence	Domestic Abuse
Violence	Disrupting and dismantling organised crime	Assault with injury / wounding Rape and sexual assault Robbery
Exploitation (criminal and sexual)	Disrupting and dismantling organised crime	Rape and sexual assault
Serious organised crime	Disrupting and dismantling organised crime	Serious Organised Crime Drugs / Substance Misuse
Road safety	Targeting dangerous drivers	Road safety Vehicle crime
Anti-social behaviour	Getting tough on anti-social behaviour	Anti-Social behaviour
	Cracking down on burglary and robbery	Burglary

6. Key Achievements

Partnerships across Lancashire continue to work together to address key community safety issues through their respective action plans, delivering a huge range of projects and initiatives.

Partnership working has developed and governance arrangements have improved, including the establishment of the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board in 2019 to provide strategic direction and ensure co-ordination of community safety activities across partners.

Below are some examples of recent achievements and successes.

- The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network was awarded a further 3 years funding 2022 – 2025. Successful workstreams include Champions Adult and Youth Projects, Emergency Department Navigators, Prisoners and Prisoners Family Support, Trauma Informed Lancashire.
- Investment in town centre CCTV throughout the County
- 4 successful Home Office Safer Streets bids which brought over £1.7m funding into Lancashire
- Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner has awarded just over £938k through the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund to support projects and initiatives that deliver on the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.
- Lancashire Victim Support supported 20,063 victims of which 6,888 received specialist domestic abuse support from April 2022 – March 2023.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner secured £745k from the Home Office to support the Drive Programme which aims to reduce the number of persistent domestic abuse repeat offenders and reduce the harm caused to victims and their children.
- Delivery of diversionary activities for young people throughout the County, for example significant improvements to the youth provision in Clitheroe, Whalley and Longridge in response to increased reports of anti-social behaviour, and through Operation Marano as part of the multi agency response to the increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour and disorder in Skelmersdale.
- Lancashire was awarded £7.8 million from Safer Roads Fund for works to improve safety on roads in the County including resurfacing, enhanced cats eyes and the installing of significant distances of average speed cameras.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office secured £125k from the Home Office for Project CARA which is an early awareness raising diversionary intervention for perpetrators of DA offences who receive a Police Caution.
- Support across the County for the White Ribbon campaign each November, supporting the global campaign to end men's violence against women.
- Further funding awarded from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver the Changing Futures programme across Lancashire for a further year up to March 2025.
- £2million funding for hot spot policing to address anti-social behaviour awarded through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner April 2023 – March 2025. Operation Centurion went live in July 2023 and includes a pilot area in every district of Lancashire.
- Launch of Jack's Story by the Violence Reduction Network, a picture story book resource to use with individuals/groups to understand the impact of domestic abuse and violence on children, survivor/ victims and perpetrators.
- Working in partnership the Local Authorities have implemented numerous security measures across the Town Centres that aim to reduce the impact of any potential terrorist attack

7. Priorities and Key issues

The key issues identified in the Strategic Assessment are addressed through our priorities of:

- Working together to protect the vulnerable,
- Working together to protect our communities from harm,
- Working together to empower our communities to feel safe

Working together to protect the vulnerable

<p>Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>Domestic abuse is an issue for all districts of Lancashire. It accounts for approximately 16% of all crime, however, this is likely to be an underestimation. Domestic abuse can be largely hidden but is a significant concern and an increasing problem for health and social care services. Domestic abuse includes a wide range of harm including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse.</p> <p>In Lancashire, the response to domestic abuse is co-ordinated through the Pan Lancashire Domestic Abuse Steering Group. Each Tier 1 area has also established Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards, under the statutory requirements of Part 4 (safe accommodation) of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. However, all 3 areas have a wider remit to ensure all aspects around domestic abuse are being considered concurrently.</p>
<p>Exploitation (criminal and sexual)</p>	<p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was first identified as a threat in Lancashire in 2004 and it has remained a threat since. The Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2021-24 states its aim to work together to support children and young adults who require a contextual safeguarding response, to reduce harm, increase safety and improve wellbeing and outcomes.</p> <p>In 2019, Lancashire’s Safeguarding Partners established a Pan Lancashire governance structure, supported by a centralised Joint Partnership Business Unit covering the Childrens Safeguarding Partnership Board, Safeguarding Adult Boards, and Child Death Overview panel (CDOP). This was reviewed in 2022 in light of the changing needs of local populations, new legislation, leadership and introduction of Integrated Care Boards. In 2023 partners agreed to move back to place on the Local Authority footprints of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire. Work is underway to improve the connectivity between CSAP and the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board.</p> <p>Through partnership working and a relationship-based, trauma informed, child and young adult-focussed approach, it aims to ensure that children and young adults are safeguarded from exploitation, modern day slavery and going missing. This includes looked after children placed in our area</p>

	<p>by other Local Authorities in view of their additional vulnerabilities, and to support the effective delivery of these strategic objectives by ensuring effective multi-agency data gathering, intelligence sharing and profiling. There are dedicated contextual safeguarding – exploitation teams working right across Lancashire from many different organisations including Children's Social Care, Police, Health and Schools who assess and support victims and help them escape the cycle of abuse.</p>
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Working together to protect our communities from harm

<p>Violence</p>	<p>The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, set up in 2019 and funded by the Home Office, leads work to reduce serious violence across the County. Nationally, violent offences typically make up just 1% of all crime recorded by the police. However, they cause some of the most serious harms to individuals, communities and societies.</p> <p>Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (VRN), one of the original 18 Violence Reduction Units, pioneers a new approach that brings together local partners in policing, education, health, and local government to deepen understanding of the root causes of violence and put interventions in place. Those interventions shown to be the most successful are rolled out to other areas in the county. In April 2022, the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network was awarded a further 3 years funding to 2025.</p> <p>The VRN produced a county wide needs assessment and local serious violence district profiles and has one-year and five-year work plans which incorporate both violent and knife crime pilot work streams. These include Champions Adult and Youth Projects, Emergency Department Navigators, Prisoners and Prisoners Family Support, Trauma Informed Lancashire.</p> <p><u>Tackle Violence Together Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (lancsvrn.co.uk)</u></p> <p>The work of the VRN is supported at district level through the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, which requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. District Community Safety Partnerships are developing serious violence plans, in line with the Duty, supported by the Violence Reduction Network and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>
<p>Serious Organised Crime</p>	<p>The Lancashire Constabulary Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2022 – 2025 is built on a fully engaged partnership approach, involving</p>

	<p>stakeholders and partners from the public sector, statutory community safety partners, other government and law enforcement agencies as well as the third and private sectors to ensure that all available information, resources, and powers are utilised to tackle serious and organised crime.</p> <p>Although published by the Police, it is a joint strategy involving the Police, local authorities, third sector organisations, and communities affected by serious organised crime and other high-risk criminality, and was approved by the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board in 2021. The Lancashire Constabulary Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2022 – 2025 reflects the 2018 national strategy of a 4P Framework to tackle serious and organised crime – Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare:</p> <p>Delivery of the strategy is via multi-agency Genga groups in each area of the County, co-ordinated by the Police Serious Crime Tasking Group and linked to district community safety partnerships. The Genga Team assist in managing the threat from organised crime from Neighbourhood Policing through to specialist departments using a variety of overt and covert tactics. The delivery of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy will also support key interdependencies across the Contextual Safeguarding Board and within the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy and the Youth Violence Strategy as part of the Violence Reduction Network (VRN). Genga is embedded within the VRN to enable links to Serious and Organised Crime and prevention pathways to be explored.</p> <p>Genga was launched in 2011 to compliment the Home Office 'Extending Our Reach' pilot. Since its inception, Genga has grown in both strength and numbers and now have embedded Co-ordinators across all districts.</p> <p>In November 2022 Lancashire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner launched Operation Warrior aimed at helping communities to become more resilient to organised crime. It involves a dedicated team of officers working with other agencies including HMRC, immigration, local authorities and organisations like the Regional Crime Unit and National Crime Agency, to bring offenders to justice and seize their criminal assets.</p>
<p>Road Safety</p>	<p>The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership is a partnership of all responsible agencies with a collective ambition of reducing road casualties through the management of speed, enforcement, engineering, emergency response, driver education and training and through developing collaborative approaches to education, awareness, engagement and other measures. The Partnership continues to go through a period of change and is currently considering its future form, function, strategy and method of delivery. It is unclear at this stage whether delivery of current or future LRSP strategies will continue via the LRSP JOG (Joint Operations Group).</p> <p>The current 2016 – 2026 LRSP strategy remains in place.</p>

	<p><u>Lancashire Road Safety Partnership – Making Lancashire's Roads Safer (lancsroadsafety.co.uk)</u></p>
<p>Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<p>Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is the common term used to describe incidents or actions that cause damage or affect the quality of life of people. It can be any behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not living in the same household and can include things such as noise, neighbour nuisances, abandoned vehicles, litter and vehicle nuisance, vandalism, graffiti and fly posting, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, harassment and intimidation.</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to the police have reduced by 14% when looking at the twelve months to May 2023. Locations of concern have been in and around houses of multiple occupancy (HMO's), fast-food restaurants and supermarkets with moto and youth nuisance evident. Targeting of nuisance hotspots, issues and people along with the use of ASB legislation, tools and powers, including Community Protection Notices/Warnings (CPN/CPW) and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) play a key role in reducing reported ASB.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour in Lancashire is addressed at the neighbourhood and district level, particularly through local Community Safety Partnerships. Local Authorities, the Police and other partners work together to address ASB using tools and powers where appropriate, as well as diversionary activities and safeguarding measures.</p> <p>Initiatives to reduce ASB, particularly youth related, have included local targeting of moto nuisance issues and the introduction of Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) within some areas of Lancashire. Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) are part of a UK wide initiative set up to tackle underage drinking and reduce risk and vulnerability for young people in communities.</p> <p>In 2023 the Police and Crime Commissioner secured £2 million funding as part of the Government's Anti-Social behaviour Action Plan to provide hot spot policing in areas that are experiencing high levels of anti-social behaviour. Piloted initially in Accrington, Burnley, Fleetwood, Blackpool, Chorley and Preston, Operation Centurion is being rolled out to all districts from October 2023.</p>

Working together to empower our communities to feel safe

Our Approach

Addressing the key issues and risks affecting our communities in Lancashire requires multi agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and improve the wellbeing of our residents. Our approach to empowering our communities to feel safe includes working together through the following initiatives and programmes:

<p>Trauma Informed Lancashire</p>	<p>Led by the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, Lancashire is working towards being a Trauma Informed County. Trauma Informed Lancashire is a movement supporting public, private and third sector organisations and communities in understanding how psychological trauma can impact individuals and considering implications for their services.</p> <p>Being a trauma informed county requires everyone to understand that different life experiences shape the options available to us and our way of being and can use this understanding to influence our interactions and decisions in work and daily life.</p> <p>6000 Multi-agency professionals have received basic awareness Trauma Informed training, the majority has been face-to-face and 15 organisations are now working towards the national TI charter mark from “One Small Thing”</p> <p>Trauma Support & Awareness Trauma Informed Lancashire</p>
<p>Changing Futures</p>	<p>Funded by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) and The National Lottery Community Fund, Lancashire was initially awarded £6.5m from Sept 2021-March 2024 to deliver Changing Futures Lancashire. The funding has subsequently been extended to 31 March 2025. Local organisations work in partnership to better support those who experience multiple disadvantage, including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal justice system. The Changing Futures Lancashire model has been co-produced with people who have lived experience of multiple disadvantages. Since the start of program up to 30 June 2023, 966 beneficiaries have been supported.</p> <p>Changing Futures Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council</p>
<p>Strength Based Approach</p>	<p>Strength based practice focuses on identifying the strengths, or assets, as well as the needs and difficulties of children, young people and families. Strengths-based practice focuses on individuals’ and families’ strengths (including personal strengths and social and community networks) and not on their deficits. It also encourages families to identify the support they require to address their needs. Strength-based practice is holistic and</p>

	<p>multidisciplinary and works with the individual and families to promote their wellbeing. It is outcomes led and not services led.</p>
<p>Public Health Approach</p>	<p>Health and wellbeing issues have become more and more apparent as factors underpinning community safety. Taking a public health approach is necessary to tackle the symptoms linked to crime and disorder. The causes of the causes or wider determinants include a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors. These include: alcohol and drug use; child poverty and unemployment; education, employment and training; parenting, families and communities.</p> <p>The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, developed by Lancashire's Health and Wellbeing Board, sets out how we will work better together to deliver real improvements and address the inequalities in the health and wellbeing of Lancashire's citizens and communities.</p>
<p>Reducing Reoffending</p>	<p>Through the Reducing Reoffending Board, building on Integrated Offender Management and other integrated approaches to provide clear referral pathways and an effective partnership approach to deal with the individuals who cause the most harm to the community. The Reducing Reoffending Board are currently being reviewed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>
<p>Violence Against Women and Girls</p>	<p>The publication of the Government's Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in July 2021 reflected increasing concerns about and emphasis on the safety of women and girls. Within Lancashire, a number of successful bids have been submitted to the Safer Streets Fund with recent rounds focussing on violence against women and girls, in addition to targeting neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Co-ordinated by the Police and Crime Commissioner, a Lancashire Senior Leaders Violence Against Women and Girls Summit was held in December 2022 to co-ordinate an overarching strategy and framework to tackle violence against women and girls in Lancashire, Blackburn and Blackpool. A Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Board has been established.</p>
<p>Team Around the School</p>	<p>Team Around the School and Settings, or TASS, is a collaborative way of working across services, schools and settings with children and young people at the centre of all we do. The aim is to address issues that impact on the education of our children and young people.</p> <p>The TASS approach is a mechanism for agencies, key stakeholders and communities to come together to improve outcomes for children and young.</p> <p>There are 5 geographical areas or placed based partnerships for TASS – Fylde Coast, Morecambe Bay, West Lancashire, Pennine Lancashire and Central Lancashire. Each has a Locality Group, meeting quarterly and an allocated Education Partnership Officer.</p>

	Team Around the School and Settings or TASS - Lancashire County Council
Family Hubs	<p>The Lancashire Family Hubs Network is a universal family support service where children, young people and families can access information, advice and support on a range of needs and circumstances.</p> <p>10 Family Hubs will launch across the county on Monday 25 September 2023. A further 13 Hubs will open in phase two of the programme, which will start in 2024. Support will be available for all stages of family life, from pregnancy through to 19 years old or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).</p> <p>Family Hubs network partners - Lancashire County Council</p>

Cross Cutting Themes

A number of key cross cutting themes are intrinsically linked to addressing the key issues identified, and to the approach taken as outlined above. The following themes are to be addressed within each key issue as appropriate.

- Reducing vulnerability and building resilience
- Improving mental health
- Tackling drug and alcohol abuse
- Data, information sharing and community feedback.
- Prevention and early intervention
- Drawing on community and lived experience to plan and develop our services

8. Our Activity - Partnership Delivery

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement is anchored in the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, however the key issues are owned and delivered across a wide range of partnerships and agencies. It is in the specialist boards and local district partnerships where the oversight and delivery of the focussed work will take place through their local community safety plans and other strategies such as the Lancashire Violence Reduction Strategy.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board took the decision to keep the Community Safety Agreement as an overarching, strategic document, with the detail of operational and local delivery included in local community safety plans and other action plans owned by thematic groups reflected in the delivery framework. The table below goes some way to show where the key issues detailed in this agreement are owned and actions delivered.

Delivery Framework

Key issue / risk / threat in Strategic Assessment	Strategic Groups	Strategy / Plans in place	Delivery mechanism
Domestic abuse	Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Pan Lancs Domestic Abuse Steering Group,	Pan Lancs DA Strategy – to be revised, Perpetrator Strategy (draft), Safe Accommodation Strategy (draft)	District CSPs, Local DA Partnerships, MARAC / MARRAC
Violence	Violence Reduction Network, Reducing Reoffending Board	Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy, Other VRN strategies, Trauma Informed Child and Youth Justice Plan 2022-23	VRN, District CSPs,
Exploitation (criminal and sexual)	Children’s Safeguarding Assurance Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board, Pan Lancashire Anti Slavery Partnership	Contextual Safeguarding Strategy 2021-24	District CSPs, Local safeguarding arrangements,
Serious organised crime	Genga groups	SOC strategy	Genga groups,
Road Safety	Lancashire Road Safety Partnership Executive Board, Strategic Roads Policing Board	Towards Zero Lancashire: Road Safety Strategy for Lancashire 2016-2026	LRSP Joint Operations Group,
Anti-social behaviour		District Community Safety Plans Child and Youth Justice Plan 2022-23	District CSPs,

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains current. The Agreement is intended to be flexible and to reflect changes in policy and legislation. The priorities will be frequently reviewed; looking at the available data and feedback from our communities ensuring we remain focussed on what is important.

Lead strategic boards and partnerships for each of the key issues report on progress to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board on a regular basis, as do the district community safety partnerships. A Forward Plan details when the key partnerships will provide updates to the Board. Since July 2022 the Board has received updates from the partnership or board with lead responsibility for each key issue, and this process continues. Specific monitoring arrangements in relation to Serious Violence Duty are currently being finalised.

The Board also receives Quarterly Performance and Priorities Reports from the Partnership Analyst including updates on work to tackle the current issues across the county, per district through the Tactical Tasking and Coordinating meetings and district CSPs. In addition a performance dashboard has been developed to give an up-to-date picture of trends, Lancashire's relative position, costs and other headline indicators for each of the themes identified in the Community Safety Agreement. The is available to Board members and community safety partnerships through the Multi Agency Data Exchange (MADE) platform.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board is accountable to the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of the County Council. The Scrutiny Committee has set up a Community Safety Working Group which is looking at several ways to improve communication and links with elected members on community safety issues.