

Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 18 April 2024

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Lancashire Community Safety Agreement and Performance Update
(Appendices 'A' - 'C' refers)

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Brief Summary

This report forms the annual report to the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, meeting the requirements of a Crime and Disorder Committee to oversee and review the delivery of joint responses on community safety as required under the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The report provides the following information:

1. Update on performance and actions being taken to address the key issues in the current Community Safety Agreement
2. Draft timetable for production of new Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Agreement
3. Update on Lancashire response to Serious Violence Duty
4. Update on Scrutiny Committee Community Safety recommendations from January 2023 and Community Safety Working Group recommendations from September 2023
5. Update on Home Office review of Community Safety Partnerships

Recommendation

The Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the report and performance update with a view to identifying any recommendations to further support this area of work.



Detail

1. Update on performance and actions on the key issues in the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement

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.

Each local government area is required to have a strategy group or community safety partnership 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, chaired by the County Council's Chief Executive, Angie Ridgwell, is the county strategy group for Lancashire. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, though not one of the responsible authorities, has a representative on the Board.

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2022 – 2025 (**Appendix 'A'**) was considered by the Community Safety Working Group and updated in September 2023. It is based on the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022 – 2025 which gives an account of long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire.

The Strategic Assessment is the key evidence base that underpins the Community Safety Agreement, local partnership plans, the Police and Crime Plan and the Constabulary Control Strategy. The key issues identified in the Strategic Assessment and forming the focus of the Community Safety Agreement are:

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

It is recognised that there are many cross-cutting issues between the key issues, particularly in terms of the underlying causes and the need to take a public health and prevention approach.

Local / district community safety partnerships utilise the information contained in the strategic assessment and district profiles to address the key priorities in their area through development and delivery of a local partnership plan.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board is responsible for ensuring partnership arrangements are in place to enable delivery against the Community Safety Agreement. The Delivery Framework in section 8 of the Community Safety



Agreement (**Appendix 'A'**) aims to identify a partnership or board with lead / strategic responsibility for each key issue, together with the delivery mechanism. These partnerships are responsible for reporting progress and activity to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board. The role of the Board is to ensure that partnership working is in place, so that plans are delivered and appropriate strategic support is identified as required.

In addition, the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board receives a Performance and Priorities Update each quarter produced by the Partnership Analyst, and 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. This is available via MADE (multi agency data exchange): [Community Safety Agreement Outcomes Framework Monitoring](#)

A Performance Update report was presented to the Community Cultural and Corporate Services Committee in January 2023 which provided an overview of each of the key issues, including national and legislative framework, the Lancashire picture, how we work in partnership and key areas of focus. The report was intended to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the key community safety issues in Lancashire and how they are tackled through partnership working.

An update on key data and performance for each of the key issues is attached at (**Appendix 'B'**).

2. Draft timetable for production of new Lancashire Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Agreement

The undertaking of a Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for community safety partnerships as outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Strategic Assessment is produced every 3 years, and is the result of 6 months research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partners and all local authorities. The next Strategic Assessment will be developed during 2024, and the proposed timetable for its production is attached at (**Appendix 'C'**).

Elected members from the county and districts will be invited to the local workshops to be held from May – June 2024, and the final document will be presented to Scrutiny in early 2025. The Community Safety Working Group may also wish to meet to consider the draft Strategic Assessment in the autumn.

3. Lancashire response to Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty), which came into force in January 2023, requires the specified authorities (local authorities, police, fire and rescue, specified criminal justice agencies and health) to work together to jointly undertake a needs assessment and produce a plan for reducing serious violence. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has also been amended to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for community safety partnerships and make sure they have a



strategy in place to tackle serious violence. There is an emphasis on reducing youth violence through prevention and early intervention.

Partners in Lancashire can build on the work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network of partners in meeting the requirements of the new Duty. The Violence Reduction Network has already produced a needs assessment and local profiles for each district / unitary area and a 5 year strategy for reducing violence. Lancashire has been assessed in terms of readiness to deliver the Duty, and is ranked highly.

The Duty specifies a convening role for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, with a new Lancashire Serious Violence and Community Safety Board established, chaired by the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to provide governance around the Duty. It was agreed that whilst the Duty attaches to each Specified/Relevant Authority in Lancashire the responsibility for the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty will sit with all Lancashire community safety partnerships, with each local partnership preparing a serious violence plan for their area.

To assist delivery of the Duty, the Home Office are channelling funding through Police and Crime Commissioners in 2023/24 and 2024/25. The majority of the funding is for labour costs and it has been used to employ five coordinators to support the delivery and coordination of the Duty. These posts include specific health, education and multi agency support panel co-ordinators who will assist local community safety partnerships to produce and develop local serious violence plans and navigate complex organisational structures.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund will deliver the non-labour allocation of funding. Community safety partnerships can apply to the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Community Fund for interventions that have a focus on serious violence, with £62,350 allocated to projects in 2023/24.

The first meeting of the new Lancashire Serious Violence and Community Safety Board was held in December 2023, at which district community safety partnerships reported on progress in meeting the Duty.

4. Update on Scrutiny Committee recommendations

At its meeting on 16 January 2023 the Community Cultural and Corporate Services Committee considered the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement and Performance Update. A number of recommendations were shared with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services and officers. The recommendations included looking at alternative partnership arrangements as examples of best practice, including local level working groups in the overall community safety partnership structure and updating the Committee on the Home Office review of community safety partnerships, all of which are in progress.

In addition, there was a recommendation to establish a working group to support the annual review of the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement. The working group met 3 times in July, August and September 2023 and made a number of



recommendations, particularly focussed on improving communication links with elected members on community safety issues.

A bitesize briefing on community safety was held on 29 January 2024. A meeting of officers and county councillors nominated to sit on local community safety partnerships is being arranged to provide support and a better understanding of the community safety landscape, work that is already underway, and partnership arrangements. This meeting will take place on a regular basis going forward.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services is invited to attend meetings of the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board and receives the papers, and consideration is being given to the best way to ensure elected members are kept informed about the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board and wider community safety issues.

Work continues to map out the full network of support around community safety partnerships which will be shared with the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate time. As part of the engagement for the development of the new Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Agreement, a meeting will be arranged involving councillors, wider stakeholders, and community groups. Work on the new Community Safety Agreement will incorporate development of diagrams to explain which partners are involved in each of the six key issues.

5. Home Office review of Community Safety Partnerships

In March 2023 the Government published its Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and consultation on Community Safety Partnerships and Anti-Social Behaviour Powers.

The plan included 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. In particular it included funding via Police and Crime Commissioners for hotspot police and enforcement patrols. Lancashire was one of the pilot areas for hotspot policing, receiving £2m which has funded Operation Centurion.

A review of Police and Crime Commissioners in 2022 recommended that the Home Office undertake a full review of community safety partnerships across England and Wales to improve their transparency, accountability, and effectiveness. In March 2023 the Government launched a consultation as the first part of the community safety partnership review, focusing on accountability and the role of community safety partnerships and Police and Crime Commissioners in tackling anti-social behaviour. Officers from Lancashire County Council submitted a response.

In November 2023 the Government published its response to the Community Safety Partnerships Review and Antisocial Behaviour Powers consultation which concluded that the responses were broadly supportive of the changes proposed to strengthen the relationship between Police and Crime Commissioners and community safety partnerships. There was also broad agreement to proposals to promote and expand anti-social behaviour powers. Further guidance and legislation is expected on how



the proposals will be taken forward. A full copy of the Government's response was circulated to Scrutiny Committee and Community Safety Working Group members in December 2023 and can be found [here](#).

In November 2023 the Government published a further consultation for phase 2 of the Community Safety Partnership Review which considered the wider role and remit of community safety partnerships in the local partnership landscape, as well as issues such as funding, performance management and oversight. The consultation and Lancashire County Council response were shared with Scrutiny Committee and Working Group members. As further information on the Community Safety Partnership Review is received it will also be shared.

6. Committee Role

The Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee undertakes the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Committee to oversee and review the delivery of joint responses on community safety, in so far as the partners' actions relate to the work of the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board as a whole. This duty arises from the Police and Justice Act 2006 which introduced Crime and Disorder Committees to fulfil this scrutiny function.

The Committee exists as a 'critical friend' of the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, considering the strategic level approach on crime and disorder and should not seek to challenge operational actions.

Reviewing, considering and commenting on the current Community Safety Agreement, and the activities undertaken to address the key issues, serves as a constructive approach for the Committee to fulfil its statutory requirement to scrutinise the strategic activity in the arena of crime and disorder. The focus of the Committee's scrutiny should be on the collective work of the partnership rather than the activities of the individual agencies.

All district community safety partnerships across Lancashire have scrutiny functions in place as set out in the legislation, to review their community safety plans as well as other community safety related topics.

Appendices

Appendices 'A' – 'C' are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2022 – 2025
Appendix 'B'	Update on key data and performance for each of the key issues in the Community Safety Agreement
Appendix 'C'	Proposed Strategic Assessment Timetable 2024



Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Crime and Disorder

The Lancashire Strategic Assessment and Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2022 - 2025 fulfils the statutory obligations of community safety partners as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

