

Lancashire Police and Crime Panel

Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group Performance Highlight Report June 2013

Aim

This report provides the Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire with highlights from the Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group (LCSSG) performance scorecard including exceptions, analysis of statistical significance (where appropriate) and a summary of potential issues and threats.

Reporting Period

The reporting period for the LCSSG scorecard is April 2012 to March 2013. Recent emerging issues that fall outside of these parameters have also been included in this report (and are referenced accordingly).

Strategic Assessment Summary

The strategic assessment (SA) identified the following issues:

Top Crime issues (see appendix 1 for more detail)	Contributory / Causation Factors	Key Strategic Issues (cross cutting themes)
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	Alcohol	Vulnerable Children
Domestic Abuse	Reoffending	Adults at risk
Road Safety	Substance Misuse	
Violent Crime (night time economy)		
Anti-Social Behaviour (nuisance)		

Scorecard Key Points

1. The performance scorecard is now available online (via the Safer Lancashire Partners area of the Safer Lancashire website). It details the agreed indicators and measures along with control charts to identify exceptional / statistical significance.
2. There are no significant concerns from the data supplied (up to March 2013). Whilst, some areas are showing that the direction of travel is not on course, the statistics show no exception trends.
3. There have been some organisational changes that have resulted in a change in some areas of performance measures:

- 3.1 **Reoffending Rates** (*section: reduce reoffending*) – The Community Safety Intelligence Group (CSIG) have agreed a project with Probation to examine offending and reoffending rates to clarify the difference between the predicted rate and the actual rate of reoffending.
- 3.2 **Trader compliance** for alcohol test purchasing (*section: reduce negative impact of alcohol*) – Trading Standards have had a reduction in test purchase operations. In addition, they have adopted an intelligence-based approach to targeting. These two points explain the current percentage reduction in test purchase compliance.
- 3.3 Children **missing from home** (*section: domestic abuse / CSE*) – There has been a statistically significant downward trend for missing from home reports particularly in Eastern area. This has been attributed to changes in case management and deferred deployment (based on a systems thinking approach to reduce demand).
- 3.4 **Ambulance callouts** (*section: violent crime*) – There has been a statistically significant decrease in the number of ambulance callouts to assault, rape, stabbing or gunshot wound. This has been attributed to changes in the resource management from telephone triage through to ambulance deployment. There has been a reduction in ambulance deployment due to telephone advice directing callers to attend A&E. It has been noted that this is almost inversely proportional to the recent rise in assaults recorded by the Constabulary (see below).

Significant Trends / Emerging Issues

- **Assaults** (*section: violent crime*) are showing an increasing trend over recent months (from Feb to May).
- **Sexual offences against children under 16** (*not included on scorecard*) – this crime category has experienced a gradual increase since December 2011 and showing exceptional results in the most recent 3 months. This increase is forecast to continue.
- **Non-domestic burglary** (*not on scorecard*) has, in recent months, started to increase and is close to being of statistical significance. Local CSP analysis has evidenced that insecurity and theft from ‘out buildings’ (sheds and garages) has increased.

Appendix 1: Identified Issues & Strategic Themes¹

Root Causes, Contributory and Key Risk Factors

Crime and anti-social behaviour are often symptoms to underlying behaviours that are determined by a number of factors or pathways.

These 'risk' factors can singly or in combination with others cause or contribute towards criminal behaviour as well as increasing vulnerability. These key factors; alcohol, drugs, reoffending, health and deprivation, also run through most of the crime / problem issues in the county and should be regarded as areas of significant importance to multi-agency targeting.

These factors must be addressed in order to have any strategic impact on crime and disorder. To maximise the impact multi-agency strategies and responses are essential.

Vulnerable Children and Adults

Vulnerable children and adults at risk are central themes across the top five crime areas (and are significant factors in others). Targeting key risk areas can support early intervention work that should support future prevention. Targeting vulnerable children who are absent from school will support the identification of those vulnerable to sexual assaults and child sexual exploitation whilst also highlighting potential homes suffering from domestic abuse, which may 'be hidden'.

Re-offending, Alcohol & Drugs

The three main risk factors associated with crime and anti-social behaviour are re-offending, the impact of alcohol and substance misuse.

Reoffending

Reducing re-offending is a priority across agencies from the LCSSG, Constabulary, OPCC and Strategic Reoffending Board. It is also a priority in the Community safety Agreement.

Males are more likely to re-offend than females, and re-offenders are most likely to fall within older age groups (30-33 years and 26-29 years). This is likely to tie in with the notion that offenders will commence offending earlier in their lives, and re-offending will be more prevalent at an older age as it will be entrenched in their lifestyles.

Substance abuse (alcohol and then drugs) was highlighted as the key pathway / identified need in relation to re-offending. Needs in relation to 'attitude' were also strongly linked to substance abuse – those with drug issues were likely to identify problems in relation to education and employment.

A large proportion of re-offenders (20%) reside within the top 5% deprived areas in Lancashire. Deprivation is thus another important factor in relation to re-offending. The main areas for

¹ Strategic Assessment of Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour (2012)

offending and re-offending (based on population proportionality and offender residence) are Blackpool, Blackburn, Preston and Hyndburn.

Youth offenders and youth re-offenders are most likely to be aged 14 to 17 years old. There is little difference between young re-offenders committing acquisitive crime (29.1%) and violent crime (28.9%): this suggests that early in life re-offenders will commit violent offences, but as they become more entrenched in a criminal lifestyle they are more likely to commit multiple offences.

Alcohol

Alcohol impacts on a number of aspects of crime and the wider community, affecting almost all public sector services. It is evident that violent crime is at the forefront of offending behaviour although other crime types also influenced by alcohol are criminal damage / ASB and acquisitive crime.

Night-Time Economies (NTE) throughout the county are the biggest contributory factor on alcohol related criminality. At least 10% of *all* crime in Lancashire is alcohol related, though this figure requires significant scrutiny due to recording practices. This has been the case over the last three years and the problem areas have remained constant in terms of proportionality with Blackpool, Fylde and Preston being the areas with highest percentage of alcohol related crime.

Substance Misuse

Cannabis remains the most prevalent drug in offences across Lancashire, seen in 68% of offences. Cocaine was seen in 10% of offences, heroin in 5%, amphetamine in 5% and mephedrone in 2%.

Evidence shows that poly use of cocaine and alcohol is the most common mix within Lancashire. This leaves users at risk to the combined toxic effects of both of these substances and can lead to the increased risk of violence and ASB.

Top Crime and ASB Issues

Overall crime against adults, as measured by the Crime Survey for England and Wales, has stayed the same when compared with the same period in 2010/11. Crimes recorded by the police fell by 4% in 2011/12 compared with 2010/11 continuing the reduction seen since 2004/5.

Mirroring the national trend, crime has fallen in the 14-authority Lancashire area and is below both the regional and national average. According to police recorded crime records there were 99,075 criminal offences in Lancashire in 2011/12, 3.3% fewer than in the previous year. This was the seventh year in a row that overall crime in Lancashire has reduced, with all crime being 34.8% lower than in 2004/05.

Crime in Lancashire makes up 20% of crime in the North West and 2% of all recorded crimes in England & Wales. The Lancashire rate was equivalent to a rate of 68 offences per 1,000 resident population (down from 94 per thousand in 2006/07), a position that was lower than rates in both Greater Manchester (79 per 1,000 population) and Merseyside (71) but higher than in the other two north west areas of Cheshire (59) and Cumbria (53).

There is no change in the last three strategic assessments with regard the top 5 types of crime across Pan-Lancashire: Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Domestic Abuse, Road Safety, Violent Crime (Night Time Economy) & Anti-Social Behaviour: Nuisance.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The number of CSE referrals has remained steady and this trend is expected to continue. The strategic Assessment shows that CSE remains a significant problem across Lancashire.

There are issues across Pan-Lancashire and the threats vary depending upon location. In Blackpool the threats are from lone males (including family associates) whereas in the east of the county, in and around Blackburn, the threats are from Asian gangs.

Violent Crime (Domestic Abuse and Alcohol-Related Violent Crime)

Domestic abuse and violence is a complex and largely hidden phenomenon with significant impact on the overall health and wellbeing of individuals, families and their communities. Analysis evidences that there are two main aspects of the violent crime issue: domestic abuse and alcohol-related violent crime.

▪ Domestic Abuse

All Domestic Abuse crimes have shown a steady increase across Lancashire over the last three years. Across Lancashire Domestic Violence has shown a notable increase over the last 3 years, while Other Domestic Abuse has remained at a stable level. Increases in domestic abuse primarily relate to an increase in violence. There is a strong upward trend in Domestic Violence as a proportion of All Violent Crime over the long term; with Domestic Violence accounting for approximately a third of all Violent Crime.

Alcohol-related violent crime should concentrate on crime associated with the night-time economy. The night-time economy has been drawn out as a key area for violent crime with alcohol being a significant factor. This should be central to any strategy / activity targeting violent crime.

▪ Alcohol-Related Violence

In the long term, violent Crime had seen slight reductions annually over the last 3 years. However, recent trends have shown increases (see above). 45% of Violent Crime indicates alcohol as a factor at a national level. This is slightly lower in Lancashire at 28.6%, but the true figure is more likely higher due to recording issues. 54.1% of Alcohol Related Violent Crime occurred in the home, 22.8% on business premises and 22.7% on the street.

The night-time economy is drawn out by most districts (where violent crime is a key issue) as problematic and an influencing factor in levels of violent crime. As such, alcohol is a significant key contributory factor for incidents of violent crime and this has been mentioned in all assessments where violent crime has been discussed. Victims and offenders tend to be typically males aged between 15 and 25 (the age group is also the most prolific for females). As would be expected the

weekend is when most incidents occur and incidents are centred around night-time economy locations.

Road Safety

The total number of casualties and KSI casualties have been showing a statistically significant downward trend over the last five years. However, it should be noted that the largest reductions over the last five years were apparent early in the period. If the trend of the last three years is considered in isolation the reduction can be expected to be less, in the region of 5% for all casualties and 2% for KSIs. These results are against a national background of a reverse in the established falling trend - nationally the number of KSIs increased by 2% between 2010 and 2011 – the first annual increase since 1994².

The 'fatal four' is a term used to refer to four enforcement priorities for key factors that can contribute to serious road traffic collisions: excessive speed, driving under the influence of drink or drugs, use of mobile phones whilst driving and not wearing a seat belt.

In Lancashire, over the last five years, young drivers have been involved in 34% of all collisions and 31% of KSI collisions. Within the young driver age range over recent years there has been a shift in numbers away from the youngest in the group (16-19yrs) towards the older end of the range. These shifts are likely to be contributed to by the current economic climate and the increasingly high insurance costs associated with young drivers meaning the youngest in the age group are less able to afford to own or drive a vehicle.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) covers a broad spectrum of issues impacting not only on individuals but also the community and the environment at large. Within Lancashire, the trend for ASB continues to decrease year on year, however several themes of ASB continue to feature prominently within PACT and community safety priorities due to the way in which it impacts on the quality of life of individuals and communities, and is often a pre-cursor to other criminal activity. Additionally, at a national level, for the last two years Lancashire has ranked in the top 5 police forces for the number of ASB incidents per 1,000 population, ranks in the top 10 in the country for the total number of ASB incidents and records the largest amount of ASB per 1,000 population in the North West region, indicating its position as an important part of daily business for Lancashire Constabulary, local authorities and partner agencies.

Across the county, Nuisance ASB accounts for six in every ten ASB incidents reported. Difference in reporting to local authorities and the police indicates that ASB may still be under-reported by as much as 20%. Nuisance ASB encompasses a variety of behaviours from youth nuisance to street drinking, vandalism, noise and rowdy behaviour, although there are difficulties in narrowing down specific issues due to the three broad recording categories of Personal, Nuisance and Environmental ASB.

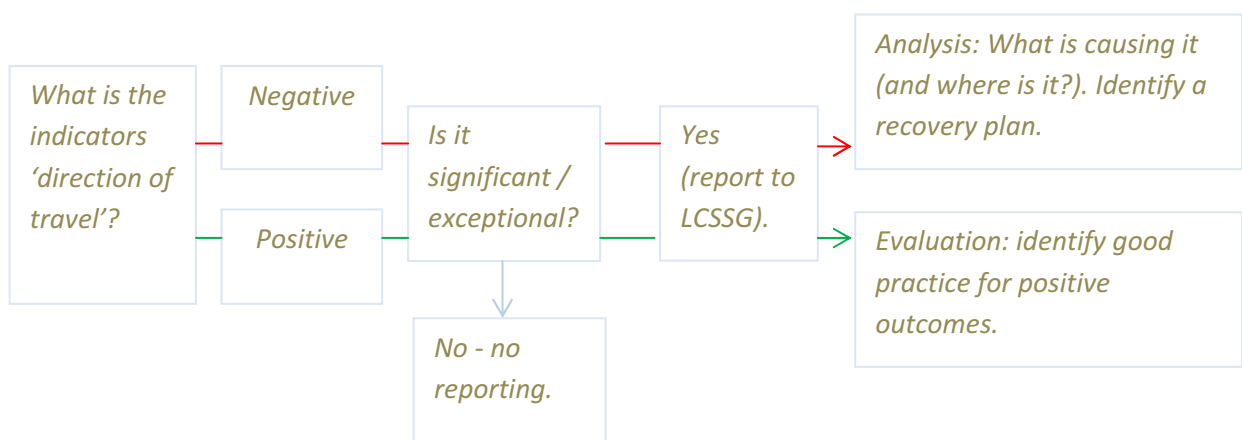
² DfT (2012) Reported Roads Casualties in Great Britain: Main Results 2011.

Appendix 2: Use of Scorecard

Use of Scorecard

The LCSSG scorecard has been developed from the strategic assessment key findings. The outcomes and indicators span across most of the responsible authorities. The aim of the scorecard is to monitor the direction of travel for priority areas of business over a three year period, ensuring that risk is appropriately and proportionally resourced.

Process



Update on LCSSG Action

The narrative includes: the period for which the data covers, when it was refreshed / updated, where the data was sourced and what the time frame for which the 'current' & 'previous' sections are compared. A date has also been added to show when the report was last altered.

S Keay and M Greenslade

Community Safety Team

saferlancashire@lancashire.gov.uk