

**Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 16 January 2025

**Report of the Director of Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities**

**Stronger and Safer Communities Framework**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b> Thinking differently; Stronger communities;	<b>Electoral Division(s):</b> (All Divisions);
<b>Contact:</b> Clare Platt, Head of Health Equity, Welfare & Partnerships, Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities, Tel: (01772) 532780, <a href="mailto:clare.platt@lancashire.gov.uk">clare.platt@lancashire.gov.uk</a>	

**Summary**

**Purpose of the Report**

The Stronger and Safer Communities Framework presents the roles and responsibilities of Lancashire County Council in relation to community safety, including serious violence. This is a significant policy impacting on communities across Lancashire which will facilitate compliance with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the Stronger and Safer Communities Framework as detailed at Appendix 'A', setting out the county council's responsibilities to meet the Serious Violence Duty.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Public Health, Wellbeing and Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services, to make any future minor amendments to the framework.

**Background**

1. Many county council services help to address crime and antisocial behaviour, delivering against the national and local community safety agendas. These can be demonstrated in terms of the Stronger and Safer Communities Framework, detailed at Appendix 'A' and represented below. This framework has been used to align different activities that demonstrate the role and responsibilities of



Lancashire County Council services in relation to community safety, including serious violence.

## Stronger and Safer Communities Framework



2. The framework identifies the key statutory responsibilities of Lancashire County Council in relation to community safety, and how issues are addressed through multi-agency partnership working. It also details how Lancashire County Council services address crime and anti-social behaviour, delivering against national and local community safety agendas; and demonstrates the role of council services in addressing the serious violence duty incumbent on public sector organisations.
3. The key community safety issues identified in the Lancashire Strategic Assessment (2022 – 2025), and which form the focus for the current Lancashire Community Safety Agreement are:
  - Domestic abuse
  - Violence
  - Exploitation (criminal and sexual)
  - Serious organised crime
  - Road safety
  - Anti-social behaviour
4. The county council also has a role in addressing a wide range of issues that are relevant to the community safety context, including Violence Against Women and



Girls, counter terrorism, equality and cohesion, which are identified in the framework.

## **Options and Proposals**

5. This report considers the Stronger and Safer Communities Framework, outlining the role and responsibilities of Lancashire County Council services in relation to community safety, including serious violence.
6. There are no particular options or proposals relevant to the report, given that the responsibilities of Lancashire County Council are underpinned by legislation.

## **Consultations**

7. The contents of this framework have been informed by discussions that have taken place at various Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee meetings and meetings of the Community Safety Working Group over recent years.

## **Context and Implications**

### **Legal (including Human Rights)**

8. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced responsibilities in relation to community safety, including the overarching responsibility for every local authority to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder in carrying out its functions.
9. Subsequently the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced 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.
10. The framework is a significant policy impacting on communities across Lancashire which will ensure that the county council and its partners comply with the statutory obligations set out in the legislation referred to above.

### **Financial**

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Stronger and Safer Communities framework will be supported from within existing budgets.

### **Equality and Diversity**

12. Equality and diversity are important factors supporting community safety, addressing in particular violence and exploitation, as identified in the Pan-Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2022-25:

- Enhancing Community Cohesion
- Assisting in Integration



- Addressing Extremism
- Reducing Community Tension

## Risk Management

13. This report considers the Stronger and Safer Communities Framework, outlining the role and responsibilities of Lancashire County Council services in relation to community safety, including serious violence, as underpinned by legislation.

14. As such it demonstrates how Lancashire County Council manages and mitigates safety risks within communities. It also demonstrates the county council's compliance with statutory responsibilities.

## Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Draft Stronger and Safer Communities Framework

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

## Part II Reason

N/A

