

Report to the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 12 February 2025

Report of the Executive Director of Growth, Environment, Transport & Health

Community Safety Agreement – Strategic Assessment 2025-2028

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Part I	Corporate Priorities: Better lives for all; Stronger communities;
Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);	
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Summary

Purpose of the Report

Community Safety Partnerships are required to undertake a Strategic Assessment of the long-term issues and threats arising from crime and anti-social behaviour that impact on community safety. The Strategic Assessment (Appendix 'A') identifies those issues and threats across Lancashire and is the key evidence base that underpins the Community Safety Agreement, local Community Safety Partnerships plans, the Police and Crime Plan and the Constabulary Control Strategy.

Recommendation

The Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

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

Background

1. The statutory obligations of community safety partners are set out in a range of legislation. Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the responsible authorities (councils, police, fire and rescue, health, probation) in a local government area must work together to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder in the area, including anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and reducing reoffending.
2. Each local government area is required to have a strategy group or Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to prepare strategic assessments and prepare and implement a partnership plan. County areas are required to have a county strategy group which prepares a community safety agreement for the county area, based on the strategic assessment. The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board (LCSPB), chaired by the county council's Director of Growth, Environment, Transport and Health, is the county strategy group for Lancashire.
3. The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board takes responsibility for ensuring that in Lancashire a single Strategic Assessment is produced on behalf of the County Strategy Group, unitary and local Community Safety Partnerships and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC); ensuring a shared evidence base upon which to set priorities. It is produced on a 3-year cycle, by the partnership analyst team, with an annual review of key findings.
4. The draft Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2025 - 2028 is attached at Appendix 'A'. The purpose of this Strategic Assessment is to highlight significant crime and anti-social behaviour threats and issues that impact on community safety. It is the key evidence base that supports the Community Safety Agreement, local partnership plans, the Policing and Crime Plan and the Constabulary Control Strategy. Research, study and analysis draw out key conclusions to aid strategic decision-making in developing control measures to reduce the threat and harm from crime and anti-social behaviour.
5. Following completion of the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2025 – 2028, local profiles will be developed which will detail significant issues in each district / unitary area of the county.
6. The Strategic Assessment highlights some of the key issues and risks across Lancashire which affect the local communities. The MORILE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) assessment tool has been used to rank various threats and issues identified by Lancashire Constabulary. The key risks and threats impacting across the county include:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Violence against Women and Girls
 - Serious violence (includes gun and gang crime, and knife crime)
 - Exploitation – criminal and sexual
 - Organised Crime
 - Road safety
 - Anti-Social Behaviour

- Cyber crime
7. It is acknowledged that the risks and threats have cross cutting themes and underlying causes so cannot be looked at in isolation. They require multi-agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the well-being of communities.
 8. Across Lancashire, there is a recognition that a public health approach is required to tackle key community safety issues, by looking at the wider determinants of crime and health and understanding root causes to enable an early intervention and preventative approach. These include:
 - Childhood experiences
 - Education
 - Unemployment
 - Health care
 - Housing
 - Income
 - Our communities
 9. Victims, vulnerability, and safeguarding remain a theme throughout the assessment.
 10. The Stronger and Safer Communities Framework, approved by Lancashire County Council Cabinet in January, presents the roles and responsibilities of Lancashire County Council in relation to community safety, including serious violence.

Options and Proposals

11. The key themes in the Lancashire Strategic Assessment will inform the next Lancashire Community Safety Agreement which will be developed over the coming months and presented to Scrutiny later in the year.

Consultations

12. The Strategic Assessment was presented to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board on 22 January 2025 and is the result of 6 months research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partner agencies and all 15 local authorities.
13. The process included three area workshop consultations (June 2024) 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 2022/23 has also provided an insight into young person's behaviours, thoughts and perceptions around alcohol and knives.
14. As recommended by the Community, Cultural, and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, a Bite Size Briefing on community safety was delivered in January

2024 including details of key community safety issues affecting local communities as outlined in the Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Agreement.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

15. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships to formulate and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their communities. Strategic Assessments enable the CSP to formulate and implement strategies to meet their duties.
16. The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires local authorities to have in place arrangements to scrutinise the functioning of Community Safety Partnerships to ensure they are effectively addressing crime and disorder in their area. At county level, and in relation to the County Strategy Group, this is fulfilled by reporting to the Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of the county council.

Financial

17. The Strategic Assessment is produced by the Partnership Analyst Team based within Lancashire Constabulary. The team is currently jointly funded by Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council.
18. There are currently no dedicated funding streams allocated by central government to community safety partnerships. Locally, the Police and Crime Commissioner has provided grant funding for local community safety projects and interventions.

Equality and Diversity

19. 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, and referenced in the Strategic Assessment:
 - Enhancing Community Cohesion
 - Assisting in Integration
 - Addressing Extremism
 - Reducing Community Tension

Risk Management

20. The Strategic assessment provides an account of long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire.

21. It provides the evidence base that underpins the development of the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement, local partnership plans, the Police and Crime Plan and the Constabulary Control Strategy.
22. All of which enable key delivery organisations to develop partnership approaches to tackling the key community safety issues across Lancashire.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2025 - 2028

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A