

2010/11

Lancaster Strategic Assessment



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE / ABUSE

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority for the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership. Domestic abuse is a hidden harm which disproportionately affects one sector of our society. On average only one in four domestic abuse incidents get reported. Therefore an identified increase in reporting can also be considered to be a positive as we have aim to achieve an increase in reporting. Domestic Abuse is a complex area; Lancaster District Women's Aid and the Probation Trust continue to report that their clients both have complex dual needs ranging from mental health, substance misuse and housing. Funding for the domestic abuse services is always at risk, particularly the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA). This is of concern to the Partnership as this service is pivotal to the success of protecting high risk victims of abuse and also for justice outcomes for perpetrators. Without this service the co-ordinated response to other provisions such as the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process will fall down.

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

Violence has been identified as a Community Safety priority and accounts for just under a quarter of all crime recorded across the district, of which alcohol is a key driver. Violence is a district wide problem and from recent research carried out, findings show that a higher proportion of offences happen within the home. Evidence suggests that the problem is worsening slightly which is also in-line with the domestic abuse priority; highlighting the strong links between the two community safety priorities.

ROAD SAFETY

Road safety concerns remain a district wide problem, which feature highly on the community agenda, with speeding vehicles and inappropriate parking consistently raised at PACT meetings across the district. The Lancaster district continues to rank relatively high when comparing numbers of collisions with other areas of Lancashire and evidence suggests the problem is worsening slightly. The Partnership needs to continue with a proactive approach to preventing road traffic collisions, to protect the people of the Lancaster district.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to be a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. ASB is a very broad and complex issue and the Partnership should consider the multiple drivers of ASB, when dealing with such issues, as these can make it much more challenging to target and implement permanent solutions. Rowdy-inconsiderate behaviour, neighbour nuisance, vehicle nuisance and environmental crime (such as damaging or littering) are the most reported issues across the district and cause real concern within our communities. The Partnership also needs to be proactive in terms of improving public confidence and perception levels (one of the multiple drivers of ASB) in respect of anti-social behaviour.

SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Serious acquisitive crime has been identified as a Community Safety priority due to a recent spate in offences of burglary and vehicle crime across the district and the fact that during an economic downturn, acquisitive crime normally increases. The main threat to community safety is burglary and vehicle crime offences which are regarded as serious types of acquisitive crime and which can ultimately have the biggest impact on members of our communities within the Lancaster district.

The Partnership is aware that the priorities identified consist of similar drivers/root causes, all of which were taken into consideration throughout the early stages of the Strategic Assessment process. The key drivers/root causes identified, the majority of which fall into each priority, are substance misuse (alcohol and drugs), community cohesion (engagement, fear of crime, perception of crime) and economic factors. The identified drivers/root causes will be focused upon within all relevant action plans. Prevention of offenders and pre-venting re-offending factors has also been taken into consideration.

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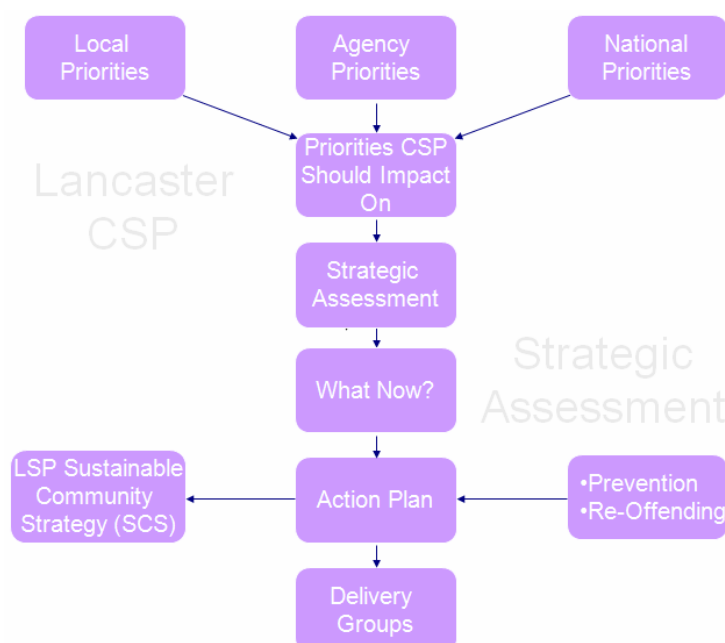
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INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Assessment is a legislative requirement of all Community Safety Partnerships, as part of the Crime and Disorder Review (of which all responsible authorities have a legal obligation to comply with). Its purpose is to present and interpret the summary findings of an intelligence analysis, and provide knowledge and understanding of community safety problems that will inform and enable the partners to;

- ▶ Understand the patterns, trend and shifts relating to crime and disorder and substance misuse.
- ▶ Set clear and robust priorities for the partnership.
- ▶ Develop activity that is driven by reliable intelligence and meets the needs of the local community.
- ▶ Deploy resources effectively and present value for money and undertake annual reviews and plan activities, based on a clear understanding of the issues and priorities.

The Strategic Assessment will inform the Partnership Plan and will become a key document in the allocation of resources and achieving the partnerships outcomes. The following chart details what action the Community Safety Partnership has taken and what will take place over the coming months.



In relation to the current economic status, the Partnership has noticed that as the funding pots get tighter and public services start to cut back, the projects that rely on 'agency contributions' suffer. Services now have to look for alternative sources of funding, but these sources are also diminishing. Many services/partners have been under review during the process of this Strategic Assessment and will continue to be during the forthcoming year. Many of the services/partners are affected by the public sector cuts. As the current economic status is likely to get much worse before it gets any better, the Partnership will do its utmost to minimise the impact of these changes and aim to work smarter together as a Partnership.

METHODOLOGY

Aim

The aim of the Strategic Assessment is to provide the Community Safety Partnership with an assessment of current, emerging and potential issues affecting the levels and community concerns about crime and disorder in the area. It will offer opportunities for enforcement, prevention and reassurance as well as identifying gaps in intelligence, capacity and social capital.

Purpose

The purpose of the assessment is to provide the Community Safety Partnership with a summary of the key threats/issues that Lancaster may face over the next 18 months, in respect of the priorities identified. The assessment will provide evidence and justification for strategic decision making.

Scope

The Strategic Assessment process is managed by a 'core group' with representation from each of the responsible authorities; including the Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council, Police Authority, Primary Care Trust, Probation Trust, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and the Lancashire Constabulary. The purpose of the core group is to plan the delivery of the Strategic Assessment and ensure that the partnership priorities are determined. The partnership also manages a 'Strategic Assessment Implementation Team', which consists of a broad range of organisations, identifying the importance of a broader input, together with input from the wider community.

We are heavily reliant on police data to provide a central framework for the strategic assessment; however, further information has been obtained from a modest range of other organisations as additional supporting evidence. Where possible various opinion surveys have been utilised to ensure that the perceptions and feelings of the local communities are reflected within the report.

The initial part of the Strategic Assessment process is to complete a 'priority matrix' which assists the partnership in identifying the districts community safety priorities. A list of identified problems are assimilated by members of the partnership and analysed within the matrix. Evidence is gathered in relation to; the geographic extent of the problem, the scale relative to other areas, direction of travel, level of harm, threat level and community concerns. In addition to the above categories it was decided by the core group that the matrix would include a 'CSP added value' column, in order to provide a purpose and a realistic view of what the CSP can achieve and/or have an impact on. The problems have been scored using the evidence provided in consultation with our partners and using a format based on Home Office recommendations; resulting in the districts top five priorities. An additional column was also added, at the request of the core group to help identify the drivers/root causes of the problems – in order to focus the partnership more proactively when trying to achieve their outcomes.

Data was collated between April 2009 and September 2010 and references have been made when this was not possible. Comparisons have been made with the same time the previous year.

PRIORITIES MATRIX

Each of the problems within the priorities matrix were scored and ranked according to a scoring system, detailed in appendix three. The table below shows the summary priority matrix, ranked according to their overall score.

Partner consultation has taken place throughout each stage of the strategic assessment process.

Summary Priorities Matrix for **Lancaster District**

Problem	Geographic Extent	Scale Relative to Other Areas	Direction of Travel	Level of Harm	Threat Level	Community Concerns Expressed	Local / National Strategies & Targets	CSP Added Value	Overall Score	Rank
Domestic Violence-Abuse	3	3	3	3	2	1	0	3	18	1
Violence Against the Person	2	3	2	3	2	2	0	3	17	2
Sexual Violence	2	3	2	3	1	2	0	0	13	4
Serious Acquisitive Crime	2	3	3	2	2	2	0	2	16	3
Road Safety	3	3	2	3	1	3	0	2	17	2
Fire Safety	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	7	7
Anti-Social Behaviour	3	2	0	3	3	3	0	3	17	2
Criminal Damage	2	3	0	2	2	3	0	1	13	4
Arson	3	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	9	6
Hate Crime	2	2	2	3	1	1	0	1	12	5

Individual Score	Overall	Colour	
0	0 - 4		this is not at all the case in our area
1	5 - 9		there is some small evidence that this is the case in our area
2	10-14		there is moderate evidence that this is the case in our area
3	15 - 19		there is substantial evidence that this is the case in our area

LANCASTER'S PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ONE – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-ABUSE

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority for the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership. The problem is district wide, with some certain areas of concern e.g. the Morecambe area consistently records a higher proportion of domestic related police incidents. As stated in the executive summary, domestic abuse is a complex area. 75% of domestic abuse goes unreported; therefore the high levels of reporting in Morecambe may be due to an increased awareness or understanding of domestic abuse amongst the community and services, but as Morecambe also has numerous pockets of deprivation they may also be due to economic factors or demographics. However, the link between the higher levels of reporting domestic abuse in areas of high deprivation may be due to a lack of resources means a need for more service intervention.

The extent of the problem becomes more apparent when the Lancaster district is consistently ranked second in Lancashire (excluding the two unitary districts) when recording domestic related police incidents; and continues to be above the Lancashire average. From some specific analysis that has previously been carried out in respect of the location for 'assault with less serious injury offences within Northern Division (Lancaster & Wyre districts), the results for a two month period showed that 43% of offences happen within the home, 31% of offences take place in the street and 10% take place on licensed premises¹.

Recorded levels of domestic related incidents and crimes have increased, referrals and numbers of calls made to Lancaster District Women's Aid (LDWA) have increased and also referrals made to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)². Domestic violence-abuse remains a common feature in two of the districts volume crime types, criminal damage and violence against the person. In 2009/10 domestic related violence³ accounted for 26% of all violence recorded across the district; three percentage points higher than the same time the previous year. Nationally, an average of two women per week are killed by a current or former male partner.

Domestic violence/abuse is a precursor to more serious crime and incidents and cross cuts many issues, for both the victim and perpetrator including; alcohol and/or substance misuse, mental and/or general health, employment, social services intervention and civil/criminal interventions. LDWA report that approximately 75% of all their clients have complex dual needs; domestic abuse and mental health problems, alcohol problems and less so, substance misuse problems. In addition, of those Probation clients who are domestic violence perpetrators, 73% have alcohol misuse issues. There is no doubt that there are links between domestic violence and alcohol use but the exact nature of these links remains complex. Alcohol use cannot cause a person to be violent or abusive, more simply, the majority of domestic violence is perpetrated in the absence of alcohol and the majority of higher level alcohol users do not abuse their partners (Strauss & Gelles, 1990). However, there

¹ Lancashire Constabulary, Level 1 - Scoping Report, Assault with Less Serious Injury, September 2010 – Intelligence Analysts, Phil Wilson & Louise Mullen.

² Holden, S (2010) Lancaster District Women's Aid Co-Ordinator.

³ The term violence accounts for violence against the person.

is some evidence to suggest that domestic violence can cause alcohol use in those on the receiving end of domestic violence or exacerbate existing use⁴.

Both the Probation Trust and LDWA continue to report that there is severe lack of housing within the district for both the perpetrator and victim; Probation report that one of the criminogenic factors for just under half of the perpetrators is accommodation.

In November 2010 a Home Office strategy 'call to end violence against women and girls' declared that tackling all violence against women and girls will remain a key objective. Domestic abuse is one of the many areas of violence that predominantly impact on women and girls. Consequently, they declared that they will provide £3.3m of stable Home Office funding for the IDVA specialist service provision and to support MARACs to ensure there is a consistent delivery of service nationally⁵. However, nationally this is not nearly enough to support the needs of high risk victims.

The IDVA service reflects the following principles; safety, risk, diversity, dynamics of domestic violence, independence, accountability, co-ordination and respect. It has been identified that the IDVA is key to the SDVC and MARAC process. From analysis of a recent CPS survey, not only was there a successful outcome in 73% of the domestic violence cases where an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor supported the victim but also 66% of all victims supported, regardless of the outcome of the case, reported a cessation or reduction of domestic violence as a result⁶.

Domestic abuse does not just impact on the adult victim. 75% of children living in the household witness the abuse. 50% of children under a child protection order are living in households where domestic abuse is also a factor. Growing up in a violent household, violence becomes normalised behaviour, and they often go on to commit other violent crimes or become domestic abuse perpetrators later in life themselves.

Emerging Threat(s) : as the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) are a multi-agency provision, they are totally dependent on being funded from external sources. The key aspect to the success of the IDVA service is in the independence of the support. The victim's needs are the priority, therefore finding secure funding for this from mainstream budgets is difficult. Without an IDVA, the co-ordinated response to the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) and the will fall down.

Recommendation : for the Partnership to continue to encourage reporting of domestic violence-abuse across the district.

Recommendation : to attempt to secure funding for the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor(s) who deliver specialist support to victims of domestic violence-abuse.

Recommendation : to consider more joined up working across the thematic groups; along with creative working procedures to tackle the drivers/core issues of domestic violence-abuse as it feeds into crime, in particular violence.

⁴ Domestic Violence & Alcohol Briefing – Nina George (November 2007).

⁵ HM Government - Call to End Violence against Women and Girls.

⁶ Domestic Violence: the facts, the issues, the future – Speech by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC.

Recommendation : to focus on reducing re-offending behaviour, particularly in respect of drivers/core issues.

PRIORITY TWO – VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

During this year's refresh, violence against the person has been identified as a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. On the whole, violence is a district wide problem with some areas of concern, identified from the data available to us; particularly areas with a high concentration of licensed premises such as the City Centre of Lancaster (Dukes) and the Town Centre of Morecambe (Poulton). However, it is worth bearing in mind that these locations are heavily resourced, particularly at peak times.

The extent of the problem becomes more apparent when the Lancaster district is ranked second in Lancashire (excluding the two unitary districts) when recording violence against the person offences and features above the Lancashire average. A similar statement features above, under domestic violence-abuse, which clearly highlights the strong link between both priorities; domestic violence-abuse and violence against the person. Evidence suggests that the problem is worsening slightly, in that recorded levels of violence have increased, however attendances to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary Emergency Department have reduced, albeit over a slightly shorter period.

Violence against the person accounts for just under a quarter of all crime recorded across the district. Alcohol is a key driver of violence and features within approximately 37% of all violence recorded. Alcohol isn't a stimulant, but a depressant; which is why too much alcohol can often lead to impaired judgement, a tendency to violent behaviour and a loss of short-term memory⁷. Cocaine use in the UK is also increasing, along with steroid use, which has links in respect of violence, causing an impact on community safety. Violence against the person is also within the top five offences for Youth Offending Team (YOT) clients across the district.

Organised Crime Groups⁸ are also of some concern throughout the Lancaster district and are responsible for some of the violence occurring across the district along with the fear of crime that some of our residents experience. Violence can have a massive impact on its victims, along with other members of the community in terms of the perception of their safety.

Recommendation : to focus on preventing offending and reducing re-offending behaviour through enforcement and education.

Recommendation : to continue with multi-agency licensing operations and initiatives and raising awareness.

⁷ www.drinkaware.co.uk

⁸ Organised Crime Group – any group that engages in continuing organised criminality. This definition of an Organised Crime Group was decided upon with a rationale that it was able to be applied at all levels of criminality; from neighbourhood to international, covering all levels of the National Intelligence Model. The term group involves two or more individuals.

PRIORITY TWO – ROAD SAFETY

Collisions on the road, involving those killed or seriously injured (KSI) remain a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. The road safety concerns remain district wide, with no identified hotspots. The Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) record the more rural locations as their hotspots, when attending road traffic collisions that require their specialist services. The Lancaster district consistently records the highest number of recorded fatalities within the whole of Lancashire. The district also consistently ranks second, in terms of recorded road traffic collisions (KSI), when compared with other Lancashire districts. The road injuries/death rate (per 100,000 population), as recorded by the National Health Service (NHS), continues to be significantly worse in Lancaster, than the England average.

Evidence suggests the problem is worsening slightly within the district, due to low reductions and/or very little change with previous time periods. Both the injury rate and death rate, as a result of a road traffic collision, continue to be above the Lancashire average. Findings from the Road and Transport Safety Group (2005/2009) identified a number of areas of concern across the district, all of which are detailed within the detailed priorities matrix. However, school children aged 6-15 inclusive are of some concern in terms of road safety. Pedal cycle casualty involvement rates are above the County expected rates and Casualty Severity rates are higher for 6-10 year olds than expected. Overall casualty severity rates for 11-15 year olds are second highest in the County. These patterns lead to the assumption that vehicle occupant casualties are relatively high in Lancaster.

Road safety is high on the community agenda with speeding vehicles and inappropriate parking consistently raised at PACT meetings across the district. Road traffic collisions are a signal incident in that when a collision is witnessed or experienced it can generate and/or increase fear and concern, within our communities; so much so that they may change their behaviour as a result. The partnership should continue with a focused approach to preventing road traffic collisions and the fear within our communities that surrounds this problem, along with protecting the people of the Lancaster district.

Threat : collisions on the road, involving a motorcycle are a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. The Lancaster district has a frequent influx of motorcyclists visiting beauty spots such as 'Devil's Bridge' at Kirkby Lonsdale; and passing through the district to visit the Lake District. A number of which pass through the Lancaster district, via rural routes and on their two wheeled vehicles, whilst making their way to Heysham Port; which is one of four mainland ports. An additional threat has been identified as young drivers, along with the children and young people who use our roads across the Lancaster district.

Recommendation : for the CSP to conduct a multi-agency approach in delivering Enforcement, Education and Engineering in respect of road safety issues across the district.

Recommendation : for the CSP to utilise the local media and raise awareness, improve local knowledge and promote road safety advice.

PRIORITY TWO – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) continues to be a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. *Anti-social behaviour is any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life. It holds back the regeneration of disadvantaged areas and creates an environment where more serious crime can take hold*⁹. Anti-social behaviour is a very broad and complex issue which can be challenging to target and implement permanent solutions for all problems identified. In addition, there are multiple drivers of anti-social behaviour including, low tolerance levels, high perception levels, location of incidents, opportunities, alcohol misuse and offender(s) attitude/action at scene; thus making it very difficult to target.

Anti-social behaviour is spread district wide with the majority of areas suffering from some form of ASB. The overall level of anti-social behaviour has improved within the Lancaster district, recording a 15% reduction during the last 18 months. However, the rate of incidents in the Lancaster district continues to be above the Lancashire average and consistently ranks third, when compared with the twelve non-unitary districts within Lancashire. The police report rowdy-inconsiderate behaviour as the most reported problem followed by incidents of neighbour and vehicle nuisance and the local authority report environmental crime such as damaging or littering as the most reported.

A range of ASB issues are persistently raised at PACT meetings across the district. Anti-social behaviour can have a massive impact on the members of our communities, particularly in terms of the perception of their safety. The extent of the problem becomes more apparent when the Place Survey identified that the perception of drunk and rowdy behaviour is the same now as it was in 2006/07; when in fact rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour incidents within Lancaster have reduced consecutively during the last four years. The partnership recognises the link between anti-social behaviour, hate crime and criminal damage, i.e. a lot of hate crime is anti-social behaviour - the incident could be a hate crime, but people are being targeted through acts of anti-social behaviour. In order to monitor these types of incidents and those high risk victims, who are persistently troubled by anti-social behaviour, procedures under the ASBRAC (Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference) process are firmly in place across the district. This process allows a multi-agency approach to protecting our communities.

Partners will need to work differently when implementing the 'new streamlined approach to anti-social behaviour' proposed by the Crime Prevention Minister in February 2011. Councils, police and other local agencies are required to support victims of persistent anti-social behaviour, as part of the plans to provide better tools and powers. This follows a review which found that there are too many tools for practitioners to tackle ASB – some of which are too bureaucratic, too costly and do not address underlying problems. A public consultation has proposed a number of new measures to better protect communities from the serious harm caused by criminal and anti-social behaviour. The proposals include, community triggers,

⁹ www.homeoffice.gov.uk – Anti-Social Behaviour.

criminal behaviour orders, crime prevention injunctions, community protection orders and police direction powers¹⁰.

The home office has also initiated a new approach for handling complaints of anti-social behaviour¹¹. Since the 1st April 2011 the National Standards for Incident Recording (NSIR) categories, for classifying anti-social behaviour, have changed. The 14 categories we have used for the past five years have changed to three; personal, nuisance and environment¹². The simplified categories change the emphasis from merely recording and responding to incidents to identifying those vulnerable individuals, communities and environments most at risk¹³.

Emerging Threat : intelligence suggests that members from identified Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)¹⁴ carry out or administer acts of anti-social behaviour across the district. Reported incidents consist of rowdy-behaviour, vehicle nuisance, groups of youths/undesirables congregating and openly carrying out dealings with drugs.

Emerging Threat : social networking sites are rapidly becoming a huge target from preying cyber criminals. These sites are very popular with young people and adults alike and for young people in particular social networking sites can bring together many of the risks associated with being online i.e. online bullying, disclosure of private information and cyber-stalking¹⁵.

Recommendation : to identify and support those people who are most vulnerable and most at risk of anti-social behaviour.

Recommendation : to engage with the community as much as possible, via regular media releases, promoting good news stories, building confidence and reassurance. To also involve communities and encourage them to take ownership of the areas where they live via initiatives such as Street Pride under the 'Big Society' agenda.

Recommendation : to focus on preventing offending and reducing re-offending behaviour through enforcement and education; and to utilise initiatives such as Restorative Justice to encourage positive community cohesion.

Recommendation : to support initiatives that engage young people in positive activities in their locality.

Recommendation : to continue the multi-agency approach at preventing environmental disorder in order to protect the members of our community through multi-agency operations such as the Multi-Agency Problem Solving team (MAPS) and Street Pride.

Recommendation : for the Partnership to embrace the proposals of the 'new streamlined approach to anti-social behaviour' – administered by the Crime

¹⁰ Consultation On New Powers To Replace And Streamline Existing Powers – Crime Prevention Minister James Brokenshire (February 2011).

¹¹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/asb-victims>

¹² <http://sherlock/latestnews/march2011/Pages/ChangestoAntiSocialBehaviourcategories.aspx>

¹³ National Standard for Incident Recording 2011 – National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

¹⁴ Organised Crime Group – any group that engages in continuing organised criminality. This definition of an Organised Crime Group was decided upon with a rationale that it was able to be applied at all levels of criminality; from neighbourhood to international, covering all levels of the National Intelligence Model. The term group involves two or more individuals.

¹⁵ www.getsafeonline.org

Prevention Minister James Brokenshire; to monitor the districts performance against the anti-social behaviour standards and support our victims of anti-social behaviour.

PRIORITY THREE – SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

Burglary dwelling, vehicle crime and robbery are regarded as serious types of acquisitive crime; which can ultimately have the biggest impact on members of the communities within the district. This year's refresh has identified serious acquisitive crime as a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. It is a district wide problem, but with a slightly higher proportion of offences in the Morecambe section of the district, accounting for approximately 57%. The hotspots include, Skerton East, Skerton West, Town Centre (Poulton) and Westgate – all of which suffer with pockets of deprivation; thus the high proportion of crime within these areas of the district could be linked to demographics.

Acquisitive crime is a signal offence and is a strong precursor to more serious crime. 'Some' drug dependant individuals are known to commit a large volume of acquisitive crime throughout the district. It is without doubt that these acquisitive crimes have an impact on our communities. The evidence, shown clearly within the priorities matrix suggests that the problem is improving or at least staying the same, however a recent spate of burglaries and vehicle crime would suggest that the problem is worsening substantially. Research however, has shown that during an economic downturn, acquisitive crime normally increases¹⁶. This is due to higher unemployment rates, higher prices in general for various goods and utility bills and alongside issues of motivation. When people feel better off financially, as indicated by their spending, they are less likely to be attracted to criminal methods of obtaining goods, however this presents the potential for a reverse opportunity effect when times are more difficult. The findings of the research were that economic trends can have a powerful effect on crime.

Serious acquisitive crime accounts for approximately 11% of all crime recorded across the district. The main threat, in terms of volume is vehicle crime and in particular theft from a vehicle; which accounts for 77% of all serious acquisitive crime. However, the main threat to our communities, in relation to fear of crime is burglary dwellings which account for 33% of all serious acquisitive crime. The district ranks third, in terms of serious acquisitive crime, when compared with other Lancashire districts (excluding the two unitary districts). Serious acquisitive crime is however, below the most similar group average and ranked 11th out of the 15 most similar groups (MSG).

Emerging Threat : although the UK economy should avoid a double-dip recession, the outlook will remain uncertain until the end of 2011¹⁷ and as previously mentioned, research has shown that during an economic downturn, acquisitive crime normally increases.

¹⁶ Trends in Crime Revisited – Simon Field – Home Office Research Study 195 published 1999 revisiting research published by the Home Office in 1990 (Field 1990).

¹⁷ <http://www.financeweek.co.uk/fw-comment/uk-economy-should-avoid-double-dip-recession-outlook-remains-uncertain>

Recommendation : to focus on preventing offending and reducing re-offending behaviour through enforcement and education.

Recommendation : to continue to support the links between offender management and available treatment systems.

Recommendation : to continue to strengthen the communication links with the communities, providing reassurance and offering crime prevention advice on personal and property safety.

REVIEW OF CSP ACTIVITY 2010-2011

CRIME AND DISORDER

Serious Acquisitive Crime - the Revolution Project targets Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs) and other offenders responsible for the commission of serious acquisitive crime and/or serious ASB. A mapping exercise has resulted in the development of an action plan which has formed the basis of partnership work. Governance and strategic direction is now provided by the North Lancashire Revolution Board with appropriate representation from all agencies. Fortnightly multi-agency panels have been established with increased focus on the accommodation and ETE pathways as well as substance misuse treatment which remains central.

A broader performance framework is being developed but reoffending rates for PPOs remain significantly below the target reduction set. In 2009/10 there was a 45% reduction in reoffending against a target of 13%.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

Drug and Alcohol Misuse – the new National Drug Strategy (NDS) was published in December 2010 promoting three key themes:

- Reducing supply
- Reducing Demand
- Promoting Recovery.

Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (LDAAT) is the body responsible for the implementation of the National Drug Strategy in the county.

Reducing supply - through LDAAT devolved commissioning budgets the North Lancashire Joint Commissioning Group (NLJCG) has agreed a funding contribution towards 2 PCSO's countywide for the NIMROD programme.

Reducing Demand - through LDAAT devolved commissioning budgets the North Lancashire Joint Commissioning Group has funded the highly successful Northern Beat competition and Up front theatre productions in schools across North Lancs. over the last 3 years which deliver education and drama opportunities around substance misuse and linked themes in line with the expectations in the NDS.

The Community Safety Partnership has appointed an Alcohol Harm PCSO, who has been effective in tackling diverse issues, in relation to alcohol related harm, across the district.

Promoting Recovery - LDAAT and NHS North Lancashire have re commissioned adult substance misuse treatment services via the North Lancashire Joint Commissioning Group (NLJCG) with the Journey to Recovery service going live in October 2009. The contract is now well embedded in local partnerships. This is a £1.8 million contract that provides recovery focussed drug and alcohol treatment at tiers 2 and 3.

The Drugs Intervention Programme is delivered by Addaction in North Lancashire; linking closely with Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Probation Service and the Revolution Board.

Heroin and alcohol are the main areas of substance misuse seen in adults, with alcohol and cannabis the most common in young people. The last 18 months has seen a significant growth in emerging psychoactive substances, 'legal highs'. Recent research commissioned into emerging trends in the night time economy in Lancashire has shown that mephedrone and 'bubble' are most common in Lancaster (Lancaster, Preston, Chorley and Burnley were the sites in the study).

A number of challenges exist in North Lancashire for treatment services going forward. Following lower than expected numbers of problematic drug users accessing treatment a report, 'Breaking Through' identified issues about service provision and other key areas facing problematic drug users. The results of this report will be utilised by the NLJCG during 2011-12 to drive improvements to local treatment services and improve further the chances to recover from substance misuse.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ABUSE

The Community Safety Partnership supports the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service by part-funding the resource. This service provides independent support to high risk and very high risk victims of domestic abuse by providing crisis intervention and support for the victim and their children. The advice; information and support provided by the IDVA also includes working closely with other agencies, to ensure the safety of the victim is the priority. The service is pivotal to the risk-management approach of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process and also supports victims through the criminal justice process when cases go to a Specialist Domestic Violence Court.

The MARAC and SDVC process is supported by the domestic abuse reduction group, which is a multi-agency sub-group of the community safety partnership. This group look at all aspects of domestic abuse, from preventative work through to working with perpetrators to reduce re-offending. Awareness raising is a key part of the work, both amongst victims to feel able to come forward and know what support, options and help is available, and also for services to recognise the hidden aspects of domestic abuse, so they can refer the victim to appropriate support services.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) currently funds a Domestic Violence Outreach service provided by Lancaster District Women's' Aid (LDWA). This service provides a

range of support (e.g. counselling; advice) for all victims of domestic abuse to ensure that a victim and their children's safety is paramount.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR / QUALITY OF LIFE

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has a process in place for dealing with high-risk cases/victims of anti-social behaviour (ASB). These cases involve people who are vulnerable and suffering repeat ASB. The ASBRAC (ASB Risk Assessment Conference) process is based on a risk management approach, where victims who are assessed with a high score enter the process. Multi-agency meetings are held in order to combat the problem – in the hope that the victim will be reassessed at a lower risk. In theory, once the problem is solved, the progress of the victim is managed and problems monitored to ensure the problem does not escalate once again.

The Community Safety Partnership has appointed an Anti-Social Behaviour PCSO who has been effective in dealing with case management of ASB.

The MAPS (Multi-Agency Problem Solving) team / process has been in place across the district for a number of years. The team deal with lower risk cases of ASB and wider community safety issues, impacting on the district, by using a multi-agency tasking approach. The team has been very successful in combating a number of different issues raised by various partner agencies - ensuring that our communities feel safe and reassured.

The CSP understand that one way of preventing ASB is by building stronger communities. On a regular basis, the CSP administer 'Street Pride' events across the district, which concentrates on cleaning an area, making it safer and building community capacity within the area.

The CSP also supported the 'Bright Sparx' partnership campaign in October and November of this year, which is aimed at reducing ASB around Bonfire Night.

APPENDIX 1 – PRIORITY SCORING SYSTEM

Each problem identified has been scored according the following criteria:

Category	Description	Scoring System	
Geographic extent of the problem	Is this problem confined to one small area or is it widespread across the borough?	0	This is not a problem in our area
		1	The problem occurs in only one or two confined locations
		2	The problem occurs in less than half of the wards in the borough
		3	The problem is borough wide.
Scale relative to other areas	Compared to other parts of Lancashire as reported on MADE or the tracker tool; is the problem worse, the same as or better than other areas?	0	This is better than other parts of Lancashire (or other equivalent comparator)
		1	This is the same as other parts of Lancashire (or other equivalent comparator)
		2	This is slightly worse than other parts of Lancashire (or other equivalent comparator)
		3	This is substantially worse than other parts of Lancashire (or other equivalent comparator)
Direction of Travel	Is the problem getting worse, getting better or staying the same?	0	Improving
		1	Staying the same
		2	Worsening slightly
		3	Worsening substantially
Level of Harm	Is this problem a signal crime? Is it a precursor to something more serious? Does it disproportionately affect one sector of society?	0	This is not a problem in our area
		1	There is some small evidence that this is the case in our area
		2	There is moderate evidence that this is the case in our area
		3	There is substantial evidence that this is the case in our area.
Threat level	What is the probability of this problem occurring?	0	There is little chance of the event/outcome predicted, probability $\leq 10\%$
		1	There is some chance of the event/outcome predicted, probability $\leq 50\%$
		2	There is a better than even chance of the event/outcome predicted, probability $\geq 51\%$
		3	There is an almost certain chance of the event/outcome predicted, probability $\geq 90\%$
Of Community Concern	Does community consultation indicate that this is a real concern?	0	This is not a problem in our area
		1	There is some small evidence that this is the case in our area
		2	There is moderate evidence that this is the case in our area
		3	There is substantial evidence that this is case in our area
Local	Is this included in a number of local	0	It is not included in any local strategies or plans.

Category	Description	Scoring System	
Strategies/Targets	partner strategies and plans? For example, community plans, LAA, police control strategy, IRMP, health plans	1	One partner includes it in a local strategy
		2	Two partners include it their local strategies
		3	More than two partners include it in their local strategy or plans
National Strategies/Targets	Is this problem included in national strategies or plans? For example the Respect Agency or National Drugs Strategy.	0	It is not included in any national strategies or plans.
		1	It is a small element of a national strategy
		2	It is a key or primary element of a national strategy
		3	It is covered in several national strategies.
Other	Is there anything else important which should be scored, and if so, please ensure that all problems are scored against this to ensure consistency when scores are ranked. This should be suitably evidenced. Examples could be – cross-border issues, links with other cross-cutting issues	0	This is not a problem in our area
		1	There is some small evidence that this is the case in our area
		2	There is moderate evidence that this is the case in our area
		3	There is substantial evidence that this is the case in our area.

APPENDIX 2 – DATA SOURCES

Alcohol Profile 2010 – Public Health
Anti-Social Behaviour – Multi-Agency Data Exchange

C3PO Custody – Lancashire Constabulary
Command & Control – Lancashire Constabulary
CORA – Lancashire Constabulary
Crime2 – Lancashire Constabulary

Domestic Abuse – Lancashire Constabulary
Domestic Abuse – Lancaster District Women's Aid
Domestic Abuse – Multi-Agency Data Exchange
Domestic Abuse Related Successful Outcomes at Court – Crown Prosecution Service

Environmental Information – Lancaster City Council
Environmental – Multi-Agency Data Exchange

Fire & Road Safety Information – Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service

Health Profile 2010 – Public Health
Housing Information (inc. Tenant's Survey) – Lancaster City Council

Most Similar Groupings – IQuanta

Road Safety Information – Lancashire Safer Travel Unit

MARAC Information – Lancashire Constabulary
Multi-Agency Data Exchange (MADE)

OASys (Risk & Need Offender Profiles) – Probation Trust
Offending Types/Behaviours – Youth Offending Team
Opinion Wave 18 (2008) – Lancashire Constabulary

PACT – Lancashire Constabulary
Place Survey (2008)
Public Confidence – Lancashire Constabulary

Road & Transport Safety Group - Lancashire County Council
Road Traffic Collision System – Lancashire Constabulary

Substance Misuse Information - Lancashire Drug & Alcohol Action Team

Trauma Injury Intelligence Group (TIIG) – Public Health

APPENDIX 3 – ACRONYMS INCLUDED

ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASBRAC	Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DA	Domestic Abuse
DV	Domestic Violence
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor/Advocate
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor/Advocate
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LCC	Lancaster City Council
LDAAT	Lancashire Drug & Alcohol Action Team
LDWA	Lancaster District Women's Aid
LFRS	Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MADE	Multi-Agency Data Exchange
MAPS	Multi-Agency Problem Solving
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MSG	Most Similar Groups
NDS	National Drug Strategy
NHS	National Health Service
NLJCG	North Lancashire Joint Commissioning Group
OCG	Organised Crime Group
PACT	Police and Communities Together
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PPO	Prolific Priority Offender
RLI	Royal Lancaster Infirmary
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
YOT	Youth Offending Team

APPENDIX 4 – EVIDENCE

Evidence for the nature and characteristics of the problems identified i.e. all the work for the scanning and analysis phases is available to partners upon request.