

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

# Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Report of Head of Public Realm

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on current projects in 2022/2023 and future developments for 2023/2024 for Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Members will have a greater understanding of the work of the partnership, how the current priorities are being tackled and the breadth of joint working with the partners of the CSP. The report highlights the fact that Lancaster District continues to be a safe place in which to live, work and explore

**This report is exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph [Insert number] of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972**

**This report is public** *\*delete as appropriate*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) **Receive and endorse the report noting the contribution made through the CSP.**

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Community safety involves various agencies working together with the local community to tackle persistent crime and disorder issues that affect the quality of life of residents. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on responsible authorities to implement strategies to reduce the levels of crime and disorder in the area in which they operate. This involves working in partnership with a wide range of agencies, such as the probation service, fire service and health authority, and the local voluntary sector and business community, as well as local community groups.
- 1.2 The current priorities set by Lancaster District CSP are Anti-Social behaviour, Youth Alcohol issues and the development of a "Suicide Prevention Action Plan." These were decided in the February 2022 meeting following the review of the Lancashire Strategic Assessment, the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) and in dialogue with various partners.
- 1.3 The report will also review the Lancaster District PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) that was made in December 2021 and provide an update on the 'Bay Cycleway CCTV' project.

## 2.0 Details

2.1 Lancaster CSP meets formally 4 times a year. Meetings are also convened if there are emerging issues where multi-agency support and/or response is required. There are also other partnership meetings informally linked to Lancaster CSP that are a legacy of the Covid response but have been retained as a useful means of discussing any emerging issues or threats to Lancaster District as well as a more structured bi-monthly meeting. The CSP continues to be supported by PS Lindsay Brown who is a single point of contact for the police, the Resilience & Community Officer, Kirstie Banks-Lyon and SM Matt Armstong and SM Kevin Warwick from the Fire Service.

2.2 In terms of anti-social behaviour data provided by both Lancashire Police and Lancaster City Council show that there has been a decrease in the number of ASB incidents reported over the last 12 months, however Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service are experiencing an increase in deliberate secondary fires, such as waste bins set alight and further analysis is required to look at the reasons behind this.

A very small cohort of young people caused some significant issues for the police where their behaviour escalated from minor ASB incidents to serious violence. Due to the strong partnership in place a stand-alone meeting of the CSP was convened to look at ways to look at ways to address this behaviour and reassure the local community and the elected members that represent those communities.

Looking towards threats to Lancaster District for 2023 and beyond there has been increases in other crime categories such as dwelling burglaries, robbery of both individuals and businesses and violent crime. The cost of living crisis and the loss of services during the Covid pandemic are both believed to be a contributing factor. Crime where bladed weapons such as knives are also on the increase. The police and Morecambe Town Council have succeeded in 'The Knife Angel' being displayed in the district in 2024. There is a corresponding education package that will be provided along side the visual display.

2.3 In terms of youth alcohol issues, a district wide Community Alcohol Partnership has been established. Coordinated test purchases have taken place and reassuringly there are only a handful of premises that fail such tests. If a premise does fail such a test then there is a further test purchase carried out. There is also a programme of work being undertaken with schools to provide bespoke education packages for 14-year olds as research has shown that this is a vulnerable time for that age group

2.4 The Suicide Prevention Action Plan has been developed to address the higher than average rates of suicide in the District. Again there has been a significant increase since April 2020 in young people experiencing mental health issues due to the lockdown. Work is ongoing with non-statutory partners to look at the infrastructure in the district and to see where action can be taken to help prevent these tragedies.

2.5 The Lancaster District PSPO was approved by Lancaster City Council in December 2021 following increasing complaints about various categories of ASB. Again in partnership with the local neighbourhood policing teams education has been the main focus rather than enforcement, however 2 Fixed Penalty Tickets have been issued for persistent breaches.

2.6 As reported to this committee in December 2021 surveys of residents in the district had indicated that the Bay Cycleway was a place where people did not feel safe particularly at night. There was also a disproportion in the number of women that considered it to be unsafe. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) is a relatively new workstream for the strategic pan-Lancashire CSP with a summit being chaired by the PCC and Chief Constable in December 2022 to coordinate an overarching framework and strategy to tackle this issue. As

a CSP funding has been secured for the installation of CCTV cameras on the Cycleway between Morecambe and Lancaster along with clearance of some branches of the tree canopy to allow for more effective lighting. This project will be in phases due to the scale but it is anticipated that work around the Millennium Bridge will commence this winter.

### 3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Despite the ongoing challenges since the Pandemic in March 2020 and now with the Cost of living Crisis, Lancaster District CSP continues to meet its statutory duty to implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder.

<p><b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>  <b>(including Health &amp; Safety, Equality &amp; Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):</b></p> <p>This report aims to provide a summary on the current position on community safety, programmes of work over the last twelve months and future priorities to keep the public safe.</p>	
<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>No legal implications</p>	
<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>The cost of monitoring and maintaining the CCTV cameras has been considered and an initial 3 year contract was included in the bid.</p>	
<p><b>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces</b></p> <p>No other implications</p>	
<p><b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>The S151 officer has been consulted and has no comments to make.</p>	
<p><b>MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b></p> <p>Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. It is within the Terms of Reference of this Committee to undertake those functions.</p>	
<p><b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b></p> <p>None</p>	<p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Kirstie Banks-Lyon  <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582860  <b>Email:</b> klyon@lancaster.gov.uk  <b>Ref:</b> N/A</p>