

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Wednesday 15th November 2023

Report of Chief Officer People and Policy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an update on current projects in 2023/2024 and future developments for 2024/2025 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 public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1.0 Introduction

The Partnership aims to:

(a) Develop joint strategies and actions to enhance the quality of life and health and well-being of people in the Lancaster District by:

- reducing crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour
- reducing the fear of crime
- working with other statutory agencies and partnerships.

(b) Analyse the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the Lancaster District in order to ensure that the strategy continues to be relevant and effective.

(c) Consult with a wide range of partners and residents in the community. The partnership consists of representatives from the statutory authorities (such as Lancaster City Council, Lancashire Police, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Health, Lancashire County Council) as well as representatives from community groups, local BID groups and elected members.

- 1.1 A Strategic Assessment is conducted every 3 years, with the last Strategic Assessment being produced for 2022-2025. This assessment is used to set the local priorities for Lancaster CSP.
- 1.2 Since the last report was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny the Serious Violence Duty came into force and amendments have been made to Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for CSP's.
- 1.3 In Lancashire, a VRN (Violence Reduction Network) had previously been established, and the VRN strategic needs assessment and strategy means that the whole of Lancashire has complied with the Serious Violence Duty.
- 1.4 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee in order to oversee the work of the CSP, and amendments made to legislation has added a third statutory local crime and disorder matter, namely serious violence. Appendix A is the Final Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance (December 2022)
- 1.5 The current priorities from the Strategic Needs Assessment are Domestic Abuse, Violence, Anti-Social Behaviour, Road Safety, Serious & Organised Crime and Exploitation (Criminal and Sexual) – Lancaster CSP has identified 3 areas to concentrate on, these being Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence and Road Safety.
- 1.6 The report will also review the Lancaster District PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) that was made in December 2021 and provide an update on different funding streams that have been used to address local issues.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 Since April 2023 the CSP has been aligned to the People and Policy, however the work of the CSP means that a close working relationship exists with other teams within the council, such as Environment and Place and Housing and Property.
- 2.2 Lancaster CSP meet formally 4 times a year and arrange other meetings if there is an emerging threat. Over the last 12 months a number of Sub- Groups have also been established. These include Lancaster CAP (Community Alcohol Partnership) and also a working group dedicated to anti-social behaviour.

Locally the CSP is supported by Kirstie Banks-Lyon who is the Resilience & Community Safety Officer, PS Lindsay Brown, the local partnerships sergeant and SM Matt Armstrong and SM Steve Chappell from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

The CSP officer, Kirstie Banks-Lyon attends a wide range of other partnership meetings that relate to the priorities identified by the CSP and also relating to the Serious Violence Duty.

- 2.3 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 continuing to experience an increase in deliberate secondary fires – this ranges from waste bins set alight to deliberate fires started in empty building such as

the former Ridge Lea Hospital, the Alex, and A1 SupaSkips.

- 2.4 In terms of the Serious Violence Duty there is a growing body of knowledge regarding the impact of violence and those most at risk of being a perpetrator and/or victim. The preventable nature of violence naturally lends itself to a public health approach and the work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network encompasses this. Serious violence is made up of the following crime types : - Homicide, Knife Crime, Gun Crime, Assault resulting in injury, rape, robbery, aggravated burglary, domestic abuse and violence, child exploitation (criminal and sexual.)

Data produced for the Lancaster District Needs Assessment shows that Lancaster District had the 5th highest rate of serious violence in Lancashire, with Lancaster City Centre having the highest volume within the district.

- 2.5 Over the last 12 months Lancaster CSP has secured external funding to address a number of issues that both residents and businesses across the district have highlighted as causing the community concern.

In Morecambe, focused on Poulton Ward a bid for £10000 was submitted to the Police Crime Commissioners Safer Neighbourhood Fund. Match funding has also been provided by Morecambe BID and this will enable the installation of additional CCTV cameras covering areas that have been identified as hot-spot locations for both incidents of antisocial behaviour and serious violence.

In Lancaster, the CSP working in partnership with West Lancashire CSP have been successful in securing a joint bid of £288000 to develop a bystander awareness training programme aimed at the student population and late-night economy in the district as well as additional CCTV cameras focusing on hotspot areas for violent offences.

In terms of other ongoing work, Operation Centurion has brought additional funding to the local police to provide additional patrols in antisocial hotspots; Operation Brightsparx has provided additional resources over the weekend of Bonfire night, funding has been provided for a joint advertising campaign with Lancashire Fire and Rescue and Lancaster City Council to highlight the dangers surrounding the charging of E-Scooters and Cycles and work is on-going with Lancaster and Morecambe College around some education about the dangers of speeding and safer driving tips to the students who attend the campus.

- 2.6 The Lancaster District PSPO was approved by Lancaster City Council in December 2021 following increasing complaints about various categories of ASB.

It is reassuring that the work undertaken by the local neighbourhood policing teams around education rather than enforcement has seen a decrease in the number of complaints received. Over the course of the last 12 months targeted work has been undertaken with the very small minority of individuals that continually breach the restrictions causing the residents of the district to feel unsafe.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Despite the ongoing challenges with the increased cost in living and the reduction in budgets across the public sector, Lancaster CSP continues to meet its statutory duty to implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT
(Including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety,
Sustainability and Rural Proofing):**

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.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No legal implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All the bids have been additional funding and have included the provision of ongoing maintenance and monitoring for the additional CCTV cameras.

**OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services,
Property, Open Spaces**

No other implications.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and can confirm that this Committee undertakes the functions of the Council's Crime & Disorder committee for the purposes of s19 of the Police and Justice Act

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Copy of the Final Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance (December 2022).

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