

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### Report of Alex Kinch, Chief Officer People & 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.**

**Note:** The report includes exempt appendices and the Committee would need to exclude the press and public if minded to discuss the information within the exempt appendices.

##### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **Receive and endorse the report noting the contribution made through the Community Safety Partnership.**
- (2) **To make any recommendations to the CSP that will enable Lancaster District to remain a safe place for our residents, businesses and visitors.**

##### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 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.

- 1.2 The Serious Violence Duty was introduced in December 2022 and was added as a third statutory local crime and disorder matter. The under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, which is the requirement of every local authority to have a Crime & Disorder Committee.
- 1.3 The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (VRN) has produced a strategy and a strategic needs assessment that means Lancaster District has complied with the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD). At a local level there is a SVD action plan which is reviewed quarterly by the specified authorities. (Police, Justice, Fire and Rescue, Health and Local Authorities)
- 1.4 The current priorities for Lancaster CSP are Anti-Social Behaviour, Violence, Road Safety and Suicide Prevention.
- 1.5 The Lancaster District Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) were renewed in October 2024 and is valid until October 2027. As part of the district wide consultation other issues were raised regarding the use of E-Scooters and E-bikes and this will form part of a further consultation in early 2025.

## **2.0 Details**

- 2.1 Although the CSP is aligned to the People & Policy Service there is a close working relationship with other Service areas in the council such as Environment & Place for issues across the public realm, Housing & Property, and Governance.
- 2.2 There has been recent changes to the Chair and Vice Chair of Lancaster District CSP with the roles now being held by Cllr Peter Jackson and GM Kirsty McCreesh (LFRS). There are 4 formal meetings a year. The SVD action plan is reviewed prior to the quarterly CSP meeting by the specified authorities. The work of the CSP is supported by Kirstie Banks-Lyon from the local authority and PS Lindsay Brown from Lancashire Police.
- 2.3 There are a number of other meetings that contribute to the work of the CSP. These include a fortnightly multi-agency meeting with the police, social housing providers, LFRS and representatives from different services within Lancaster City Council to look at issues that are impacting on our local communities. Operation Paragon is a recent operation initiated in response to an increase of anti-social behaviour by a few individuals in Lancaster City Centre and Morecambe Town Centre,
- 2.4 In terms of anti-social behaviour there has been a decrease seen in Poulton Ward in Morecambe due to additional funding from the Police Crime Commissioner for Operation Centurion but a slight increase in Lancaster City Centre. Incidents of deliberate secondary fires are still be seen in Lancaster City Centre and some empty buildings such as 'The Old Heron Works' and the site of the former Ridge Lea Hospital.
- 2.5 In terms of the Serious Violence Duty (This covers the following crime categories - Homicide, Knife Crime, Gun Crime, Assault resulting in injury, rape, robbery, aggravated burglary, domestic abuse and violence, child exploitation (criminal and

sexual.) an action plan has been produced. The latest District Needs Assessment produced by the VRN (Appendix A – not public) details a year on year increase in Knife Crime, Violence with Injury and Child Exploitation however the number of violent offences in Lancaster District is lower than the regional rate, The ward areas considered to have the most incidents of serious violence correlate with Lancaster City Centre, Morecambe Town Centre and the West End of Morecambe. In terms of the estimated cost of serious violence Lancaster District has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest cost.

- 2.6 Over the last 12 months Lancaster CSP secured £10000 of funding from the Police Crime Commissioner to develop a bystander awareness programme in partnership with Lancaster University. There has been a number of introductory workshops held and the feedback from these workshops will inform the next phase of the programme.
- 2.7 The Lancaster District PSPO was extended for a further 3 years in October 2024 and continues to be enforced through early intervention and education by the police and other stakeholders.

### 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):**

An impact assessment has been carried out with no issues identified.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The report is compliant with section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 which states that every local authority shall ensure that it has a committee with power:-

- (a) 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;
- (b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications, any initiatives are paid for by external funding.

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

No other implications.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The s151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

## **MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be acting in its capacity as the City Council's designated crime and disorder committee in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 and Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

Under the 2009 Regulations the Committee has to meet 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 as the committee considers appropriate but no less than once in every twelve month period. They can also make reports or recommendations to a responsible authority and any responses should be in writing to the Committee within a 28 day period.

The "responsible authorities" means the bodies and persons who are responsible authorities within the meaning given by section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (authorities responsible for crime and disorder strategies) in relation to the local authority's area.

In the case of a Lancaster City Council (who operates executive arrangements), the crime and disorder committee is to be an overview and scrutiny committee of the authority and report or recommendations to the local authority is to be a report or recommendations to the local authority or the executive.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

District Needs Assessment Lancaster District  
(not for public)  
Police Analyst Report not for public)

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