

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Wednesday 19th November 2025

Report of Alex Kinch, Chief Officer People & Policy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on the strategic priorities and activities of the Lancaster District Community Safety Partnership (CSP), in accordance with statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Serious Violence Duty introduced by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The CSP continues to work collaboratively across agencies to reduce crime, protect vulnerable individuals, and promote community wellbeing.

Whilst this report is public, the appendix is confidential, and notice is hereby given that the meeting is likely to move into private session if it is necessary to refer to the confidential appendix.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the progress made against CSP priorities.
- (2) To make any recommendations to the CSP that will continue to enable Lancaster District to remain a safe place for our residents, businesses and visitors.

1 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 Under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, local authorities are required to work in partnership with police, health services, probation, and other agencies to formulate and implement strategies to reduce crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.

The Serious Violence Duty (SVD), introduced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, places a statutory obligation on specified authorities to work collaboratively to prevent and reduce serious violence. This includes sharing data, conducting strategic needs assessments, and developing evidence-based strategies. The duty marks a significant shift toward public health approaches to violence reduction and requires robust multi-agency coordination. Section 17A of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local authorities to share information of a prescribed description and in accordance with the Crime and Disorder (Prescribed Regulations 2007 which typically involves depersonalised data, but the SVD allows for a broader data sharing where lawful and appropriate. This is a significant change in how public bodies address violence, and utilisation of a collaborative, data driven and preventative approach this helps to offer opportunities to reduce harm and improve community safety.

- 1.2 The current priorities for Lancaster CSP are domestic abuse, violence, anti-social behaviour, road safety, serious and organised crime and exploitation (Criminal and Sexual).

2. Details

- 2.1 Lancaster CSP (Community Safety Partnership) collaborates closely with all council services across Lancaster City Council to ensure a unified and effective approach to community wellbeing and safety.

By working in partnership with officers in Environment & Place, Housing & Property and Planning & Climate Change, Lancaster CSP helps coordinate multi agency meetings that seek to address local priorities, such as anti-social behaviour and areas that have been identified as feeling less safe for the women and girls that live in Lancaster District. This integrated effort strengthens the council's ability to deliver responsive, joined-up services that make Lancaster a safer and more supportive place for everyone.

- 2.2 Lancaster Community Safety Partnership (CSP) holds quarterly meetings that bring together statutory partners, such as the police, fire service, and local authority departments, the local business community in Lancaster and Morecambe, and representatives from the faith and voluntary sector organisations committed to improving community safety across the district. These meetings are primarily held in person to foster collaboration and relationship-building, but a hybrid approach is available to ensure inclusivity and flexibility for those unable to attend physically. At these meetings there are opportunities for presentations to be given around the priorities for example around improving road safety which is led by Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, Lancaster CSP convenes a separate, dedicated meeting focused specifically on the Serious Violence Duty action plan. This targeted forum allows partners to review progress, and coordinate efforts to address serious violence in the community.

- 2.3 The CSP Coordinator arranges multi-agency meetings that serve as a forum for tackling complex community safety issues, including antisocial behaviour hotspots, empty buildings at risk of fire, and street homelessness. These meetings bring together key partners from different departments in the council, neighbourhood police teams, local officers from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and representatives from other housing providers to share intelligence, coordinate interventions, and agree on joint actions. To streamline communication and reduce delays, the local authority hosts dedicated Microsoft Teams channels that partners can access at any time. These channels contain up-to-date information, allowing agencies to collaborate efficiently without relying on email chains or waiting for responses. This digital infrastructure supports real-time problem-solving and ensures that all partners are working from the same page.
- 2.4 Lancaster Community Safety Partnership (CSP) holds a statutory responsibility to coordinate Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) when a death occurs as a result of domestic violence, abuse, or neglect. This involves bringing together relevant agencies—such as police, health services, social care, and specialist domestic abuse organisations—to examine the circumstances leading up to the incident. The aim of a DHR is not to apportion blame, but to identify lessons that can improve future safeguarding and prevent further tragedies. Lancaster CSP oversees the commissioning of independent reviewers, facilitates multi-agency cooperation, and ensures that findings and recommendations are shared with local and national partners to drive systemic change. There is currently a DHR being undertaken in the district, which is anticipated to take the next 12 months, and an update will be provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in due course.
- 2.5 Lancashire Police's Genga model works in close collaboration with Lancaster CSP, to tackle serious and organised crime through a multi-agency approach.

The Genga model, developed by Lancashire Police, is a partnership framework designed to disrupt serious and organised crime by aligning efforts across agencies. It brings together police, local authorities, and agencies such as Immigration VOSA and Trading Standards to share intelligence and coordinate joint activity.

A key strength of the Genga model is its emphasis on early identification and safeguarding. By pooling information from various partners, patterns of criminal activity can be identified, such as county lines, human trafficking, and exploitation—and action taken to protect individuals and communities.

This collaborative structure also supports the delivery of the Serious Violence Duty, enabling Lancaster CSP to align its action plans with intelligence from Genga meetings.

- 2.6 Operation Centurion is Lancashire Police's county-wide initiative to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), combining high-visibility enforcement with strong partnership working to make communities safer.

Launched in July 2023, Operation Centurion is a proactive campaign led by Lancashire Constabulary and supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner. It focuses on reducing anti-social behaviour through a combination of targeted policing, civil enforcement, and community engagement. The operation has delivered significant results: over the past year, police have made more than 3,500 arrests, issued over 900 civil orders, and seized hundreds of nuisance vehicles, including e-bikes and quads involved in anti-social driving.

Operation Centurion activity takes place in identified areas of Lancaster and Morecambe, and these areas benefit from additional foot patrols.

These patrols are intelligence-led and focus on areas where residents have reported persistent issues such as vandalism, drug-related activity, and public nuisance.

The initiative aligns closely with Lancaster CSP's priorities, particularly in addressing anti-social behaviour. At a local level Operation Paragon has been introduced to target issues with persistent street drinkers in the areas covered by a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order). Individuals causing the most harm are identified in multi-agency meetings and RAG rated. The most troublesome are then issued with civil notices to deter them from continuing to drink and act in an anti-social manner. Initially a Community Protection warning is issued, in the last year 53 such warnings were issued of which 19 progressed to Community Protection Notices. Individuals who then continue to breach the PSPO and are involved in criminality are ultimately brought before the courts for consideration of being made subject of a CBO (Criminal Behaviour Order) – in the last year 8 CBO's have been obtained against the most prolific offenders. Another 2 were subject to Civil Injunctions. This illustrates well the progressive and proportionate nature of Neighbourhood Policing in the district.

In the last 12 months (1st October 2024 – 30th September 2025) there has been an 8% increase in the total number of ASB incidents recorded by the police. This equates to an additional 331 incidents in a 12-month period. 15.8% of the incidents are in Castle Ward which covers Lancaster City Centre, and 10.4% of the incidents in Poulton Ward which covers Morecambe Town Centre. 879 of 4632 (18.9%) of ASB across the district was youth related ASB incidents. This is stable in proportion compared to the previous year (01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024) when 808 of 4301 (18.8%) of ASB was youth related. 383 of 4632 (8.2%) of ASB across the district was alcohol related ASB incidents.

This is a 1.3% decrease in proportion compared to the previous year (01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024) when 406 of 4301 (9.5%) of ASB was alcohol related.

- 2.7 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 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 4th highest cost.

In 2024 the serious violence committed within Lancaster District cost and estimated £40,433,850 which equates to 9% of the total cost of serious violence in Lancashire.

- 2.8 Over the last 12 months Lancaster CSP has been successful with a funding application to the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that has enabled upgrades to the Community Radio Scheme in Lancaster. Building on this success, a new application is currently being developed to support a similar initiative in Morecambe. The community radio schemes are used during the day by local businesses and a night with licensed premises. In addition to these efforts, support has also been extended to other youth-focused organisations through the PCC's Summer Fund, including Escape2Make, Lancaster Boxing CIC, and Lancashire Youth Challenge—each delivering creative, physical, and developmental opportunities that foster resilience, confidence, and community cohesion among young people across the district.

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

There are no legal implications stemming from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Lancaster CSP is a long-established partnership and all costs incurred through the partnership are fully covered 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 comments to add.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 provides that every local authority should ensure that it has a 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. This is the responsibility of this Committee under the Constitution and report provides the Committee with the opportunity to discharge that function.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Exempt.

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