

INFORMATION NOTE

Fylde Community Safety Partnership



Information

1. The Partnership, its priorities and funding position

1.1 The Statutory Partners in Fylde CSP comprise:

Fylde Council

Lancashire County Council (including Public Health)

Lancashire Constabulary

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Groups

Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service

The above named partners are also referred to as 'responsible authorities'.

There are additional partners who participate but are not statutorily obligated to do so, such as representatives from the Police and Crime Commissioners' Office and the voluntary sector.

The Fylde Community Safety Partnership's overarching aim is:

"To promote community safety, reduce levels of crime, disorder and road casualties, as well as improving the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit the Borough of Fylde." The Partnership is statutory in nature and its partners are obligated to participate.

Fylde Council is a lead partner in that it co-ordinates activity and administration within the Partnership.

The public perception of crime and disorder, based on the Living in Lancashire survey shows that 81% of respondents feel the level of crime in Fylde is better than other areas of Lancashire and anti-social behaviour and road safety are the most common issues highlighted by the public in the survey.

1.2. Strategic Assessment

It is a statutory requirement to conduct a 'Strategic Assessment' within all Community Safety Partnership Districts with all partners contributing to identify priorities. For 2016 the current priorities of the CSP have been identified, developed and analysed with any potential threats at both County and a local level. The assessment determines the priorities for the next three years with annual reviews. Current priorities have identified domestic abuse; improving road safety; reducing reoffending; countering substance misuse and countering anti-social behaviour. Additionally there are Lancashire wide priorities which include child sexual exploitation and victim vulnerability and these are highlighted through the inappropriate use of social media where contact is made via Facebook, snapchat and ooVoo in particular.

1.3 Partnership Financial Position

Income

The Partnership is funded by a variety of funding streams including residual monies passed to it by the former Local Strategic Partnership. In 2015/16 the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Grant provided £11,000 along with further contributions from the Fire Service and LANPAC – (The

Lancashire Partnership Against Crime). At the opening of the 2015/16 financial year its balances stood at £52,815. With the additional grant of £11,000 provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner, a contribution from Lancashire Fire and Rescue of £7,852 and £1,000 from LANPAC to contribute towards a crime prevention initiative, the total income reached £72,667. Additionally, Fylde Council provide a budget for both Capital and Revenue for the provision of all CCTV coverage throughout Fylde which includes the annual commitment to Wyre for the monitoring service provided for our town centre cameras.

1.4 Expenditure

Major expenditure:-

- ❑ A CCTV Camera for Hope Street Park (LFRS Donation)
- ❑ Twelve month provision of Diversionary Activities for Young People
- ❑ Positive Pathways activities for ex-offenders

Successful and Ongoing Initiatives and Activities:

- ❑ Multi-agency and partner operations to address violent crime, domestic violence, criminal damage and acquisitive crime and joint alcohol proxy sales operations with Trading Standards
- ❑ Equipment contributions to Community Payback
- ❑ LANPAC Membership Fee
- ❑ Crime Prevention Signage
- ❑ Fylde Dog Watch Campaign
- ❑ Graffiti removal at church in Freckleton
- ❑ Road Safety Banners
- ❑ Cycle locks and cycle coding
- ❑ Locally distributed crime prevention literature
- ❑ Information Sharing Training
- ❑ Contribution to Domestic Abuse Campaign.
- ❑ Attendance at a Community Safety Seminar
- ❑ A contribution towards a full day Domestic Abuse awareness raising event (Chelsey's Choice)
- ❑ Cycling Flashing/Reflective Armbands
- ❑ Contribution to lighting at Kirkham Multi Games Use Area
- ❑ Taxi Driver Handbooks
- ❑ Fly tipping signage

All initiatives undertaken by the community safety partnership have been successful and have contributed significantly to the overall low levels of crime and disorder in the Borough. Partnership success is also due to the continuing commitment of partners despite the effects of austerity and the most significant challenge to the partnership is how to address all public concerns and perceptions regarding crime and anti-social behaviour with ever reducing resources. Despite all this, there has been

significant containment and all crime during 2015/16 increased fractionally with both Police and Council recorded anti-social behaviour reducing further.

2. Performance overview

During 2015/16, Fylde Community Safety Partnership continued to maintain the Fylde District as the second 'safest' place in the County, with low crime levels. There were further excellent results and some fine examples of outstanding partnership working, once again delivering good value for money.

Several multi-agency initiatives have been delivered throughout the year with Fylde Council Departments taking an active part. There have been some ground breaking initiatives which have been delivered, supported by financial resources from the CSP and other agencies. Some notable examples include Diversionary Activities which have run throughout the year to focus on dealing with youth related anti-social behaviour and an initiative aimed at Domestic Abuse which ran during the Christmas and New Year period. There have also been multi-agency initiatives to target burglary, shop lifting, thefts, and fly tipping.

In addition to the work undertaken by the CSP and its partners, it is worth noting some related groups that exist within the Borough which are linked to the CSP. One group concentrates on prolific and priority offenders and future prison date releases; another looks at instances of domestic abuse and work done to counter this; there is a restorative justice panel which has regular panel meetings to try and reach amicable solutions between victims and offenders and much work has been done in the last year on an approach to Early Action and Intervention which is a multi-agency approach to support troubled and vulnerable families and individuals across the Fylde. .

3. Crime Statistics

3.1 All Crime

Between April 2014 and March 2015 there were a total of 3,043 crimes recorded in Fylde. In the year April 2015 to March 2016 this figure had increased to 3,161 crimes, representing a 3.9% increase or 118 more crimes. There have been decreases in domestic burglary in a dwelling with 16 fewer burglaries than the previous year which were recorded at 181. There were 42 fewer criminal damage and arson offences producing a 8.0% decrease and vehicle offences reduced by 12.3% or 31 fewer recorded crimes. Bicycle theft also decreased by 23.0% or 26 fewer crimes. Shoplifting decreased by 12.6% a reduction of 42 from the previous year.

High Impact Acquisitive Crime in Fylde fell from 188 crimes to 172, a decrease of 8.5%

3.2 Violent Crime

Violent crime continues to remain a priority. There has been a slight rise in violent crime with a marginal increase of 3.8 per cent which equates to 23 more crimes.

Offences of Violence with Injury have shown an increase which is mainly due to new counting rules from the Home Office. Third party reporting where a witness sees an assault and reports it to the Police is recorded as a crime irrespective of whether the victim reports it himself.

3.3 Victim Based Crime

All Victim based crime in Fylde produced a 3.9% increase or 118 more crimes.

Theft offending occurs across the whole district in Fylde and not disproportionately in any area. It has been recognised that the area suffers from travelling criminals with a very high proportion of offences occur as a result of property being left insecure, particularly garages, garden sheds and motor vehicles.

The most significant increase is 'Violence against the Person' which has recorded a 38.2% increase or an increase of 242 crimes on the year 2014 to 2015 which are explained in the previous paragraph.

4. Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Crime increased in the period April 2015 to March 2016 by 4.5% totalling 277 Crimes compared to 265 the previous year. The reporting of domestic abuse is continually encouraged.

The definition of domestic abuse is 'any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults 16 years or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

Overall, high risk victims of domestic abuse have increased in Fylde in terms of the numbers of offences recorded and as a proportion of the total crime in Fylde, however these numbers are relatively low in comparison. It is believed that this increase has been of a result of a continued drive to encourage victims to report recognising that there has previously been an under-reporting of domestic related crime.

In common with other Council's, a 'MARAC' exists to consider domestic abuse. This as a 'multi-agency risk assessment conference' and it meets monthly to discuss the victims of domestic abuse deemed to be at a high risk of harm with an aim to reduce the risk to the victims or their immediate families. Part of the work involves specialist workers having close links with victims of domestic violence and protective interventions as necessary. The number of cases referred in averages less than ten per month. Specialist domestic violence courts located within Blackpool deal with the more extreme cases.

Following a commissioning exercise undertaken in 2014, the service provider in Fylde are a company called 'Let Go' and their contract has now been extended to March 2017

The voluntary sector - Fylde Coast Women's Aid also continues to provide an excellent service and delivers a range of services to advise, educate and support families. The Group does much work within the education sector and a notable success within the last year has been a project running at the Lytham St Annes High School exploring healthy relationships. A drama production called Tough Love was seen by over two hundred representatives from partner agencies which touched on both domestic abuse and child exploitation. A funding application made to the CSP to enable FCWA to develop opportunities for seeking independent grants and resources was approved using some of the grant awarded to the CSP by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It is a mandatory responsibility placed on the Community Safety Partnership to conduct a 'Domestic Homicide Review' where a fatality occurs when there are two or more people aged 16 years or older and living together in a close relationship.

5. Road Safety

The last two years have experienced an increase in KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) casualties. The trend in KSI casualties is mirrored by the casualty records for pedal cyclists, 65+ year olds and to a lesser extent by 0 to 15 year olds. The criminal use of road networks and ASB on roads also presents road safety issues, targeting of which can have a positive impact on collisions.

Operation Wheels was created in Fylde to address road safety awareness amongst school children and the community road watch and speed indicator devices have been put to good use.

There is now a partnership between Lancaster Wyre and Fylde along with the Police and Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. A dedicated Road Safety analyst provides data for each locality which is useful in determining where additional preventative resources can be directed.

These are increases currently being experienced nationally.

Most recently a fatal road traffic collision occurred in St Annes involving an eighteen year pedestrian and a motor vehicle

6. Areas of focus and the work of the Community Safety Partnership

6.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) and initiatives aimed at reducing it continue to be a priority for the Partnership. Each month a number of partners come together to consider the reported ASB issues arising across a number of areas, including personal, nuisance and environmental issues. Discussions within this group also focus on individuals who are high risk victims of anti-social behaviour and actions can be taken by agencies to reduce or eliminate this risk. The process known as ASBRAC (Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference) is chaired by the Community Safety Officer prior to the Early Action Cases.

The introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act in 2014 has provided the victims of Anti-social behaviour with a number of measures which can be implemented by the Council, Police and Housing Providers to address the behaviour of perpetrators. It also provides the victims with the opportunity to invoke the 'Community Trigger' where they feel that agencies are not dealing with their complaints of ASB.

In 2015 a successful use of the new powers enabled the Police and the Council to enforce a house 'Closure Order' on a property of multi occupancy where the residents were causing severe anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood.

The numbers of ASB incidents recorded by the police have continued to show reductions and in the year 2015 to 2016 recorded ASB decreased by 2.9% and the total number recorded fell from 2,640 complaints in 2014/15 to 2,563 in 2015/16. This is currently the second lowest recorded District rate in Lancashire.

The areas with the most ASB continue to be Central and Ashton Wards which account for almost 25% of all Police recorded ASB in Fylde. The area with the least recorded number of ASB issues arising is the Elswick and Little Eccleston Ward which was a 33% reduction on the previous year.

Additionally, Fylde Council reported ASB has also shown a year end decrease on the previous year despite an overall increase in the numbers of fly-tipping incidents and an increase in the reports of noise nuisance and reports of stray dogs. The Council continues to work with other agencies and colleagues within neighbouring local authorities to identify those individuals who are fly-tipping. Fylde are represented at the Lancashire fly tipping forum and measures are now in place to implement a campaign to deter fly tipping across the Borough in conjunction with the Environmental Health Department in which Community Safety now sits.

6.2 Substance Misuse

Drugs

The misuse of drugs is still less of a threat in Fylde than most other parts of Lancashire and drugs offences during the period April 2015 to March 2016 showed a slight increase from 78 in 2014/15 to 81 - a 3.8% increase.

It is, however, noteworthy, that in line with the rest of Lancashire that there appears to be a change in the substance of choice – from Class A drugs to cannabis and psychoactive substances (legal highs)

Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) are the commissioned service provider in Fylde. They provide a range of services to Fylde's drug clients with both alcohol and drug problems. Young Addaction have been re-commissioned as not only the Fylde service provider but for the whole of Lancashire where some of the work undertaken in Fylde has been highlighted. Overall responsibility for Substance Misuse in Lancashire is the responsibility of Lancashire Public Health.

Alcohol

Fylde CSP has Alcohol misuse as a priority area. However, Public Health have now developed a strategy which will subsequently address most of the concerns especially amongst young people who tend to 'experiment' with alcohol.

The Action Plan for Fylde is constantly reviewed and updated to address the issues which directly concern the people of Fylde. Resources will be aimed at the Health, Wellbeing and Safety of all age groups within Fylde.

Alcohol related crime increased by 10.8% or 34 crimes during the past year.

Local group meetings are attended by Fylde Council Community Safety, FBC Licensing, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, NHS North Lancs. Public Health, CRS, Young Addaction, Help Direct, Lancashire Young Peoples Services and other service providers.

Several initiatives including the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service 'Wasted Lives' continue to be presented within schools in Fylde.

6.3 Fire Safety

Lancashire Fire and Rescue contributed funds to upgrade CCTV in the Hope Street Park following an arson attack on the Bowling Pavilion earlier in 2015.

Due to the success of the Caravan Watch project carried out in conjunction with several agencies, a network of vulnerable community groups was identified in Fylde. Agencies were interested in continuing the good work again this year and visits were carried out each month until October, 2015. Agencies included comprise of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Constabulary, NHS Integrated Care, Age UK, Help Direct, N-Compass, Silver-line, and Fylde Council, who all have an interest in these vulnerable communities and referrals have been taken to sign post any concerns to other agencies.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue have recently made a significant financial contribution towards a CCTV system in a local park following an arson investigation which caused substantial damage to the bowling pavilion.

LFRS are an integral member of the Lancaster Wyre and Fylde Road Safety Partnership and actively promote road safety in the community, ranging from initiatives in schools to speeding motorists.

6.4 Cumbria & Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company and National Probation Service

The National Probation Service was set up on 1 June 2014, and is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community. Nationally, NPS work in partnership with 21 community rehabilitation companies (CRCs) that manage low and medium risk offenders. They also work in partnership with the courts, police, and community safety partnerships and with private and voluntary sector partners in order to manage offenders safely and effectively.

Together, the NPS and the CRCs have replaced the former 35 probation trusts and they are responsible for:

- Preparing pre-sentence reports for courts, to help them select the most appropriate sentence
- Managing approved premises for offenders with a residence requirement on their sentence
- Assessing offenders in prison to prepare them for release on licence to the community, when they will come under our supervision
- Helping all offenders serving sentences in the community to meet the requirements ordered by the courts
- Communicating with and prioritising the wellbeing of victims of serious sexual and violent offences, when the offender has received a prison sentence of 12 months or more, or is detained as a mental health patient.
- The new Rehabilitation Activity Requirement (RAP) Orders are popular with the courts as they can give the service user a prescribed number of activity days and guidance by the National Probation Service.

Additionally, and working within the CRC's, are 'Community Payback' who provide supervised unpaid work across the Fylde. There is currently a local agreement to provide two full days work per month on a programme of nominated projects.

6.5 Police and Crime Commissioner

Although the office of PCC is a non-statutory partner, the PCC has been keen to continue involvement with the CSP's and sends a representative to CSP meetings.

The PCC holds regular meetings with Council Portfolio Holders and Community Safety Managers. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act put in place a flexible framework for partnership working between the PCC and community safety partners. Whilst having regard to cross border and national issues, PCC's work effectively with other local leaders to prioritise resources to suit local needs and priorities.

The PCC has responsibility for:

- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force
- Setting out a 5 year Police and Crime Plan(in consultation with the Chief Constable)

Determining local policing priorities. Setting the annual local precept and annual force precept and annual force budget

- Making community safety grants to other organisations aside from the Chief Constable (including, but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships)
- The PCC'S Community Action Fund. Fylde has directly benefited from this fund.

The PCC has a budget which currently includes the policing grant from the Home Office, various other grants include the Drugs Interventions Programme funding and funds raised through the local authority precepts in the Lancashire force area.

PCCs are not a 'responsible authority' on Community Safety Partnerships, however, they are an influential and valued partner. There is a reciprocal duty for PCCs and responsible authorities to cooperate with each other and have regard to each other's priorities for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder, including ASB, reducing reoffending and reducing substance misuse. PCCs are also able

to require a report from a CSP where they are not content that a CSP is not carrying out their duties effectively and efficiently.

Following the re-election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the grant to the CSP for 2016/17 will continue in the sum of £10,000

7. Emerging Issues

During 2015, further statutory responsibilities have been placed on both local authorities and the responsible authorities in regard to Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking and the Prevent Strategy of the Counter Terrorism Act 2015. Commencing with all Fylde Council staff and members, it is planned to raise awareness amongst our communities about these issues and threats to our overall safety and vulnerabilities.

8. Risk Assessment

Strategic decision making in regard to Community Safety is the responsibility of the Lancashire and Unitary Chief Executives and there is acknowledgment that the landscape of how all partners and agencies work together is continually undergoing change. Following the introduction of 'Area Community Safety Steering Groups' which are based on the same footprint as the three Policing Divisions, this has effectively brought Lancaster, Wyre, Blackpool and Fylde together as a strategic group. This has not had an impact on the local Community Safety Partnerships who have either merged or disbanded as they deliver locally led initiatives to address local problems.

Local CSPs are regarded as 'delivery' groups and concentrate on local issues for local people. Much of this work is actioned through the monthly held 'Tasking and Co-ordinating' group.

Despite several changes in personnel and officer attendance during the past twelve months by partner agencies, it is evident that they are still committed to the Community Safety Partnership. Last year, there were a number of new partnerships formed which have continued to make a significant contribution towards overall community safety within the District. Success with these new partnerships has included the partnership with Wyre Council to control and manage 14 of our CCTV cameras. A tremendous amount of excellent work has been undertaken with the Fylde Foodbank; the Wyre and Fylde Disability Partnership; Neighbourhood Watch and Dementia Friends.

9. Conclusion

Fylde Community Safety Partnership is a successful and strong partnership which produces good results, with examples of excellent partnership working and good value for money.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

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