



INFORMATION NOTE

FYLDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

1. The Partnership, its priorities and funding position

1.1 Statutory Partners in Fylde CSP comprise:

Fylde Council

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire Constabulary

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

Public Health including 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 Commissioner's 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 the lead partner in terms of the administration within the Fylde Community Safety Partnership together with budget coordination.

1.2. Strategic Assessment

It is a statutory requirement for the Community Safety Partnership partners to identify key issues facing the Partnership based on an evidence base. The issues facing the Fylde CSP for 2019/20 were domestic abuse; improving road safety; reducing reoffending; countering substance misuse and countering anti-social behaviour. So, some extent these mirror the issues identified in the 2019-2022 Lancashire Community Safety Agreement of violence against the person, domestic abuse, sexual offences, exploitation and road safety.

A local priority reassessment exercise took place in 2017 which was used to determine the Fylde CSP priorities until 2019. A reassessment exercise was organised to take place with several CSP partners in March 2020 to review issues facing the Partnership and re-set its priorities as necessary considering this. However, with the advent of the pandemic this has been postponed and it is hoped it can be re-scheduled for the latter end of 2020. Considering this, the existing priorities of the Partnership have remained unchanged.

1.3 Partnership Financial Position

Income

Funding available to the Partnership is limited. It holds residual funding passed to it by the former Local Strategic Partnership which currently stands at £13k. In 2019/20, the Partnership was also awarded £10,000 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety grant. Bids from partners were invited to expend this grant and awards passed on as follows:

Fylde Refuge Refurbishment

Fylde Outreach Activities

FCWA - Covert Equipment

Fylde Mentoring and Integration Project

Additionally, Fylde Council provide a budget for a monitored town centre CCTV system which operates in Kirkham, Lytham and St. Annes. Wyre Council monitors the cameras on behalf of Fylde Council through its CCTV suite located at the Civic Offices in Poulton. The system has the ability to capture crime taking place and acting in response to suspicious behaviour.

Funding was also sought for a graffiti action day during the year, and although not forthcoming in 2019/20, it is proposed to put this forward for reconsideration in 2020/21. Working with the Probation Service through its community payback programme has allowed some support with graffiti removal. There is currently a local agreement to provide two full days unpaid work per month on a programme of nominated projects, although the pandemic has put a stop to this for the time being.

Major expenditure: -

- CCTV monitored town centre systems in Kirkham, Lytham and St Annes
- Fylde Coast Women's Aid – Refuge Refurbishment costs contribution
- Fylde Outreach activities coordinated by Fylde Council's Sports Development Officer
- Covert equipment – Fylde Coast Women's Aid
- Fylde Mentoring and Integration Project

During 2019/20 Fylde Community Safety Partnership, at the latter end of the year, was affected by the onset of COVID-19 and the measures which were introduced to curb its spread. Whilst the partners have not come together formally in partnership meetings, there has been strong partnership working to respond to the challenges faced by the pandemic.

2. Crime Statistics

	2018/19	2019/20	Numerical change	Percentage change
All crime	5555	4659	-896	-16%
Violence against the person	2134	1846	-288	-13%
Assaults	1741	1560	-181	-10%
Sexual offences	205	158	-47	-23%
Rape	56	44	-12	-21%
Vehicle offences	257	240	-17	-7%
Theft from vehicle	174	185	+11	+6%
Vehicle taking	45	4	-41	-91%
All robbery	15	24	+9	+60%
All Burglary	444	381	-63	-14%
Burglary (residential)	277	261	-16	-6%
Burglary (business & community)	167	120	-47	-28%
Shoplifting	266	301	+35	+13%
Criminal damage & arson	657	541	-116	-18%
Domestic abuse	718	642	-76	-11%
Victim based crime	4840	4129	-711	-15%
Anti-Social Behaviour	1735	1930	+195	+11%

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

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

The reduction of anti-social behaviour (ASB) in our communities continues to be a priority for the Partnership. Each month several partners come together to consider the reported ASB issues arising across a range of areas, including personal, nuisance, street beggars 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 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act in 2014 has provided the victims of Anti-social behaviour with several 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 a Community Trigger where they feel that agencies are not dealing with their complaints of ASB. During the year, one such trigger was invoked by a member of the public who was not satisfied in the way that the respective partners had responded to a given issue. The review upheld that the partners had acted appropriately.

The Council issued Community Protection Warnings and Notices throughout the year covering a range of anti-social activities including street begging.

3.2 Substance Misuse

Drugs

The misuse of drugs remains a relatively low threat in Fylde compared to most other parts of Lancashire. There continues to be a change in the substance of choice – from Class A drugs to cannabis and psychoactive substances (legal highs) The use of ‘Spice’ has been highlighted as a potential risk due to its availability and low cost.

Alcohol

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

Licensing conditions stipulate that pub landlords attend a regular ‘Pubwatch’ meeting which provides a wealth of information to them. A monthly report highlights which licensed premises have recorded crimes on or adjacent to their premises and any significant incidents are brought to the attention of the Partnership.

3.3 Fire Safety

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) report that Fylde remains an area which is not a cause for concern but remains an area of review for the partnership.

Community Fire Safety Practitioners provide a programme of education and awareness to the community and there continue to be fire awareness sessions such as the ESCAYPS course which accepts young person referrals who receive a 5-week structured programme of fire awareness education.

The Fire service continue to provide Home Fire Safety Checks for the vulnerable and community work has become a vital part of the service provided by LFRS.

BBQ’s in public open spaces have raised several concerns from members of the public and there is now a BBQ ban across the coastal strip. Lancashire Fire and Rescue has supported Fylde Council in raising awareness of the ban and providing information to the public.

3.4 Domestic abuse

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 remained reasonably stable 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 is as a result of a continued drive to encourage victims to report abuse

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 monthly 'multi-agency risk assessment conference' and it meets 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 the service re-commissioning undertaken in early 2017, the service provision across Lancashire and in Fylde falls under Lancashire Victims Services and Fylde Council make an annual contribution towards the Domestic Abuse service.

The voluntary sector through 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 schools. A funding contribution made by the CSP to enable FCWA to work with the Police on a project over the Christmas period provided reassurance to all victims of sexual abuse.

It is a mandatory responsibility placed on the Community Safety Partnership to conduct a 'Domestic Homicide Review' (DHR) where a fatality occurs when there are two or more people aged 16 years or older and living together in a close relationship. To date there has been no such fatalities within the Fylde area.

3.5 Police and Crime Commissioner and knife crime

The office of the PCC is a non-statutory partner in the CSP, but the PCC has been keen to continue involvement with the CSP's and sends a representative to CSP meetings. Knife crime has become a key priority for the PCC as Lancashire was in the top five areas in the UK for knife crime. Regular updates are provided to the CSP on this initiative.

The PCC also holds regular meetings with Council representatives on the Police and Crime Panel whose role it is to hold the Commissioner to account for his actions.

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
- Providing community safety grants

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 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) 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 along with helping the most vulnerable members of our communities. PCCs are also able to request a report from a CSP where they believe that a CSP is failing to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently. The CSP has had a very productive relationship with the Office of the PCC throughout the year with several projects within Fylde successfully funded via the PCC.

4. Emerging Issues

During 2019/20, counter terrorism staff visited the council with a view to refreshing prevent training for the council and its CSP partners. The area hosts several large-scale events which present potential threats.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed on unprecedented demand on the partners which comprise the CSP, which will continue to have to significant impact in 2020/21.

ASB also has a detrimental effect on the street-scene of the Borough with on-going issues with grattifti and street begging as examples.

5. Conclusion

Despite increases in crime and a reduction in anti-social behaviour, Fylde Community Safety Partnership can still claim to be a successful and strong partnership which supports partnership working in minimising how crime and disorder impacts on our communities. With one of the lowest crime rates in Lancashire, Fylde remains a safe place in which to live, work and visit.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

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