

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 (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 (formerly Probation Trust)

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

Additional partners 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."

1.2. Strategic Assessment

A Strategic Assessment is carried out each year with partners in the CSP to determine the priorities for the next three years with annual reviews. Previous priorities have identified domestic abuse; improving road safety; reducing reoffending; countering substance misuse and countering anti-social behaviour.

1.3 Partnership Financial Position

Income

The Partnership is funded from a variety of sources including residual funds from the Local Strategic Partnership. In 2014/15 the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Grant provided funds working in collaboration with Wyre Council on its CCTV project. Contributions were also made by the CCG and Public Health. At the start of the 2014/15 financial year balances stood at £58,139 with a further grant of £12,000 provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner and £500 from LANPAC towards a crime prevention initiative. Fylde Council provide a budget for both Capital and Revenue for the provision of all CCTV coverage throughout Fylde.

1.4 Expenditure

Major expenditure:

- A £28,000 investment in CCTV equipment installed in the Wyre Council CCTV Studio to monitor provision of cameras in Fylde.

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
- A contribution towards the provision and distribution of information booklets on Child Sexual

Exploitation to High School Students

- Funding a Neighbourhood Watch Event at Ashton Pavilion
- Purse Bells to help eliminate pick pocketing
- Joint Police and Trading Standards Licensing Operations
- Road Safety Banners
- Cycle locks and cycle coding
- Locally distributed crime prevention literature
- Anti-social Behaviour training
- Activities for young people with the Sports Development Team during the summer holidays to improve engagement with young people and act as a deterrent in crime and disorder.
- Attendance at a Child Sexual Exploitation Conference
- A contribution towards a full day Domestic Abuse awareness raising event
- Cycling Flashing/Reflective Armbands
- Panic Alarms
- Soft Footballs
- Property Marking Kits
- Graffiti Removal
- Two Clean sweep Operations
- Polycarbonate glasses
- Selectamark DNA Kits for a caravan initiative

There has been significant containment though all crime during 2014/15 has increased fractionally with Police recorded anti-social behaviour reducing.

2. Performance overview

The Fylde Community Safety Partnership help maintain Fylde as the second 'safest' place in the County. Several multi-agency initiatives have been delivered throughout the year with Fylde teams taking an active part including diversionary activities run throughout the year focused on youth related anti-social behaviour. There have also been multi-agency initiatives to target burglary, shop lifting, thefts, and fly tipping, the local field and Club Days support and action which to improve the overall appearance of target areas.

Groups linked to the CSP concentrate 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 aimed at reaching amicable solutions between victims and offenders and work has been done on the Working Together for Families project to support troubled and vulnerable families across the Fylde.

3. Crime Statistics

3.1 All Crime

Between April 2013 and March 2014 there were a total of 3,029 crimes recorded in Fylde. In the year April 2014 to March 2015 this figure had increased to 3,043 crimes, representing a 0.5% increase or 14 more crimes. There have been decreases in domestic burglary and vehicle offences, and increases in criminal damage, arson, bicycle theft and shoplifting. High Impact Acquisitive Crime in Fylde fell from 205 crimes to 188, a decrease of 8.3%

3.2 Violent Crime

Violent crime remains a priority with a slight rise of 3.8% or 23 more crimes. Offences of Violence with Injury remain low across Fylde but sexual offences including rape have increased from 56 in 2013/14 to 77 in 2014/15.

3.3 Victim Based Crime

Victim based crime in Fylde increased 2.8% or 77 more crimes. Theft occurs across the whole district in Fylde and not disproportionately in any area, the area experiences 'travelling criminals' with a high proportion of offences a result of property being left insecure, particularly garages, garden sheds and motor vehicles.

4. Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Crime decreased in 2014/15 by 5% with 265 Crimes compared to 279 the previous year. Lancashire Constabulary's 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*'.

High risk victims of domestic abuse have increased in terms of the number of offences recorded and as a proportion of the total crime in Fylde, however the numbers are low. It is believed the increase is the result of a continued drive to encourage victims to report and previously there has been under-reporting of domestic related crime.

A 'multi-agency risk assessment conference' (MARAC) deals with domestic abuse and meets monthly to discuss high risk domestic abuse cases. The work involves specialists with close links to victims of domestic violence and protective interventions as necessary. The number of referred cases is 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'

The voluntary sector - Fylde Coast Women's Aid also provides an excellent service and provides 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 Chelsea's Choice was seen by several hundred school pupils which touched on both domestic abuse and child exploitation.

5. Road Casualties

In the year January 2014 to December 2014 (the latest published statistics available) there were a total of 208 road traffic collisions and 290 casualties. There were 4 fatalities on the roads in Fylde. Of the 290 casualties, there were 42 seriously injured and 244 slightly injured persons. Of these, 26 were pedestrians; 24 cyclists; 31 motor cyclists and 199 car occupants. There were 4 children between the ages of 0-15 who were seriously injured.

Although the overall totals between 2014 and the previous year were similar, cyclist casualties doubled from 2013 (12-24) and car occupants showed a 57% (72) increase

These are increases currently being experienced nationally.

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 Council.

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.

The numbers of ASB incidents recorded by the police have continued to show reductions and in the year 2014 to 2015 recorded ASB decreased by 1.4% and the total number recorded fell from 2,487 complaints in 2013/14 to 2,452 in 2014/15. 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 number of ASB issues arising is the Elswick and Little Eccleston Ward.

By contrast, Fylde Council reported ASB has shown an increase in overall reported ASB however this is accounted for by an 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.

6.2 Substance Misuse

Drugs

The misuse of drugs is less of a threat in Fylde than most other parts of Lancashire and drugs offences during the period April 2014 to March 2015 showed a decrease from 134 in 2013/14 to 78 in 2014/15 - a 41.8% decrease.

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 continue to handle both drugs and alcohol issues and education with young people.

Overall responsibility for Substance Misuse in Lancashire now sits with Public Health.

Alcohol

Fylde CSP has an Alcohol Strategy and a separate 'Fylde Substance Misuse & Tactical Alcohol Group' has been established which is chaired by one of our council members and Fylde Council have successfully taken the lead on this. However, it is recognised that Public Health are currently developing a strategy which will subsequently assume this role. The current group now combines the Community Alcohol Network (CAN) and Fylde CSP members.

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.

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 and Lancashire Young Peoples Services.

Several initiatives including the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service 'Wasted Lives' demonstration are presented within schools in Fylde.

6.3 Fire Safety

Last year, the summer started with Operation Ablaze, with the aim of the operation to clean up the beaches and sand dunes to prevent ASB fires. Volunteers from the public and partnership agencies set about a 'clean sweep' with the aim being to clear all combustible litter from the area. In one sweep alone, 10 tonnes of rubbish were removed. On alternative weekends throughout the summer months, Polaris vehicles were provided by the Fire Service to assist in patrolling the sand dunes with the assistance of a Police Community Support Officer. The CSP have ordered and financed signs which will be fitted by the Operational Crews to street furnishings along Clifton Drive.

A follow on initiative has been suggested to look at tackling the potential for BBQ fires at Fairhaven Lake. Work could potentially be undertaken by the Princes Trust to construct brick BBQ's as part of their Community project. This could also be extended to Operation Ablaze on the sand dunes.

Due to the success of a 2013-2014 Caravan Watch project carried out in conjunction with several agencies, a vulnerable community was identified in Fylde. Agencies were interested in continuing the good work again this year and visits have been planned 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

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, 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.

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.

7. Risk Assessment

The Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group (LCSSG) disbanded in 2014 and passed Community Safety responsibility to the Lancashire and Unitary Chief Executives.

The landscape of how all partners and agencies work together is undergoing change and as a consequence there has been the creation of 'Area Community Safety Steering Groups' which are based on the same footprint as the three Policing Divisions. This has effectively brought together Lancaster, Wyre, Blackpool and Fylde together as a strategic group. However, at this stage it is not envisaged that the local Community Safety Partnerships will either merge or disband.

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.

It has been evident during the past twelve months that several partner agencies have had to retreat from meeting attendance, albeit that they are still committed to the Community Safety Partnership. Despite this, there have been a number of new partnerships which have been formed and make a significant contribution towards overall community safety within the District. New partnerships have included the partnership with Wyre Council to control and manage 14 of our CCTV cameras; there have been a partnerships formed with the Fylde Foodbank; the Wyre and Fylde Disability Partnership; Neighbourhood Watch and Dementia Friends.

8. 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

Contact Bryan Ward, 01253 658467 or bryan.ward@fylde.gov.uk