

# INFORMATION NOTE

## FYLDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW FOR 2022/23

### 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*

*Fylde Coast Integrated Care Board*

*HM 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. Strategic assessment events were organised to take place with several CSP partners in 2022 to review issues facing the Partnership and re-set its priorities as necessary considering this. A Strategic Assessment was produced for the whole of Lancashire, with separate District Profiles being produced for each individual Council area. As a result, the Community Safety Partnership revised its Partnership Plan up until 2025 and identified that areas of focus were the dealing of drugs and the associated related crimes (including violence and exploitation), road safety, violent crime (including domestic abuse), Anti-Social Behaviour and Substance Misuse.

The District Profile was also a three-year document, up to 2025 and as such, has not been reviewed. However, the Strategic Assessment, identified that an assessment specifically for serious violence was necessary, for Fylde, and this was published in January 2023 – see 3.3.

#### 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 circa £20k. The Partnership is also periodically awarded funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, through the provision of grants for specific projects.

Additionally, Fylde Council provide a budget for a monitored town centre CCTV system which operates in Kirkham, Lytham, and St. Anne's. Wyre Council monitors the cameras on behalf of Fylde Council through its CCTV suite located at the Civic Offices in Poulton. The system can capture crime taking place and acting in response to suspicious behaviour and deter crime. Fylde Council, as part of its commitment to Community Safety set aside capital funds to allow a refresh of its monitored town centre CCTV cameras.

### Crime Statistics

Crime in Fylde, over the past three financial years has been recorded as follows:

Lancashire	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Victim based	99,871	115,246	110,892
Domestic Abuse	23,613	26,093	24,244
ASB	95,456	66,988	54,628
Fylde			
Victim based	3,171	3,817	3,602
Domestic abuse	747	853	760
ASB	3,857	2,304	1,908

### 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. 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.

It can be seen that recorded ASB, in Fylde, peaked at the height of the pandemic and has halved since then.

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.

Strengthened guidance was published in 2020 concerning community triggers. The strengthened guidance builds on previous updates to make sure there is a greater focus on the impact of anti-social behaviour on victims. It provides greater clarity on the process of the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review, highlighting that relevant bodies should always consider inviting the victim or, if more appropriate, their representative to case review meetings to help the panel understand their perspective. It also explains that local areas can have independent chairs at review meetings to provide an external view on the case.

The updated guidance stresses that victims must be front and centre of the approach police and local agencies take when tackling anti-social behaviour.

The Council issued Community Protection Warnings and Notices throughout the year covering a range of anti-social activities including street begging. The Council employs an in-house team of Enforcement Officers who work across the Borough to provide help and advice to reduce anti-social behaviour, with the ability to fine persistent offenders. Their role includes work on the restrictions that are in force under Public Space Protection

Orders relating to the control of dogs and the use of barbecues, in certain locations. The team's work is supplemented by outside staff in the Summer.

### **3.2 Substance Misuse**

#### ***Drugs and Alcohol***

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.

The District Profile for Fylde specifically discusses crimes associated with the illegal drug trade and highlights the following as key issues, within the theme of Serious and Organised Crime.

- County lines drug dealing in the area.
- Cuckooing linked to county lines groups.
- Exploitation of children and vulnerable drug users to deal drugs.
- Organised crime group (OCG) violence including the use of offensive weapons.
- Firearms enabled OCG's.
- Organised Acquisitive Crime linked to Merseyside.
- CSE (child sexual exploitation) risk with looked after children placed and managed from out of area.
- Local children from chaotic homes in areas of deprivation leading to missing from home (MFH) episodes and risk of CSE (predominantly females 13-16 years with male offenders 18-25 years).

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.

Local commissioned services such as We Are With You for teenagers and Change Grow Live (CGL) for Adults provide substance misuse support.

### **3.3 Serious Violence**

The District Needs Assessment for Serious Violence in Fylde covers homicide, knife crime, gun crime, assault resulting in injury, rape, robbery, aggravated burglary, domestic abuse and violence and child exploitation (sexual and criminal). There is a clear link between the majority of the serious violence and Serious Organised Crime (SOC) groups. Operation GENGA specifically targets these groups and the assessment states that there are two SOC's operating in Fylde, associated with the illegal drugs trade.

Three statistics from the report are as follows

- In 2021/22 Fylde had the 2nd lowest volume of serious violence in Lancashire, with a rate of 21.7 violent offences per 1,000 population compared to 29.5 nationally, and 34.5 regionally (2020/21).
- Fylde had the 3rd lowest rate (15.5 per 1,000) for hate crime (2021/22). The most common motivation for hate crime being race/ ethnicity/nationality.
- Between 2021/22 Central Ward had the highest number of domestic abuse incidents in Fylde at 20 per 100,000 (33rd highest ward in Lancashire), followed by Medlar-with-Wesham Ward (13), and Ashton Ward (12.8)

It is estimated that the cost to the Fylde area, for Serious Violence, is £9million. A 10 % reduction in violence, could knock almost £1million off this amount.

The assessment encourages partner working, within 4 strands of work, aimed at organised criminals. The headings of these strands are – Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare.

### **3.4 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.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue has continued to support Fylde Council in raising awareness of the BBQ ban on the coastal strip and providing information to the public. Operational staff based at St Anne's Fire Station are currently participants in a pilot of a project to deliver Business Fire Safety Checks (BFSC) to commercial premises falling under the legislative framework of the Regulatory Reform Order. The BFSC is free and provides an opportunity for responsible persons to receive targeted advice relevant to the fire safety of their premises and to assist them in remaining compliant with fire safety regulations. This also allows an opportunity for operational staff to maintain relevant and up-to-date risk information on properties within the community, which assists in safe and effective operational response.

### **3.5 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 because of a continued drive to encourage victims to report abuse recognising that there has previously been an under-reporting of domestic related crime. It is noted that over a quarter of Fylde's victims are from households that are financially challenged.

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.

In extreme cases Families and children are offered support by Children's Services and where the Police attend home incidents, reports are shared with Schools (Operation Encompass) to ensure children are supported in the school environment.

Families and children that do not fall into extreme cases are offered help by Children and Family Wellbeing Service which includes targeted family support, Freedom courses for adults and Freedom Flowers courses for children.

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, with an emphasis on "healthy relationships" and consent.

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.

### **3.6 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.

### **4. Emerging Issues**

New duties are to be placed on the Partnership and its component members which will need to be responded to in terms of serious violent crime and domestic abuse.

Serious violent crime is now a focus within existing multi-agency arrangements because of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021. As a result of this duty the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities and specified health and criminal justice agencies will have to work together to identify and publish what actions can be taken collectively to reduce serious violent crime. As a result, this area of work has its own section above and will continue to do so.

It has been noted that the costs associated with domestic homicide reviews will now fall to the local CSP's. This is currently under review at a county level and the CSP board, with various and differing options being considered on how best to deal with this going forward. The CSP remains cognisant of these changes and will ensure they are implemented.

There are also a number of amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill which will provide greater protections for victims. A duty will be placed on local authorities in England to support victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. Again, this will be an area of focus for the Fylde CSP and its partners in 2021/22.

### **5. Conclusion**

2022/23 showed partner agencies working together in a positive and ever closer way, following the COVID pandemic. There have been new and emerging issues for the CSP and the partnership has responded effectively and collectively to these. The CSP has been actively working together and using local knowledge as well as statistics in order to tackle local problems head on. The CSP has refreshed the importance of using all 'tools and powers' available to it, to solve local issues. Areas such as Fylde which encompass a coastal strip will place differing burdens on partners to respond to large numbers of visitors to ensure that anti-social behaviour is kept

to a minimum. Partner funding also places burdens on the abilities of organisations to operate as effectively as previously.

However, despite the challenging environment it is pleasing to report that the Partnership continues to work well together to help to minimise how crime and disorder affects communities. The Fylde continues to have one of the lowest crime rates in Lancashire ensuring that it remains a safe place in which to work, live and visit.

**FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM**

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