

INFORMATION NOTE

FYLDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW FOR 2021/22

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. The evidence based is kept under regular review by the Partnership and its priorities reflect 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.

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. Annes. 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 a part of its commitment to community safety, has also set aside capital funds to allow a refresh of its monitored town centre CCTV cameras.

2. Crime Statistics

Lancashire	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
Victim based	99,871	115,454
Domestic Abuse	23,613	25,636
ASB	95,456	66,988
Fylde		
Victim based	3171	3818
Domestic abuse	747	839
ASB	3857	2304

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.

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.

Fylde 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 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.

3.4 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 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.

3.5 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.

5. Conclusion

2021/22 was a challenging year for the partner agencies of the CSP. COVID 19 and the associated regulations, restrictions and work streams placed resourcing challenges on several partners. This issue has also faced public sector agencies throughout the United Kingdom. As the vaccination booster programme takes effect, it is hoped that no further lockdowns or other serious restrictions will be necessary. However, for 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.

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

James Crouan, Chair of the Partnership JamesCrouan@lancsfirerescue.org.uk