



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 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.

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 2016/17 the 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 a three year period 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. A local priority reassessment exercise took place this year.

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 2016/17 the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety Grant provided a standard £10,000 grant but the partnership were successful in being awarded additional funds. At the opening of the 2016/17 financial year its balances stood at £31,075. With the additional grants provided by the Police

and Crime Commissioner, the total income reached £56,125. 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

In 2016/17 a total spend of £30,129 was spent on community safety initiatives. At the end of the financial year the balance of £25,996 remained in the Community Safety budget which was requested as slippage into 2017/18

Major expenditure:-

- ✓ 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
- ✓ LANPAC Membership Fee
- ✓ Crime Prevention Signage
- ✓ CCTV signage
- ✓ Lock it or lose it campaign (Bin stickers and vehicle banners)
- ✓ Tri signs re anti-social behaviour
- ✓ Road Safety Banners
- ✓ Cycle locks and cycle coding
- ✓ Locally distributed crime prevention literature
- ✓ Panic alarms re domestic abuse
- ✓ Contribution to Domestic Abuse Campaign.
- ✓ Attendance at a Community Safety Seminar (Community Safety Officer)
- ✓ Taxi Driver Handbooks
- ✓ Fly tipping signage
- ✓ CCTV demo camera

All initiatives undertaken by the community safety partnership have been successfully evaluated 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 the public concerns and perceptions regarding crime and anti-social behaviour with ever reducing resources. Despite all this, there has been significant containment and overall crime during 2016/17 increased marginally by 500 crimes recorded representing a 15.8% increase on the previous year and an overall 13.0% increase or 306 more complaints of anti-social behaviour.

2. Performance overview

During 2016/17, Fylde Community Safety Partnership continued to maintain the Fylde District as the second 'safest' place in the County, with low crime and anti-social behaviour 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 inexpensive and cost neutral initiatives which have been delivered, supported by physical resources from the CSP and other agencies. Some notable examples of relatively low cost initiatives 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 of related groups that exist within the Borough which are linked to the CSP. The Revolution 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 to 'transform people's lives'.

3. Crime Statistics

3.1 All Crime

Between April 2015 and March 2016 there were a total of 3,149 crimes recorded in Fylde. In the year April 2016 to March 2017 this figure had increased to 3,648 crimes, representing a 15.8% increase or 499 more crimes. There have been increases in domestic burglary in a dwelling with 17 more burglaries than the previous year which were recorded at 181. There were 96 more criminal damage and arson offences producing a 20% increase and vehicle offences increased by 29.3% or 64 more recorded crimes. Bicycle theft decreased by 25.3% or 22 fewer crimes. Shoplifting increased by 5.8% an increase of 17 from the previous year. High Impact Acquisitive Crime in Fylde increased from 172 crimes to 188, an increase of 9.3%

3.2 Violent Crime

Violent crime continues to show increases although much of this is 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.

The increase in violence against the person which equates to a 25.3% increase of 1,091 victims in 2016/17 compared to 871 in 2015/16.

3.3 Victim Based Crime

Victim based crime in Fylde produced a 15.8% increase or 499 more crimes. Theft crimes occur 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. An initiative to address this had a certain degree of success.

4. Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Crime increased in the period April 2016 to March 2017 by 29.6% totalling 359 Crimes compared to 277 the previous year. This is however the second lowest total in Lancashire.

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.

Since January, the monthly totals in Fylde have ranged from 27 to 34, averaging 30 crimes per month. During the period January to April, there were 121 offences reported

- 60% (n=72) of the crimes were assaults. The number of assaults is similar to the same period last year (+3)
- 13% (n=16) were harassment – which is a reduction of 50% from the previous reporting period.
- 38% (n=46) of DA crimes were **alcohol related** – a reduction from 44% from the period September to December.
- 77% of the victims were **female**, with 23% male.
- 34% (n=39) of victims were aged between **18 and 30 years** – this is a reduction in proportion for this age group which has previously had over 40% of all victims.
- 70 of the 121 offences occurred from Friday to Sunday.
- Peak wards were Central (n=23) and Warton and Westby (n=15). 31% of domestic abuse offences occurred in these 2 wards during the last 4 months. Two-thirds of the offences in Central were assaults, whilst in Warton one-third of the offences were assaults.

Offenders (individuals) 2016/17

- 86 offenders – 78 male and 8 female.
- Age range was from 12 to 69 yrs.
- Peak age groups (10 year ranges) were 21-30yrs, followed by 31-40yrs.
 - 69% of all offenders were within these 2 age ranges.
- 82 of 86 were white North European.
- 30 (35%) of the 86 offenders did not reside in the district.

Following a commissioning exercise undertaken in early 2017, the service provision across Lancashire and in Fylde now falls under Lancashire Victims Services and Fylde Council make an annual contribution towards the Domestic Abuse service.

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 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 the Victims of Domestic Abuse.

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. The process and procedure have recently been reviewed at a County level.

5. Road Casualties

In the year April 2016 to March 2017, there were 44 killed or serious injured casualties three of which were fatalities. The latter is the same as the previous year. There were two child casualties and of note 'slight injury' casualties have reduced from 285 to 212 which represents a reduction of 26.6%

The Community Roadwatch scheme continues with volunteers assisting in informing speeding motorists to reduce their vehicle speed, particularly in rural areas. A dedicated Road Safety analyst provides data for each locality which is useful in determining where additional preventative resources can be directed.

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

6.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

The reduction of Anti-social behaviour (ASB) in our communities continues to be a priority for the Partnership. Each month a number of partners come together to consider the reported ASB issues arising across a range 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 Police led Early Action Cases which looks at vulnerable families and individuals.

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 early 2017 a successful use of the new powers enabled the Council to take out an injunction against a perpetrator who had been harassing Council Officers causing alarm and distress.

ASB **increased** by 13.1%, from 2346 to 2653 during 2016/17 which equates to 7.3 incidents per day. There were notable increases in the wards of Ashton (+46, +24%), Central (+71, +25%), Kilnhouse (+43, +39%) and St Leonards (+45, +33%). 16 of the 21 wards showed some increase throughout the year.

January to April:

- There have been **809 incidents** reported during this period – a **daily average of 6.7 incidents**, which is a slight increase on the previous reporting period, as we would expect the number of incidents to increase as we come out of the winter months.
- Peak wards were, Central, Kirkham North, Medlar-with-Wesham and Warton – these 4 wards accounted for **40% of all ASB in Fylde**.
- Peak days were **Friday (n=132) and Saturday (n=144)** – all other days had between 97 and 116 incidents reported.

6.2 Substance Misuse

Drugs

The misuse of drugs remains a relatively low threat in Fylde compared to most other parts of Lancashire. During the period April 2016 to March 2017 drugs offences showed a slight decrease from 81 in 2015/16 to 73 - a 9.9% decrease.

It is, however, noteworthy, that in line with the rest of Lancashire there appears 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.

Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) also known as Inspire are the commissioned service provider in Fylde. They

provide a range of services to Fylde's drug clients with both alcohol and drug problems. Re-commissioning of service provision will take place later in the year. 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 and commissioning 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 22.8% or 100 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.

6.3 Fire Safety

Lancashire Fire and Rescue report that Fylde remains an area which is not a cause for concern.

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.

Arson offences for April 2016 to March 2017 showed a 26.7% reduction on the previous year and numbers are very low at 11

The Fire service continue to provide Home Fire Safety Checks for the vulnerable.

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 license 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 representatives on the Police and Crime Panel. 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 2017/18 will continue in the sum of £10,000

7. Emerging Issues

During 2016, ongoing statutory responsibilities are placed on 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. The vast majority of Fylde Council staff and members, have received Counter Terrorism awareness training along with several community groups who have been made aware of these issues and threats to our overall safety and vulnerabilities. There is now a County wide Strategic Hate Crime Group a Lancashire wide ASB delivery group and a Prevent Delivery Partnership Group.

8. Risk Assessment

Strategic decision making in regard to Community Safety is the responsibility of the Lancashire and Unitary Chief Executives and the landscape of how all partners and agencies work together is continually under review. Blackpool Wyre and Fylde constantly work together as a strategic group within West Division. This doesn't have an impact on the local Community Safety Partnerships who have neither merged nor 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 'Tactical, Tasking and Co-ordinating' group.

Despite several changes in personnel and officer attendance during the year by partner agencies, it is evident that they are still committed to the Community Safety Partnership. There are 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 15 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

Despite increases in both crime and anti-social behaviour, Fylde Community Safety Partnership is a successful and strong partnership which supports partnership working in minimising how crime and disorder impacts on the community.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM : Bryan Ward, Community Safety Officer (65)8467