

INFORMATION NOTE

FYLDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW FOR 2020/21

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. A strategic assessment exercise was organised to take place with several CSP partners in 2020 to review issues facing the Partnership and re-set its priorities as necessary considering this. As a result the Community Safety Partnership revised its Partnership Plan up until 2022 and identified that areas of focus were countering exploitation, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, road safety, alcohol and drug misuse, reducing reoffending and serious violent crime.

To 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.

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 just over £25,441. In 2020/21, the Partnership was awarded £15,300 from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Safety grant. This is to deliver a programme of activity to promote safer communities and encourage confident young citizens.

Below is a list of key areas to be addressed by the project:

- *Improve engagement with children and young people using sport and physical activity to promote positive values.*
- *To provide young people with access to informal learning, opportunities, information and resources on their own turf*
- *To stimulate, challenge & empower young people*
- *To inform young people about existing or proposed services and to encourage them to access these*
- *Improve community cohesion*
- *Reduce anti-social behaviour*

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. The Borough Council and Lancashire Constabulary have also been collaborating during the course of the year to gather together evidence for a funding bid to be put forward to the Borough Council – and other partners as appropriate – to refresh the Council's camera network which has now been in place for a number of years. The refresh would bring the cameras up to date with new technology which allows incidents to be recoded in colour as opposed to black and white which enhances image capture.

Members of the Partnership continued to respond to added pressures during the pandemic during the year. The changing nature of regulations throughout this period has been of challenge to respond to and both Lancashire Constabulary and Fylde Council have been at the heart of this response. The Council have had responsibility to ensure that support was offered to the business sector in terms of complying with regulations with the Constabulary having responsibility for ensuring that individuals responded appropriately.

Formal meetings of the Partnership have continued on-line.

2. Crime Statistics

Based on the period April 2020-March 2021, crime in Fylde was recorded as follows:

- 1. Violent Crime- 2,193**
- 2. Victim-Based Crime- 3,333**
- 3. Domestic Abuse- 730**
- 4. ASB- 3,857**

For Lancashire the figures for April 2020-March 2021 are as follow:

- 1. Violent Crime- 65,517**
- 2. Victim Based Crime- 101,419**
- 3. Domestic Abuse- 22,530**
- 4. ASB- 96,674**

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.

The Council issued Community Protection Warnings and Notices throughout the year covering a range of anti-social activities including street begging. Plans were also developed to recruit an in-house team of Enforcement Officers who would work across the Borough to provide help and advice to reduce anti-social behaviour, with the ability to fine persistent offenders. The recruitment of this team began in 2020/21 and it is envisaged that they will be in place by the end of June 2021.

The Safe Communities and Confident Young Citizens Programme will also provide an ability to engage with younger people engaged in anti-social behaviour in channel their energy into more positive activities.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 to be made 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. This work will gather pace in 2021 and this work should focus on early intervention work with young people to prevent them from becoming either a victim or perpetrator of crime in the first place.

There is 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

2020/21 has been a challenging year for the partner agencies of the CSP. The regulatory framework around COVID 19 has placed resourcing challenges on several partners. This issue has also faced public sector agencies throughout the United Kingdom. As the vaccination programme takes effect, and the restrictions ease, this will reduce this burden to some extent. However, for areas such as Fylde which encompass a coastal strip taken with foreign travel being limited this will result in an extremely busy summer season as was the case in 2020. This 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

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