



# INFORMATION NOTE

## FYLDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

### **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 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 2017/18 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 Instagram in particular. A local priority reassessment exercise took place in 2017 which determined local priorities until 2019. The local Action Plan may be viewed [here](#).

#### **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 2017/18 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 2017/18 financial year its balances stood at £26,029. With the additional grants provided by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the total income reached £42,267. 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.

##### **Expenditure**

In 2017/18 a total spend of £21,437 was allocated to community safety initiatives. At the end of the financial year the balance of £20,830 remained in the Community Safety budget which was requested as slippage into

2018/19.

Major expenditure:-

- Twelve month provision of Diversionary Activities for Young People with a consultation exercise
- Positive Pathways activities for ex-offenders
- Body Worn CCTV cameras and equipment

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
- Crime prevention materials
- Locally distributed crime prevention literature
- Panic alarms re domestic abuse
- Contribution to Male Domestic Abuse Campaign.
- Attendance at a Community Safety Seminar ( Community Safety Officer)
- DNA Selecta Mark Kits
- Body worn CCTV cameras supporting equipment

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. Essentially not all initiatives require money, hence the importance of strong partnership working.

During 2017/18, Fylde Community Safety Partnership continued to maintain the Fylde District as the second 'safest' place in the County, with lower crime and anti-social behaviour levels than other Districts in Lancashire. 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 Male 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 and a consultation exercise with young people was also carried out to determine what could be provided in future.

Initiatives and work undertaken by the CSP and its partners are all aimed at reducing crime and disorder within Fylde in increasingly difficult times where police officer numbers have fallen and resources have diminished. Fylde has, however, seen an increase of eight Police Community Support Officers in 2018 who are spread throughout the Borough. Determined efforts by all agencies concentrate their efforts into priority areas, for example, 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 continuing 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 2016 and March 2017 there were a total of 3,636 crimes recorded in Fylde. In the year April 2017 to March 2018 this figure had increased to 4,207 crimes, representing a 15.7% increase or 571 more crimes. There has been a re-categorisation of domestic burglary to what is now called residential burglary which encompasses the likes of thefts from garages and sheds, consequently there are no comparable figures from the previous year. There were 263 residential burglaries in 2017/18 There were 58 more criminal damage and arson offences producing a 10% increase but vehicle offences decreased by 18.7% or 53 fewer recorded crimes. Bicycle theft decreased by 7.7% or 5 fewer crimes. Shoplifting also decreased by 8.7% a reduction of 27 from the previous year.

High Impact Acquisitive Crime in Fylde increased from 188 crimes to 278, an increase of 47.7%. Fylde has seen an unprecedented increase in theft of lead flashing with over 30 offences reported in the last 3 months alone.

#### **3.2 Violent Crime**

Violent crime continues to show further increases although much of this is due to the counting rules from the Home Office on what is deemed to be a violent crime. 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 27.9% increase of 1,397 victims in 2017/18 compared to 1,092 in 2016/17.

#### **3.3 Victim Based Crime**

Victim based crime in Fylde produced a 13.8% increase or 469 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 large proportion of offences occurring as a result of property being inadvertently left insecure, particularly garages, garden sheds and motor vehicles. An initiative to address this type of crime had a degree of success with some notable crime reductions.

### **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'*.

Domestic Abuse Crime increased in the period April 2017 to March 2018 by 36.6%, totalling 491 Crimes compared to 359 the previous year. This is however the second lowest total in Lancashire.

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.

Domestic abuse has increased by 36.5% compared to 2016/17, with the number of crimes increasing from 359 to 490. Numerically, Fylde has had the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest increase across the County. All districts across Lancashire have shown an increase during the last 12 months. The increase across Lancashire has been 27.6%.

The quarterly totals have increased throughout the year, from 103 crimes in Q1 to 148 in Q4. Monthly totals have ranged from 29 to 56, with the average being 41.

- 64% (n=312) of the crimes were assaults this compared to 61% (n=220) in 2016/17.
- 13% (n=65) of the crimes were harassment. The number of crimes is similar to last year – 68.

- 42% (n=204) of DA crimes were alcohol related. Proportionally there has been a small increase, from 39% (n=140) last year.
- 72% of the victims were female with 28% male.
- 34% (n=159) of the victims were aged between 18 and 30 years old, which is reduction from 42% last year, although the number of victims are similar.
- 53% of the crimes occurred from Friday to Sunday.
- Peak wards have been Central (n=50) and Warton and Westby (n=53) – 21% of all DA has occurred in these 2 wards. 70% of the offences in Warton were assaults, with 64% in Central (same as the district proportion).

#### Offenders (Individuals)

- 79 offenders – 74 male and 5 female.
- Age range was from 12 to 76 years.
- 41% of the offenders were aged from 18 to 30 years old.
- 76% of all offenders are aged 40 years or under.

Following the service re-commissioning 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 male victims of sexual 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 and a DHR group exists to share learning experiences from such reviews.

### 5. Road Casualties

In the year April 2017 to March 2018, figures produced in January 2018 showed that there were 25 killed or serious injured casualties one of which was a fatality. The number of slight casualties remained the same as last year currently 128 compared to 131.

A multi-agency partnership exists between Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster whereby all road safety issues are analysed and actioned. 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.

Of particular interest this year was an event which was aimed at 'Senior' drivers in Fylde, which provided a host of information and education to older people who are notoriously involved in road traffic collisions.

### 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 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.

Certain concerns have been raised during the past twelve months despite a general decrease in ASB across the Borough. The main concerns concentrated in and around Warton and Westby where anti-social behaviour connected to the Fracking Site and youth related ASB in the village has been linked to specific individuals and premises.

In 2017-18 All Police recorded ASB in Fylde decreased by 8.3%, from 2,653 to 2,432 which equates to 221 incidents fewer. There were notable decreases in the wards of Ashton (-30, -7.6%), Central (-78, -22%), Kilnhouse (-28, -18.4%) and Park Ward (-61, 51.3%). Only 6 of the 21 wards showed some increase throughout the year with Warton and Westby showing a 25.8% increase from 244 to 307.

Fylde Council reported ASB which also includes Personal, Nuisance and Environmental ASB, showed an end of year reduction of 90 complaints. From 1,449 to 1,359. Noise nuisance; neighbour disputes and Flytipping are the most reported types of ASB.

## **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 2017 to March 2018 drugs offences showed a slight decrease from 72 in 2016/17 to 59 - a 18.1% decrease and a second year of reduction.

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.

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 are the County young people's service provider where some of the work undertaken in Fylde has been carried out in partnership initiatives. A training and awareness session was delivered in St Annes as part of a safeguarding initiative early in 2018. Overall responsibility for Substance Misuse and commissioning in Lancashire is the responsibility of Lancashire Public Health.

### **Alcohol**

Fylde CSP has Alcohol misuse as a local 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 in Fylde increased by 22.8% or 124 crimes during the past year. This is a second consecutive year of increase. Licensing conditions stipulate that Pub Landlords attend a regular 'Pubwatch' meeting which provides a wealth of information to them. A monthly report highlights which licensed premises have recorded crimes on or adjacent to their premises.

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 Service (LFRS) 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 2017 to March 2018 showed an increase of 18 incidents on the previous year from 11 to

29 which are very low compared to other Districts.

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.

#### **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**

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.

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 2018/19 will continue

in the sum of £10,000

## **7. Emerging Issues**

During 2018, 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. 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.

Consideration is always given to potential threats when planning major events. There is a County wide Strategic Hate Crime Group a Lancashire wide ASB delivery group and a Prevent Delivery Partnership Group which are all attended by Fylde Officers.

## **8. Risk Assessment**

Strategic decision making in regard to Community Safety is the responsibility of the Lancashire and Unitary Chief Executives through the Public Service Board overseeing how all partners and agencies work together. 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 in Fylde 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. All our agencies and partners make a significant contribution towards overall community safety within the District. Success with our partners has included the volunteers who are based within the Wyre CCTV Studio where they control and manage 15 of our CCTV cameras. Continued partnership work has been undertaken with the Fylde Foodbank; the Wyre and Fylde Disability Partnership; Neighbourhood Watch and Just Good Friends.

## **9. Conclusion**

With further increases in crime and a reduction in anti-social behaviour, Fylde Community Safety Partnership can still claim to be a successful and strong partnership which supports partnership working in minimising how crime and disorder impacts on the community. Fylde remains a safe place in which to live, work and visit.

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