

# Public Document Pack

## Police & Crime Panel for Lancashire

Monday, 6th March, 2023

4.00 pm

Meeting Room A

Link to webcast:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeJUZIhuZL8>

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### AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Minutes of the Meetings held on 5th December 2022 and 1st February 2023**  
**December Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire Minutes** 3 - 10  
**Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire Minutes February 2023 (Precept)**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Public Questions**
5. **Performance Update**  
**PCC update** 11 - 34  
**Performance Report**
6. **PCC Decisions**  
**Decision Report** 35 - 37
7. **Task and Finish Groups Update**  
The Chairs of the Task and Finish Groups will provide an update on the work of their groups.
8. **Meeting Dates 2023/24**  
**Timetable of Meetings 2023-2024** 38 - 39
9. **Complaints Update**  
**PCP Complaints Update.March 2023** 40 - 42

**10. Urgent Business**

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the Item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Secretary of the Panel should be given advance warning of any Members intention to raise a matter under this heading.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Panel (Annual General Meeting) will be held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 10am at Blackburn Town Hall (Meeting Room A).

Date Published: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## **Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

#### **Present:**

##### **Chair**

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

##### **Committee Members**

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council  
Councillor Frank Andrews, Fylde Borough Council  
Councillor Ged Mirfin, Lancashire Country Council  
Councillor Peter Edwards, Hyndburn Borough Council  
Councillor Jan Alcock, Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Councillor Sandra Thornberry, Lancaster City Council  
Councillor Phil Riley, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council  
Councillor Peter Hunter, Blackpool Borough Council  
Councillor Mark Townsend, Burnley Borough Council  
Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council  
Councillor James Flannery, South Ribble Borough Council  
Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council  
Richard Glover, Co-Opted Independent Member

##### **Also in attendance**

- Andrew Snowden, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Andrew Pratt, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the PCC
- Asad Laher, Secretary
- Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead
- Nathan Richards, Graduate Trainee

## **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Ash Sutcliffe
- Councillor Tommy Threlfall
- Councillor Simon Hore
- Councillor Peter Le Marinel
- Councillor Robert Boswell
- Councillor Qesir Mahmood
- Councillor Gordon Johnson

## **2. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interests were declared.

### **4. Panel Membership Update**

The Secretary to the Police & Crime Panel, Asad Laher, provided an update on the Panel Membership following recent by-election held at Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Burnley.

Following these by-elections, the political composition of the police force area was:

- Con - 40.17%
- Lab - 39.33%
- Lib - 5.96%
- Ind - 6.09%
- Other - 5.68%
- Green - 2.77%
- Total - 100.00%

However, Asad Laher explained that this did not change the political balance of the 15 elected member seats, which was:

- Lab - 6
- Con - 6
- Lib Dem - 1
- Ind - 1
- Other - 1

The Secretary also highlighted to the panel that the Panel appoints 2 Independent Co-opted Members, who are not elected representatives to serve on the Panel. Following a recruitment process held on 7 July 2022, Richard Glover was appointed as an Independent Co-opted Member. However, there was one seat still vacant and further recruitment process would be held in due course to fill the vacancy.

Following this, the full composition of the Panel would remain as follows:

- Lab - 8 (as nominated)
- Con - 8 (i.e. 6 as nominated + 2 co-opted additional elected member seats)
- Lib Dem - 1 (i.e. 1 co-opted additional elected member seat)
- Other - 1 (as nominated)
- Independent co-opted (non –political) - 2
- Total – 20 seats (maximum).

**RESOLVED** – That the update to the Membership following recent by-elections held at Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Burnley be noted.

## **5. Public Questions**

No public questions were received.

## **6. Performance Update**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Andrew Snowden, presented a report that provided the Members of the Panel with an update on progress in developing the current Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2023-25. The report also highlighted some of the activity of the PCC/ Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In a verbal update, the PCC highlighted the targeting of repeat offenders, and Operation Warrior, a force-wide approach to working with partners against organised crimes. The Panel were told that the successes of latter operation would have a communications campaign, which would help inform the public of the work being undertaken by the Lancashire Police Force.

The Panel asked a number of questions, including around the estimated figures for the number of Organised Crime groups in the area, and the work being done to prevent Domestic abuse.

Following this, the Deputy PCC highlighted to the panel work being done to reduce the backlog in the Court Systems through his work with the Lancashire Justice Board, in which he chairs. As part of this, it was agreed that a report detailing the data on the Backlog of the Court System would be brought to the panel.

The Deputy PCC also discussed the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership with the Panel. It was agreed that a report on the use and consistency of road casualty data would be provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in a future meeting of the Panel.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **7. PCC Decisions**

A report was submitted highlighting decisions made by the PCC or his officers, since the last meeting of the Panel on 14th September 2021.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **8. Task and Finish Groups Update**

### **8.1. 101 Service – Councillor Berry**

Councillor Berry presented a written report to the Panel highlighting the findings from the Task groups research into how 101 calls were handled, the operation of the newly redesigned control room, and the delivery of anticipated outcomes. The role of the Task Group was to look at and make recommendations on the issue of non-emergency calls received by the police and the operation of the Force Control Room.

The Panel were informed that as part of this research the Task Group visited a Call Centre, and looked at the monitoring and performance data that was submitted to the Commissioner on a regular basis. Following this, the Task Group met with the Commissioner to discuss their initial findings and the Commissioner's vision for the development of the service. This meeting provided clarity to the members of the task group on a number of issues and assisted in formulation of the final recommendations from the group

**RESOLVED** – That the written report be noted, and the following recommendations be considered by the panel.

1. That the Commissioner, support staff and Police be thanked for their support and assistance.
2. That the work of the members no longer on the PCP be noted.
3. That the following recommendations relating to the working of the non-urgent call handling be submitted to the PCP for consideration and submission to the Police Commissioner for response.
  - a. That the monitoring of data submitted to the Commissioners Scrutiny Meetings be shared with the PCP to enable members to measure progress in dealing with non-urgent calls.
  - b. That with regards to the 101 calls that relate to non-policing matters, particularly those coming in during evenings and at weekends that relate mostly to mental health issues, the task group recommend that the Commissioner contact the NHS and the Unitary Social Services Departments to make sure they have appropriate out of hours contact provision and that Councils have an emergency contact number. The Panel is recommended to support the work of the Commissioner on this issue.
  - c. That the Commissioner be recommended to consider the benefits of merging the social media and telephone call centres to ensure consistency of service and cross reporting etc. and the Commissioner continue to promote the digital service to relieve pressure on telephone services.
  - d. That the positive work of the switchboard in directing and dealing with calls be supported and continue to be monitored and reviewed.
  - e. That the benefit of the control centre being able to dial into town centre CCTV schemes be noted and the Commissioner be recommended to look at the possibility of extending this service particularly as in certain cases funding from the PCC has been used to assist setting up these schemes.

## **8.2. Domestic Violence against Women & Girls – Councillor Townsend**

Councillor Townsend informed the panel that the Task & Finish group had begun their work, and thanked the Commissioner for aiding this. He highlighted that there were further stakeholders that needed to be consulted to aid this work, and he looked forward to presenting the findings of the Task & Finish group to the Panel in the future.

**RESOLVED** – That the verbal update be noted.

### **8.3. Rural Policing – Councillor Mirfin**

Councillor Mirfin updated the Panel on the importance of effective Rural Policing in the Lancashire area. He showcased the background research that had been undertaken, and informed the Panel that was he looking forward to the future work that will happen through the Task and Finish group.

**RESOLVED** – That the verbal update be noted.

### **9. PCP Annual Conference 2022**

Phil Llewellyn updated the Panel on following his, the Vice Chair's, and the Secretary to the Panel's attendance of 11<sup>th</sup> National for Conference for Chairs, Members and Officers of Police (Fire) and Crime Panels held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

Phil Llewellyn informed the Panel that this was a useful conference, both in terms of learnings, and for the opportunity to network with members of other Police and Crime panels.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

### **10. Complaints Update**

The Secretary for the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel provided a report that set out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received and an update on an ongoing complaint referred to at the Panel Meeting on 14 September, in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

**RESOLVED** – That the update in relation to communications and complaints be noted.

### **11. Urgent Business**

The Police and Crime Commissioner informed the panel that Runshaw College's redundant campus in Chorley had been bought to be repurposed as a new Police station and Training campus for the constabulary. Full details would be released at a later date as part of the Capital Programme.

**RESOLVED** – That the verbal update be noted

### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 (Precept Only) at Blackburn Town Hall.

## **Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2023**

#### **Present:**

##### **Chair**

Councillor Jackie Oakes, Rossendale Borough Council

##### **Committee Members**

Councillor Quesir Mahmood, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Chorley Borough Council

Councillor Peter Edwards , Hyndburn Borough Council

Councillor Ged Mirfin, Lancashire County Council

Councillor Ash Sutcliffe, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor David Whipp, Pendle Borough Council

Councillor Nweeda Khan, Preston City Council

Councillor James Flannery, South Ribble Borough Council

Councillor Gordon Johnson, West Lancs Borough Council

Councillor Roger Berry, Wyre Borough Council

Councillor Peter Le Marinel, Wyre Borough Council

Richard Glover, Independent Co-opted Member

##### **Also in attendance**

- Andrew Snowden, Police and Crime Commissioner
- Angela Harrison, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Steve Freeman, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Asad Laher, Secretary
- Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair, Councillor Jackie Oakes, welcomed all to the meeting, apologies had been received from Councillors Hunter, Townsend, Boswell, Threllfall, Alcock, Thornberry, Walton and from the Deputy PCC Andrew Pratt.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

#### **3. Police and Crime Commissioner's Budget 2023-24**

The Commissioner outlined his report which set out the forecast for the Police and Crime budgets in Lancashire for 2023/2024 and proposals in relation to the Council Tax Precept.



The report identified the current provisional funding position for 2023/24 and also identified the cost pressures that had emerged, savings required and investment needed for policing in Lancashire. The impact of the proposals for the 2023/24 budget were identified in an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

The report referred to the Government announcement on 14 December 2022 for the Provisional Police Grant Settlement. Lancashire had been allocated police grant of £231.500m, as well as a separate specific grant of £7.027m to maintain the delivery of the police officer uplift programme.

The Commissioner outlined cost pressures of £17.924M, and savings of £7.875M had to be offset across the Constabulary. Referring to the assumption that Council Tax base in Lancashire would increase by 1.5% in 2023/24, it was therefore proposed to increase the Council Tax precept by £15 for a Band D property in 2023/24.

The PCC also reported on the use of Reserves, and on engagement with the public in respect of his budget proposals for 2023/24.

Members of the Panel then asked a number of questions and made comments on the Commissioner's proposals, the Commissioner responded to the comments and questions, advising:

- Sustainability of the levels of Council Tax – whilst acknowledging the concerns raised by Panel Members about the proposed increase, no one wanted to pay more Council Tax, but responses to the Poll undertaken showed that people were prepared to pay more Council Tax towards Policing.
- Use of Reserves – the amount outlined in the report was in line with the Reserves strategy and a higher proportion of use of Reserves was not considered.
- Inflationary pressures/MTFS Assumptions – the PCC outlined pressures resulting from Covid and the Energy Market in particular, and these made budget planning more difficult, and it was assumed that pressures would continue and discussions were ongoing with the Home Office on future funding, and the need for longer term settlements to assist planning for future years.
- Engagement with the Public – the PCC was confident that the Poll was a good indicator of public opinion, and had been carried out by professional company, and the Commissioner also engaged with the public on a daily basis.
- Savings – in terms of the 15 posts identified in the report, the Commissioner advised that these were vacancies across various teams, and that decisions on these were the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

Panel Members then moved to the vote.

**RESOLVED –**

That the Police and Crime Panel:

- Note the details of the 2023/24 provisional police finance settlement, cost pressures and investments and the impact on Lancashire's budget;
- Approve the Commissioner's proposal to increase the council tax precept by £15 (6.34%) for a Band D property in 2023/24;
- Make arrangements to ensure that a formal written response to the proposals is sent to the Commissioner by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- Note the draft capital investment programme for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28;
- Note the position of the Commissioner's reserves in 2023/24 and future years

**4. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The meeting scheduled in case of the Precept not being agreed (on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023) was now not required, so the next meeting of the Panel would be held at 4pmm on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Signed.....Chair  
2023

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Meeting to be held on 6th March 2023**

### **Police & Crime Commissioner's update**

Contact for further information Ian Dickinson, 01772 533587, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, [ian.dickinson@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.dickinson@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Panel with an update on progress in developing the current Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) for Lancashire 2021-2025.

This report also aims to highlight some of activity of the PCC/Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Panel is asked to consider the report.

## **Background**

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner has a responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for the Constabulary's performance as against the Police and Crime Plan priorities by means of the Accountability Board meeting.
2. This link <https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/meetings-reports/accountability-board-meeting/> details of the Accountability Board papers received from the Chief Constable and the Minutes of the meeting records the PCC holding the Chief Constable to account.
3. The Panel are therefore referred to the Accountability Board meetings and may through today's meeting ask the Police and Crime Commissioner issues they feel relevant to the Scrutiny activity.

### **Performance Headlines**

4. On 15 February 2023, the Commissioner held his Accountability Board meeting with the Chief Constable. The Commissioner received an update on the Constabulary's performance against the Police and Crime Plan priorities, the work of the Professional Standards Department and set the policing budget for 2023/24.

Key issues discussed included:

- All crime across Lancashire is down by almost 8% below pre-pandemic levels, according to the latest data presented at the meeting.

- Discussion around Op Defender, which is targeting burglary and robbery with prolific offenders a key focus.
  - Op Warrior which is seeing results in the fight against organised crime
  - the ongoing battle against anti-social behaviour, including the recent ASB summits across Lancashire
5. On 21<sup>st</sup> February, the Commissioner also held an extraordinary Accountability Board in relation to the handling of the widely publicised missing from home investigation into Nicola Bulley.
  6. The Panel will by now be aware through the media that he has commissioned the College of Policing to undertake a full independent review, of the case which will run alongside the independent scrutiny that will come from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and the Coronial process.
  7. Following receipt of the panel's formal response to the Commissioner's proposals in relation to the council tax precept, the Commissioner has now approved his policing budget for 2023/24. The Commissioner would like to place on record his thanks to the panel for their scrutiny of his proposals and their approval.
  8. In November the Commissioner, alongside Lancashire Constabulary, launched Op Warrior, a force wide operation delivering on his Fighting Crime Plan priority of disrupting and dismantling organised crime.
  9. Operation Warrior targets both individuals and gangs involved in crime, as well as associated issues such as violence and intimidation, large scale drug supply, exploitation and fraud, all of which can cause serious harm to local communities. Since the launch officers have made 277 arrests leading to 88 charges and secured 60 years in jail time for organised crime gang members.
  10. As the panel will be aware, the Commissioner has announced that he is in the process of purchasing Runshaw College's former Chorley campus to develop into a new policing base. This will serve communities across Chorley, replacing the existing dated station which has been deemed not fit for purpose.
  11. The new base will be used by Lancashire Police to house Chorley's response and neighbourhood policing teams, the area's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and other specialist teams including one of the newly launched Rape and Sexual Offences Teams.
  12. It is also intended to be used as a new training campus for the Constabulary as part of the ongoing major recruitment drives into policing – but also as a major investment into the Commissioner and Chief Constable's vision for Lancashire to be an internationally-excellent training force, delivering first-class police officers to keep our county safe.

13. In December, the Commissioner brought together senior leaders from across Lancashire to coordinate how violence against women and girls (VAWG) is tackled across the county.
14. The leadership summit gave organisations across Lancashire, including Police, councils and the NHS the opportunity to come together to discuss the vital role they play in tackling VAWG and to identify any gaps in service provision and how they can better work together to develop a consistent and proactive approach to combat VAWG and importantly create wrap-around support for victims across the county.
15. From this event, the Commissioner and his Office are in the process of establishing a VAWG Strategic Board that will create a forum for organisations across Lancashire to discuss the partnership response to Violence Against Women and Girls, the key focuses within this will be reducing the prevalence of VAWG crimes, improving support for victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.
16. The Commissioner has been appointed as the new Chair of the North West Cyber Resilience Centre's Guidance Council (NWCRC). The Guidance Council oversees the work of the Cyber Resilience Centre and is made up of representatives from across policing, the private and public sectors and academia.
17. By working with the NWCRC to support organisations in Lancashire as well as other areas in the region, the Commissioner will work to make life harder for offenders and prevent new victims.
18. As the Panel are aware, the Commissioner has announced his plans to invest in Lancashire Police's Headquarters at Hutton, around the critical police infrastructure which supports dogs and mounted branch, specialist and technical training, fleet maintenance, cyber and crime teams, contact management and other enabling services.
19. The proposals are part of his ten-year plan to invest in critical infrastructure and deliver a more efficient and fit for purpose estate in line with Chief Constable Chris Rowley's operational requirements to improve policing to our communities.
20. During the festive period, the Commissioner invested in additional policing over the festive period, to help those celebrating across the county stay safe.
21. This activity was funded through the Police Commissioner's Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund, which uses money seized from criminals and invested back into fighting and deterring crime.

22. In a similar vein the Commissioner has thanked the county's police officers and staff for their work during the festive period, with the force answering 7,668 emergency calls for service in total between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. There were also 620 arrests between 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and 181 over New Year's Eve.
23. The Commissioner has written to the Home Secretary urging her to get tough on youth justice and to improve domestic abuse charging processes, as he outlined the challenges faced in Lancashire in the fight against crime. In his letter, the Commissioner also praised the recent change in policy by the Home Secretary to end degree only entry for police officers
24. Through January the Commissioner held three ASB summits, in each policing division. 175 delegates from local agencies including the Police, Local Authority, Education, housing associations and local MPs heard from the Commissioner, the Chief Constable and the Divisional Commanders to understand local policing issues and Rebecca Bryant, Resolve Chief Executive provide a national overview and update on the governments ASB principles.
25. Attendees were asked to commit to further strengthening relationships, recognising the importance of their organisations in tackling anti-social behaviour issues and the fact that policing is only one part of solving ASB problems – with everything from strengthening youth justice consequences through to adequate youth provision needed.
26. The Commissioner has invited Michael Gove MP to Lancashire to discuss the blight of anti-social behaviour and how to make communities safer, following reports the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will be leading a Government ASB taskforce.
27. Deputy PCC Andy Pratt MBE visited Fleetwood to discuss the work of local teams in the area, during Neighbourhood Policing Week. He heard how, in the six months prior in Fleetwood and the wider Wyre area, there had been 20 warrants targeting criminal gangs and disrupting drugs gangs, with over £90k in cash seized alongside other assets and proceeds of crime.
28. The Commissioner met with the North Western Chamber of Commerce alongside Chief Superintendent Stasia Osiowy to discuss business crime and concerns surrounding the local area and how owners can work together with police to combat criminal damage.
29. The Commissioner has joined South Division Neighbourhood Policing Teams on the beat in Chorley to see how issues around ASB are being addressed in the area.
30. During the visit, which took place during Neighbourhood Policing Week, the Commissioner saw first-hand how the neighbourhood team was getting tough on ASB and those who commit it, including the use of dispersal orders.

31. Finally, the Commissioner has been visiting organisations throughout Lancashire that received funding through his successful bid to the Ministry of Justice. These include Paladin, The Wish Centre, Humraaz and the Emily Davison Centre all who do vital work with victims across Lancashire.

### **Recommendation**

32. Panel Members are recommended to consider the information contained in this report, and the information provided within the meeting, and comment accordingly.

## Progress Against Police and Crime Plan Priorities 2021-2025

### National Picture

Target	Measure	12 months to Dec 2020	12 months to Dec 2022	Change
Reduce Murder/Homicide	Recorded Homicides	23	14	-39%
Reduce Serious violence	Firearms Offences (includes all uses however excludes air weapons and bb guns)	44*	79*	+79.5%
	Discharges of Lethal Barrelled Firearms (handguns, shotguns and rifles - not air)	7*	8*	+14.3%
	Presentations to ED with knife/sharp object assault injuries	110^	87^	-20.9%
Reduce Neighbourhood Crime	Recorded Burglary, Robbery, Theft of/from vehicle, Theft from person	16,127	15,627	-3.1%
Improve satisfaction among victims (focus on DA)	% Victims Satisfied (internal surveys)	69.8%	70.2%	+0.4%
	% DA Victims Satisfied (internal surveys)	85.3%	82.5%	-2.8%
Tackle Cyber Crime	Recorded Online/Cyber-enabled crimes	5,744	6,014	+4.7%

^Data 12 months to end of November 2022 as December's Data isn't yet available

\*\*Data 12 months to end of September 2020 and September 2022 as October, November and December's Data isn't yet available



## Key Headlines

- **Serious Violence:** Discharges of lethal, barrelled weapons remain low in number, with 2 recorded in the last quarter. There has been an increase in overall police investigations with Firearms markers, but analysis has confirmed that this continues to be driven by threats with weapons, rather than their active use. There have been no fatal injuries using firearms in the last year and no firearms thefts. NHS data continues to show a decreasing trend in admissions for knife/sharp object assault injuries.
- **Homicide:** There have been two homicides recorded in Quarter 3 (Oct-Dec 2022). A Homicide and “Near miss” Problem Profile is nearing completion and will be submitted to the College of Policing for aggregation into a national product. Data Analysed over a 3-year period (01/04/2019 to 31/03/2022) has identified that spontaneous/random violence, youth knife crime and domestic abuse account for a significant proportion of homicides. In Lancashire, a high proportion of victims are older white north-European males deemed vulnerable due to lifestyle. Females accounted for 31% of homicide victims. 8% of homicides could be classed as DA- related. Suspects for homicide offences are mainly white North-European males (76%). The districts of Blackpool and Lancaster recorded the most offences over the period (13 and 9 respectively). Although reported homicides in Lancashire have steadily increased since 2013, in line with the national trend, there has been a reduction year on year for the past three years. Lancashire Constabulary’s Homicide Prevention Strategy has recently been published and covers 8 Strategic themes, including SOC, VAWG and Organisational Learning.
- **Victim Satisfaction:** Levels for DA victims and Overall victims remain circa 83% and 70% respectively.
- **Cyber crime** – Internal measures indicate a continued increase. National data has been published but aggregates Cyber Threats by Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) only at this stage.

**National CJS Delivery Data**

Data was updated in February 2023 to include Quarter 3 of 2022 (July to September).

Key Headlines

All Crime

- The latest national data suggests a **reduction in the timeliness of investigations for victims of crime**. Lancashire is also now tracking below the national average (47 days; -11pts). Timeliness from police referral to CPS charge for the North-West CPS area has increased by 3 days to 44 days but is equal to the National average. Time from arrival in Crown Court to case completion (from HMCTS data) reduced by 12 days in the latest period and sits 5 days below the National average for the Lancashire LCJB area.



Rolling 12 month comparisons for Lancashire– All Crime  
 Source: [Criminal Justice System Delivery Data Dashboard - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-system-delivery-data)

- The **percentage of positive outcomes for victim-based crime has increased slightly** and matches the National average at 9%. Data indicates an **increase in the percentage of investigations closed because the victim does not support further police action** (+1 percentage point) and Lancashire’s figure is above the National average (by 7 percentage points).

Adult Rape

- Lancashire is **ahead of the National average in relation to investigative timeliness (-145 days) and is equal in terms of positive outcome proportions** for adult victims of rape. The North West CPS area is also ahead of the National picture in relation to the time taken to authorise a charge following police referral (-23 days). However the Lancashire HMCTS data indicates that the time from a case arriving at Crown Court to it being completed, is above the National average and increasing (+4 ppts since the last update at 390 days; National average = 363).

Crime recorded to police decision

Average days taken for police to charge an offender

**198 days**

Down 10 days from previous year

October 2021 to September 2022

Crime recorded to police decision

Investigations which result in a charge (% of all investigations closed in the same time period)

**4%**

No change from previous year

October 2021 to September 2022

Crime recorded to police decision

Investigations closed because the victim does not support police action (%)

**59%**

Up 2 percentage points from previous year

October 2021 to September 2022

Rolling 12 month comparisons for Lancashire– Adult Rape

Source: [Criminal Justice System Delivery Data Dashboard - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-justice-system-delivery-data)

- The latest data shows an increase in the number of suspects referred to CPS for early advice or a charging decision in Lancashire and the Constabulary is tracking ahead of 2016 levels, which are being used Nationally as a target.
- Lancashire is still just below the National average in terms of investigations closed due to the victim not supporting police action (- 3 percentage points; ppts), although this has increased by 2ppts since the last data release.
- The Lancashire LCJB area recorded a higher (and increasing) proportion of cases which resulted in either a completed trial or guilty plea (91%), when compared with the the National average (87%).

## Recorded Crime and Outcome Levels

### Year-to-Date comparison – All Crime

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>All crime total</b>	<b>Percentage change vs. previous year</b>
<b>2019</b>	109,228	-
<b>2020</b>	90,610	-17%
<b>2021</b>	103,809	+15%
<b>2022</b>	100,655	-3%

- Overall, crime levels from April to December 2022 were slightly lower than in 2021 and almost 8% below the pre-pandemic baseline period.

### Outcomes – Priority Crimes

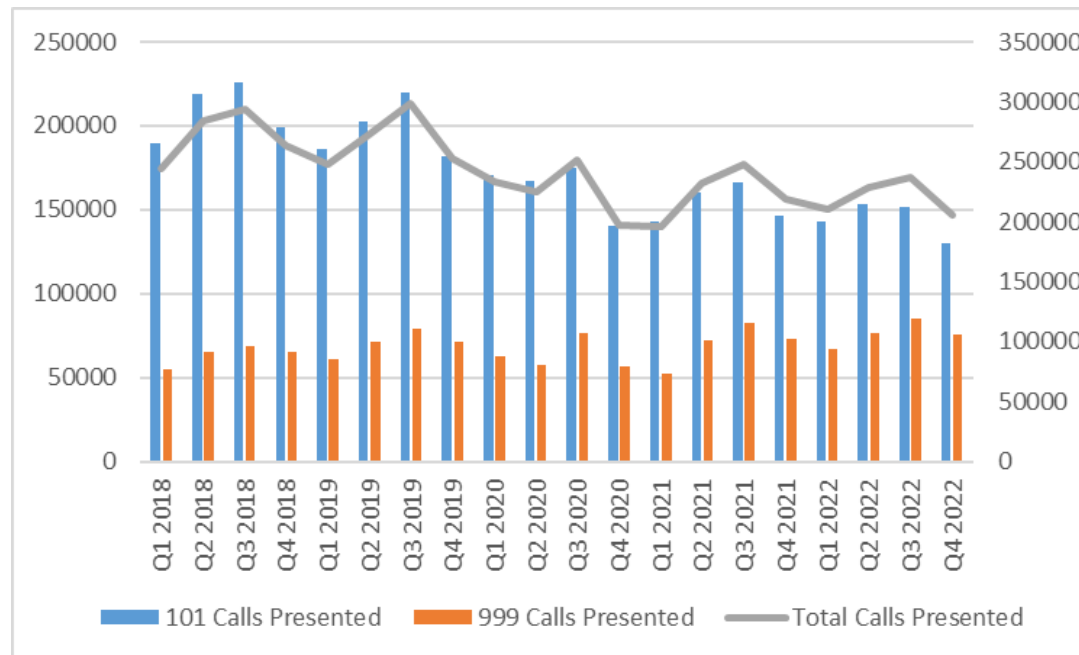
- Force data shows that December's All Crime outcomes hit the highest monthly figure since May 2020 at 13.64%, with Personal Robbery and Hate Crime outcomes both exceeding 20%. It is therefore expected that Lancashire's position Nationally will continue to improve.

## Police and Crime Plan Priorities

### Efficient and Effective policing

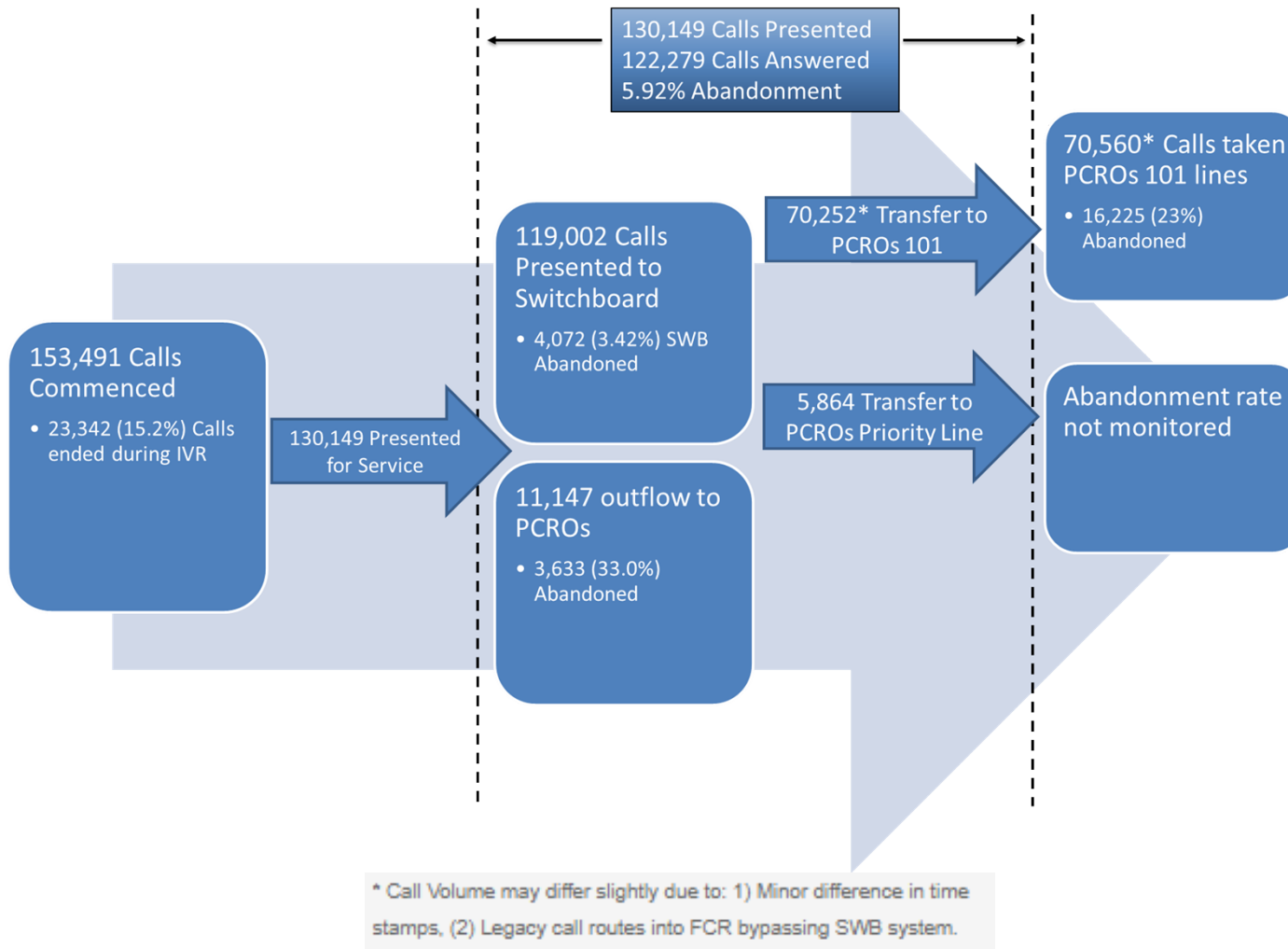
#### Key Headlines

- The overall number of calls presented has decreased slightly since the summer months. However, the **latest quarter's 999 call volumes were higher than the same period in both 2019 (+6%) and 2021 (+4%)**. In contrast, 101 call volumes were again considerably lower in volume than previous years. Digital demand reached an all-time peak in August 2022, but has decreased since October, in line with the usual seasonal trend.



Call volumes per month 2018 – present (total refers to right axis)

Source: FCR Live Dashboard



101 Call Flow Performance – October to December 2022

Source: FCR Live dashboard, Power BI

- **101 abandonment rates:** The switchboard abandonment rate was 3% between Oct and December, a slight increase from 2% last quarter. The combined abandonment rate, which includes all hours (during switchboard operation and overnight, when Call Operators take 101 calls instead) was 6.0%, an increase of 1% since the last update. For context, 101 abandonment rates in 2019 and 2021 for the same period were 35% and 20% respectively.
- A **101 call-back project** is underway and is expected to further improve 101 performance. The automated function will enable callers who are waiting to select the option of being placed in a queue to receive a call back when an agent becomes available. This aims to reduce abandonment rates and provide a better service as callers should receive an estimated wait time for a return call.
- Following a rapid review, resourcing changes will take effect in March, including changes to the call-takers' rota and implementation of a logistics team with a focus on duty planning, recruitment, and ongoing quality improvement. Training courses are planned for April and September. These changes are expected to positively impact abandonment rates through improved staff coverage across all hours of the day.
- **999 Service Levels have improved dramatically since October**, reaching 91.5% in December, (improving from 60% in September). This improvement followed telephony enhancements which allow supervisors to flex the resourcing of 999 call takers in line with demand, and SLAs have been maintained into 2023 with the figure for the calendar year to date sitting at 93%.

## Getting Tough on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

### Key Headlines

- **ASB incident volumes continue to track below the previous financial year to date** (see below). The trend in the last quarter tracked just below volumes observed for the same period in 2019. The latest ONS data release reported a 35% decrease Nationally to the end of September 2022 vs. the previous 12 months. Across the last quarter, repeat locations have centred around supermarkets, fast food restaurants and major hospitals. All Districts are showing reductions year to date.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>ASB Incident total</b>	<b>Percentage change vs. previous year</b>
<b>2019</b>	43,375	-
<b>2020</b>	72,954	+68%
<b>2021</b>	53,580	-27%
<b>2022</b>	43,062	-20%

ASB Incidents Recorded – Lancashire, 2018/19 to present






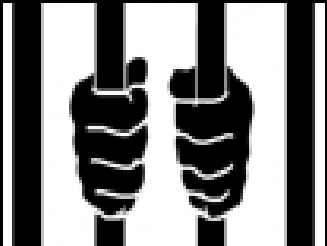



*Source: Responding Dashboard*

- Lancashire’s Prevention and Problem-Solving Command (PPC) were invited to present on Engagement at the NPCC National NHP Conference in Hull in November. Constabulary representatives shared the success of Lancashire Talking and the People’s Voice project, which was highlighted as best practice by HMICFRS during last year’s PEEL inspection. Almost 16% of households are now signed up to Lancashire Talking, which is understood to be the highest representation achieved across UK policing.
- A Fraud Prevention Conference took place on 4<sup>th</sup> October, which was sponsored by LANPAC and TrueCall, a company that provides nuisance call management products and services. Over 80 delegates attended, including representatives from LVS, Trading Standards and Age UK, alongside LANPAC and the Constabulary’s Economic Crime Unit. The aim of the Conference was to help raise awareness of the risks of fraud, and to identify how partners can work together to support victims and prevent further victimisation.



- 3 ASB Summits were organised by the OPCC and were supported by the Constabulary, including presentations by Senior Leaders in each BCU. The events brought multi-agency partners together and Rebecca Bryant OBE, Chief Executive of Resolve, a specialist of Community Safety and ASB for 18 years, also attended and presented.

**Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime**

PURSUING OFFENDERS: REDUCING THEIR CAPABILITY & FINANCIAL GAIN				
 <p>283 arrests 90 charges</p>	 <p>12 people convicted 59.4 years imprisonment</p>	 <p>7 preventative orders obtained</p>	 <p>21 cash seizures (£30801)</p>	<p>155 Minor 36 Moderate 3 None 3 Major Overall Disruption 197</p>
 <p>0 Firearms recovered 0 rounds of ammunition</p>			 <p>8.8 kg Class A drugs seized and 0.6 kg Class B seized &amp; 688 Plants</p> 	
PREVENTING & PROTECTING SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME				
<p>multi- 21agency meetings held</p>	<p>Worked in Partnership with different agencies to prevent &amp; protect against serious &amp; organised crime</p>		<p>Prevent Initiatives SOC Diversion (MASP) ROC</p>	<p>23 Adults Safeguarded  9 Children Safeguarded</p>

October – December 2022; Source: PAM system

Key Headlines

- **Operation Warrior**, a force-wide approach to tackling SOC launched internally with a dedicated intranet site and briefings delivered to frontline officers and Lead Responsible Officers; and externally with a link to Crimestoppers reporting and awareness raising through multimedia. Social media posts reached over 290k users and drew over 3000 interactions. Crimestoppers intelligence will be monitored throughout as a measure of effectiveness.
- The inaugural **NPCC National Personal Robbery week of action** ran from 10- 17th December. Locally, the week was successful with targeted patrols of hotspots in each division, community engagement and social media robbery prevention advice resulting in nine arrests, 131 stop and searches and the arrest of five wanted offenders.
- MASP (Multi Agency Support Panels) support children who are presenting with early indicators or vulnerability for Child Criminal Exploitation & SOC. Through the Violence Reduction Network, the Constabulary is keen to support the roll out of MASP through early intervention Inspectors and funding streams are being explored to support a co-ordination role.
- The **Serious Violence Duty: Statutory Guidance** was published by the Home Office in December 2022. The Constabulary will work closely with the OPCC to ensure funding attributed to the Duty is focused on areas which support multiagency delivery.

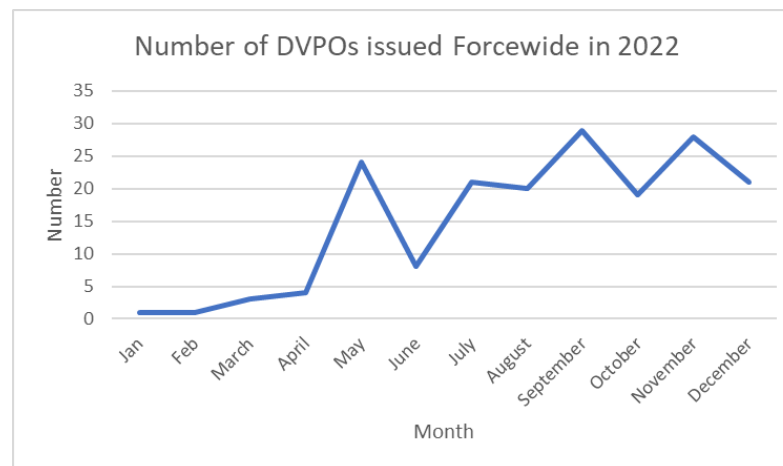
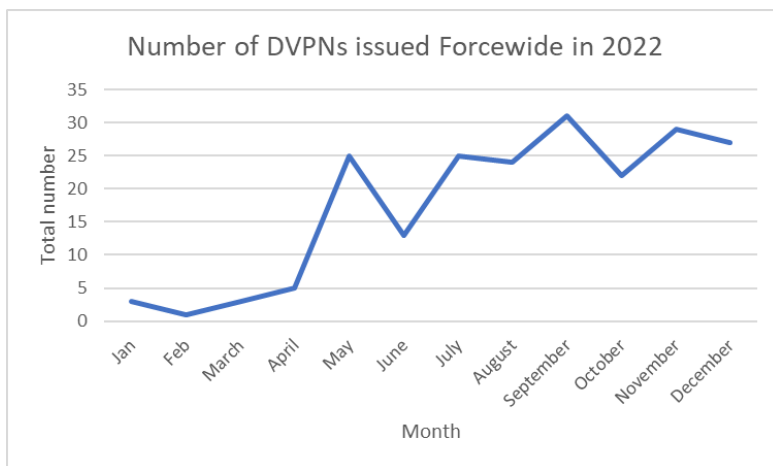
## Tackling Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Violence

1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> December	DA Crime total	Percentage change vs. previous year
2019	16,353	-
2020	17,765	+9%
2021	19,738	+11%
2022	18,659	-5%

### Key Headlines

- During November and December, **DA incidents fell to the lowest levels of the last five years**, with the exception of 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. **DA crime volumes have been reducing since a peak in August and have been tracking slightly below 2021/22 levels for most of this year.** The latest quarter has seen the lowest monthly totals recorded since late 2020.
- The proportion of **DA victims satisfied with the police service they received is stable** – sitting at 83% for the last 12 months. New surveys for DA and Stalking victims launched in December (as mandated Nationally). Almost 92% were satisfied with the initial contact process and 100% of those who reported via the Public Engagement portal found it easy to use. 95% reported that police treated them with respect.
- Recorded Rape and Other Sexual Offences have been on a downward trend since the Summer months and both have reduced in the financial year to date in comparison with 2021/22.
- To fulfil the requirements of a new Home Office Annual Data Return (ADR722), regarding mobile phones seized from Adult Rape Victims, a question set has been devised and tested within CONNECT. Officers will complete the questions for all adult rape investigations where phone data is required, and Corporate Analysts will monitor both the volume of victims' phones seized and the speed with which they are returned.

- Senior Leaders attended the Violence Against Women and Girls Criminal Justice Road Show on 18<sup>th</sup> January in Manchester. The event focused on the work of the National VAWG Task Force, discussed the impending VAWG performance pack, refreshed CJ scorecards and CJS reform such as the Victims’ Bill.
- In December, The PPC’s Chief Inspector visited Northampton to observe Northampton Guardians, a response to VAWG which has been running successfully for 12 months. The operation deploys police volunteers into the Night-Time Economy to prevent sexually motivated and predatory crime against women and girls and has achieved considerable reductions in police deployments, whilst increasing public confidence. This learning will be fed into Lancashire’s Operation Night Guardian.



DVPN	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	3	1	3	5	25	13	25	24	31	22	29	27
DVPO	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
	1	1	3	4	24	8	21	20	29	19	28	21

- **Increases in the use of protective and preventative orders have been sustained** (see above). The Public Protection Unit, Corporate Analysts, Legal Services and the Civil Orders Team have developed a coordinated recording process and BI dashboard for tracking the volume of all proactive orders issued force wide. Previously data was held in multiple spreadsheets across departments and manual collation was required for monitoring and/or reporting. The database went live on 1<sup>st</sup> December and the dashboard is in testing.
- A **Domestic Abuse Round Table event** took place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 attended by the Chief Constable, ACC Crime, OPCC, Local Authority Chief Executives and Strategic leads from all statutory agencies, together with supporting organisations including Lancashire Victim Service and the Wish centre. The event was organised by the Joint Partnership Business Unit in conjunction with the VRN and provided a National overview from the DA Commissioner's Office and NPCC lead Assistant Commissioner Louisa Rolfe, followed by the Director of Public Health for LCC - Sakthi Karunanithi. Plenary sessions provided opportunity for in depth discussion of areas for development, opportunities and strengths across partners. Next steps will see strategic leads sign up to a Domestic Abuse Partnership Pledge, articulating our joint commitment, priorities and outcomes through a shared vision.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> February, Lancashire Police held an **internal practitioner development day**, following on from the strategic event. The Joint Partnership Business Unit now intend to consolidate the themes, views and ideas from the Round Table with further consultation from all agencies, balanced against statutory responsibilities and the joint outcomes framework. Independent scrutiny of the partnership approach to DA has been commissioned through CSAP. This will then inform a series of multi-agency master classes through 2023 to improve and develop a collective approach.

## Cracking Down on Burglary and Robbery

### Key Headlines

- All offence categories with the exception of Business Robbery have decreased compared with the previous financial year to date and all also remain at a lower volume than the same period in 2019/20 – see table below. Residential burglary volumes reached their lowest point in the last five years during December. A notable increase was observed in East division during November but following tactical interventions including the apprehension of a known offender, levels in December were more comparable with earlier in the year.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Burglary Business and Community Crime total</b>	<b>Percentage change vs. previous year</b>
<b>2019</b>	3,208	-
<b>2020</b>	2,133	-34%
<b>2021</b>	2,029	-5%
<b>2022</b>	1,979	-2.5%
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Burglary Residential Crime total</b>	<b>Percentage change vs. previous year</b>
<b>2019</b>	5,565	-
<b>2020</b>	4,255	-24%
<b>2021</b>	3,830	-10%
<b>2022</b>	3,701	-3%
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Robbery Personal Crime total</b>	<b>Percentage change vs. previous year</b>
<b>2019</b>	876	-
<b>2020</b>	669	-24%
<b>2021</b>	744	+11%
<b>2022</b>	722	-3%

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>Robbery Business Crime total</b>	<b>Percentage change vs. previous year</b>
<b>2019</b>	69	-
<b>2020</b>	34	-51%
<b>2021</b>	44	+30%
<b>2022</b>	56	+27%

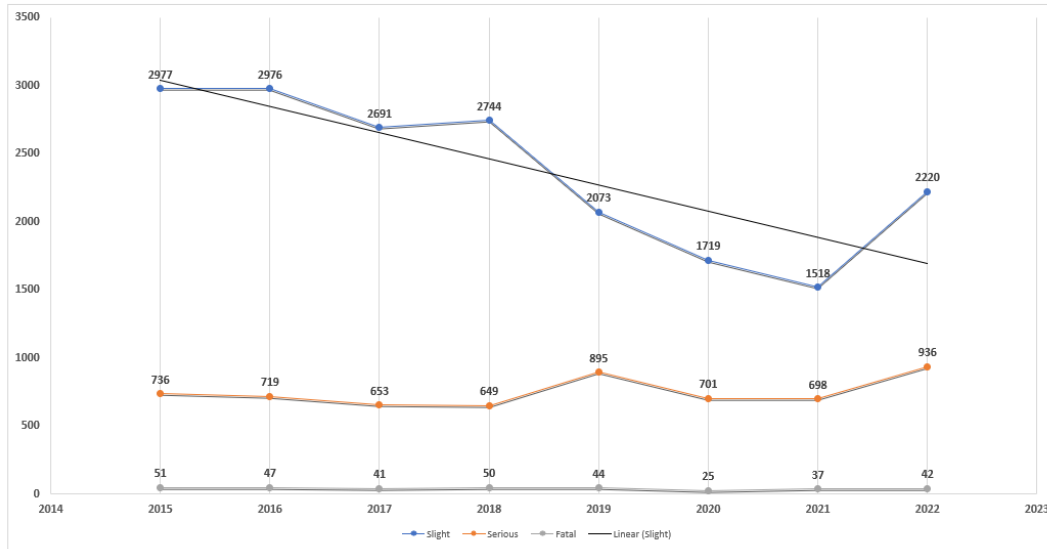
- Super Cocooning is set to be launched across the Constabulary as part of the Neighbourhood Week of Action from 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. Neighbourhood Officers and Staff will revisit victims of Residential Burglary and the neighbouring properties. They will offer reassurance and crime prevention advice to reduce the potential for repeat/near repeat victimisation of properties.
- GoodSAM software will be applied to Burglary later this year, enabling the monitoring of police activity in Hot Spot Areas (identified as high risk of near repeat victimisation through Optimal Foraging Theory). It will be available on all mobile devices and will facilitate analysis of the impact of targeted activity in preventing further crime.
- Lancashire is part of a National Working Group aimed at developing a consistent set of metrics to monitor Residential Burglary. Once developed, these will be presented to the NPCC Lead and proposed for national roll out.
- Operation Cleanslate aims to develop a consistent approach across the Constabulary to the way in which offences are Taken into Consideration (TIC). TICs are effective in supporting victims of crime and enabling offenders to admit the totality of their offending. Work is ongoing to review internal processes and maximise support from the CPS and Courts.



## 8. Targeting Dangerous Drivers

### Key Headlines

KSI – January to December 2015 to 2022 comparison



\*Injury Collisions Report to the DfT on a calendar year and not a financial year timeframe.

\_\_\_\_\_*Source: Internal data and Collision Reporting and Sharing System- CRaSH*

- In 2023 to date, there have been 4 fatal and 66 serious injury collisions finalised and submitted to DfT.
- Analysis and study of December 2022 has identified the highest rate on record of road traffic collisions as a result of impairments; alcohol and/or drugs. During December 2022, 20.5% of KSI collisions were linked to drink or drug driving, a sharp contrast to 10.8% in 2021. Of all injury collisions, 13.2% were impairment linked, another record high.

- RTC fatalities have largely stabilised, in 2022 there were 42 fatal RTC's compared to 37 in 2021. This is a trend that is reflected nationally.
- Throughout 2022, The County recorded the **lowest number of motorcycle casualties on record** and the fewest motorcycle fatalities since 2017. HQ Operations continue with both enforcement and engagement through BikeSafe activities and Operation Sawfish.
- **Operation Limit** ran from 21<sup>st</sup> November until the end of December and focused on impairment through drink and drug driving. In total, **343 arrests** were made, of which 38 (11%) were also targets of Operation Virage, (intelligence-led targeting) and the split was approximately 50/50 split for drink or drugs impairment. In addition to these arrests, 963 officer issued Traffic Offence Reports, 406 reports for summons and 276 seizures for no insurance were undertaken.
- **Op Snap** – Since October 2021, there have been 3,012 digital submissions from the public and 60% have been actionable. In that time 1,527 NIP/172 letters have been sent out. So far 838 have been completed of which 240 (29%) completed a retraining course, 309 (37%) complied with the fixed penalty, 218 (26%) were prosecuted with 71 (8%) being cancelled for a variety of reasons which includes insufficient evidence, driver identity, cloned plates, etc. The Safer Roads Unit are currently recruiting for 4 x part-time police staff OpSnap Investigation Officers (2 x FTE) and once they are in place there will be another media push to promote OpSnap with a view to increasing public awareness and in turn the number of submissions. A report on the first full year is currently being written which summarises the key findings from this project and this should be available in February 2023.
- **Officer issued TORs for the whole of 2022 were just under 2000 higher than in 2021 (+40%)** which reflects the Constabulary's improving capability and capacity owing to a focus on recruitment to specialist teams, the undertaking of Traffic Officer training (now provided in-house) and the refreshed advanced fleet reaching operational balance.

## POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Police & Crime Commissioner Decisions

Contact for further information: Ian Dickinson, 01772 533462, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, [ian.dickinson@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.dickinson@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to highlight decisions made by

- i) the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, and
- ii) the Chief Executive, or authorised officer, under delegated authority in the period since the last meeting of the Panel on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to consider the report and raise any issues identified on the decisions presented.

### 1 Background

- 1.1. Under Section 28(6) of the Police Reform and Social responsibility Act 2011, the Panel is obliged to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner's functions and, where necessary, make reports or recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner with respect to the discharge of the Commissioner's functions.
- 1.2. The Commissioner is under a statutory obligation under the terms of the Specified Information Order to publish details of decisions of significant public interest. In more general terms under Section 13 of the 2011 Act, the Commissioner is obliged to ensure that he provides the Panel with any information that it might reasonably require to allow it to carry out its functions. This would include the provision of information regarding the Commissioner's decisions and actions, irrespective of whether they were to be considered to be of 'significant public interest'.
- 1.3. In this respect, the Commissioner publishes on his website all decisions he has made.
- 1.4. Further details on all these decisions are available for scrutiny on the Commissioner's Website at:-

<https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/decisions/>

## 2 Decisions made and/or published since the last scheduled meeting of the Police and Crime Panel

2.1 Drawing on the information published on the Commissioner's website, a number of decisions have been made since the report to the Panel at its last meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. These are set out in the table below.

Decision Reference	Decision Title	PCC Priority	Date of Decision
2022/28	Section 22 Surveillance Operations Rooms Service Collaboration (restricted)	Governance	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
2022/29	Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund Community Fund	Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour  Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime	6 December 2022
2022/30	Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund Community Fund	Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour  Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime	13 December 2022
2022/31	Collaboration Agreement in relation to the Provision of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Technology (restricted)	Governance	14 December 2022
2022/32	Financial Position as at 30 September 2022	Governance	16 November 2022
2022/33	Joint Audit and Ethics Committee Constitution and Terms of Reference	Governance	16 November 2022
2022/34	Lancashire Police Museum Governance Board Terms of Reference	Governance	16 November 2022
2022/35	Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund – Fighting Crime Fund	Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour  Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime	12 December 2022
2022/36	Collaboration Agreement in relation to the Establishment of a North West Underwater Investigation and Maritime Policing Capability (restricted)	Governance	14 December 2022

2022/37	Indemnity Wording for Legally Qualified Chairs (LQCs) and Independent Panel Members (IPMs) for Misconduct Hearings	Governance	12 January 2023
2022/38	OPCC - Risk and Opportunities Register (restricted)	Governance	5 December 2022
2022/39	2021/22 Treasury Management year-end position	Governance	5 December 2022
2022/40	Treasury Management mid-year report 2022/23	Governance	5 December 2022
2022/41	Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund - Police Innovation Fund	Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour  Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime	13 February 2023
2022/42	Financial Position as at 31 December 2022	Governance	15 February 2023
2022/43	The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire's Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24 and Capital Investment Programme for 2023/24 to 2027/28	Governance	15 February 2023
2022/44	Financial Outlook 2023/24 to 2025/26	Governance	15 February 2023
2022/45	Joint Audit Committee Membership	Governance	15 February 2023
	Delegated Decisions	Governance	28 February 2023

### 3. Chief Executive's Delegated Decisions

- 3.1 The Panel will recall that the Commissioner has agreed to the Chief Executive's delegated decisions being published.
- 3.2 A report detailing the exercise of her delegations made since the last meeting was presented to the Commissioner on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023. This report has been published along with all other decisions made by the Commissioner on the website and is available for inspection via the following link.

<https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/decisions/>

### 4. Conclusion

- 4.2 In accordance with its statutory duty, the Panel has the opportunity to scrutinise and review the decisions made and published as set out in the report now presented.

## Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Timetable of Meetings 2023/2024

Contact for further information: Phil Llewellyn, Corporate and Democratic Lead,  
[phil.llewellyn@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:phil.llewellyn@blackburn.gov.uk)

#### Executive Summary

This report sets out the proposed Timetable of Meetings for 2023/24.

#### Recommendation

The Police & Crime Panel are asked to agree the Timetable of Meetings for 2023/24.

### Background and Advice

It is for the Police and Crime Panel to determine its own cycle of meetings and to appoint any sub committees or task groups as may be deemed necessary in order to carry out the functions of the Panel.

The Panel have previously agreed that meetings will be held at **Blackburn Town Hall at 4pm**, with the exception of the Annual General Meeting, which will commence at **10am**.

These meetings will be webcast, with Meeting Room A at Blackburn Town Hall as the venue.

### Timetable of Meetings for the Panel

The Timetable below proposes dates of Panel meetings in 2023/24:

<b>DATE/TIME/VENUE</b>
<b>Monday 3rd July 2023 –AGM &amp; Annual Induction Session</b> 10am, followed by Annual Induction after lunch.
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (Precept only)</b>

<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (if required –dependant on Precept decision)</b>
<b>Monday 4th March 2024</b>
<b>Monday 1st July 2024 – AGM &amp; Annual Induction Session.</b>

The Police and Crime Panel may be required to hold additional meetings in the following circumstances.

1. If the PCC chooses to appoint a new Chief Constable, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer or Deputy PCC
2. The PCC wishes to remove the current Chief Constable.
3. The PCC varies the Police and Crime Plan or proposes to issue a new Plan.
4. The Panel needs to consider any complaints against the PCC that are not of a criminal nature.
5. The Panel needs to appoint an acting PCC if the current PCC is incapacitated, suspended or resigns.

### **Consultations**

The Panel are being consulted on dates at today’s meeting, but the proposed times are as agreed previously by the Panel.

### **Implications**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk Management**

The provision of an Independent Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire is in accordance with the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact
		Phil Llewellyn 01254 585369

## Agenda item

### Police and Crime Panel for Lancashire

Meeting to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### COMPLAINTS UPDATE

Contact for further information:

Asad Laher (01254) 585495 Secretary Lancashire Police & Crime Panel,  
[asad.laher@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:asad.laher@blackburn.gov.uk)

### Executive Summary

This report sets out the current position with regard to communications relating to potential complaints received and an update on an ongoing complaint referred to at the Panel Meeting on 5 December 2023, in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

### Recommendation

That the update in relation to communications and complaints be noted.

### Background and Advice

Through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Lancashire Police and Crime Panel has a duty to record and consider non-criminal complaints made against the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) when acting in relation to their policing and crime functions, and the Deputy Policing and Crime Commissioner (DPCC).

The Secretary of the Panel has authority for filtering complaints and must refer the following to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC):

- A 'serious complaint' (i.e. a complaint that constitutes or involves or appears to constitute or involve, the commission of a criminal offence)
- A recorded 'conduct matter' (i.e. where there exists an indication that the PCC/DPCC may have committed a criminal offence and this comes to light other than by way of a complaint.

Many issues and concerns raised do not relate directly to the conduct of the PCC/DPCC and therefore do not, under legislation come under the jurisdiction of the Police & Crime Panel.

Many communications received although purport to be complaints against the PCC/DPCC focus but actually relate to concerns on the alleged conduct of police officers, conduct of police investigations/operations or that of the chief



constable. These are matters for which there are other complaints processes and/or, appropriate authorities to deal with such matters.

In relation to the ongoing matter in respect of the PCC and DPCC, the Complaints Sub-Committee met on 1 February 2023 to consider a report from the Secretary and answer questions. Although the 'Initial Handling' of complaints has been delegated to the Secretary under the Police and Crime Panel Complaints Procedure, in this matter the Sub Committee was requested to determine how the matter should be considered as during correspondence the complainant made allegations/complaints against the Secretary and the Chair. Therefore, the Secretary and the Chair appropriately withdrew from the meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee, and were supported by a legal advisor and the Corporate and Democratic Lead from the host authority.

- A) In relation to the complaints against the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner the Sub-Committee resolved:
1. To record the complaint
  2. That the matter not be referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC);
  3. To take no further action

The matter was not referred to the IOPC because the Sub-Committee considered that the allegations were not sufficiently clear in identifying the conduct that would justify bringing criminal proceedings against the DPCC. The Sub-Committee also decided to take no further action in accordance with regulation 15 of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012. This was on the grounds that they concluded each of the complaints and allegations were either relating to a local authority's ongoing trigger process (and therefore a matter to be raised with them) or they lacked sufficient grounds and therefore believed them to be vexatious.

- B) In relation to your complaints against the PCC the Sub-Committee resolved:
1. To record the complaint
  2. That the matter not be referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC);
  3. To take no further action

The Sub-Committee concluded that none of the allegations amounted to a crime and so did not need to be referred to the IOPC. The also decided to take no further action in accordance with regulation 15 of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012. This was on the grounds that they considered the complaint and allegations to be vexatious, with no evidence presented that proved any wrongdoing by the PCC.

Since the last meeting of the Panel the Secretary has received another purported complaint against the PCC. It seems that matter relates to operational police matters and further clarification has been sought in relation to the concerns raised by the complainant.

## **Consultations**

N/A

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Legal Implications**

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) has the statutory role of overseeing all complaints against the PCC/DPCC, and informally resolving non-criminal complaints. This is set out in the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.

In relation to Part 4 of the Regulations and the informal resolution procedure, the Panel have established a Sub-Committee to facilitate an informal resolution of the complaint and report back to the Panel the conclusion of the process. The sub-committee cannot investigate the complaint; it can only subject the complaint to an informal resolution.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It is proposed the handling of such complaints will be contained within existing resources and the grant funding provided by the Home Office.

### **Risk management**

The requirement to monitor and record complaints against the PCC and DPCC is in accordance with the provisions of The Elected Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper

Date

Contact/Directorate/Tel