

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 6 July 2020

Police & Crime Plan Performance Monitoring Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Panel with an update on progress in delivering the current Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) for Lancashire 2016-2021.

This reports aims to provide an overview of the activity of the PCC/Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner during the 4th Quarter (1 January – 31 March 2020) and how it has changed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This overview will look at all areas of the Police and Crime Plan and additional activity, provide an update for each category with understanding of the current situation and any anticipated possible scenarios that may require a change

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 quarterly Strategic Scrutiny meeting.
2. This link <https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/meetings-and-decisions/meetings-and-reports/strategic-scrutiny-meetings/> details the Scrutiny papers received from the Chief Constable and the note of the meeting records the PCC holding the Chief Constable to account.
3. The Panel are therefore referred to the Scrutiny 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 16 June 2020, the Commissioner held his regular quarterly Scrutiny meeting with the Chief Constable (CC) to discuss the data and issues highlighted within the report and the progress against the delivery measures in the Police and Crime Plan. The full report and note of the meeting are available for public inspection on the Commissioner's website.

5. Key issues discussed included:

Public Satisfaction – The Commissioner raised concern in relation to the reduction in satisfaction levels. The Chief Constable advised the Commissioner that there were a number of initiatives on-going which should increase the satisfaction levels such as the use of contact cards and the targeting of residential burglary by the local task forces. The Chief Constable also advised the Commissioner that following on from the successful 'every child matters' campaign, the Deputy Chief Constable was overseeing a 2 year 'standards campaign' linked to the core services offer. The campaign will look to address public concerns and cultural issues around behaviours, file quality, uniform etc. It was noted that the Deputy Chief Constable was developing a satisfaction plan which would be shared with the Commissioner when completed.

Hate Crime – The Commissioner discussed the current position with the Chief Constable regard to Hate Crime and whether there had been any changes with regard to crimes and incidents particularly in relation to covid-19 and Black Lives Matters. Whilst there was no evidence to suggest there were increased community tensions as a result, the Chief Constable recognised that was a real benefit to revisit the recommendations of the McPherson Report and other key reports covering custody and Criminal Justice in partnership with key groups such as the Black Police Association to understand and evidence the progress made by the Constabulary.

6. **Covid-19** - Members will be aware, that on 3rd March 2020 the Government published its Coronavirus action plan and this was followed by guidance from Public Health England (PHE) for first responders, including the police. In response on Lancashire Constabulary established a Gold group looking at how the virus would impact on Lancashire both operationally and for the staff and constant updates are provided from this meeting.

7. On Monday 16th March the government increased the isolation advice and on 23rd March the lockdown period started.

8. During week Monday 11 May the government message in England only was changed to “stay alert, control the virus, save lives”.

9. A number of changes to the restrictions were also made including:

- Actively encouraging people who could not work at home to go back to work, avoiding public transport where possible and use of face coverings in certain situations to be considered
- Fines issued by the police increased from £60 to £100
- Unlimited outside exercise, being able to sunbathe or picnic away from home
- Travel to outdoor space in a private vehicle irrespective of distance from home
- Being able to meet outdoors 1 other person not from your household providing maintain 2m social distancing
- Reopening of garden centres and nurseries

10. A number of changes are being progressed during early June and those applicable from 1 June include:

- Re-opening of schools/private nurseries for some age groups

- Groups of up to 6 people being able to meet outdoors, including in gardens and private outdoor spaces
11. In addition to national guidance and reports from the government and PHE, the Commissioner continues to receive regular guidance and advice from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and information from the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) as part of their named Operation Talla in response to Coronavirus.
 12. During this unprecedented period the work of the Commissioner has been of particular importance. The Commissioner is linked in with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which sits daily across Lancashire to ensure a coordinated response from local public services to the covid-19 situation. This ensures the PCC can escalate any Lancashire specific matters to the Policing Minister and Secretary of State for Justice, APCC and Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) as appropriate.
 13. Interim arrangements have also been made to replace standard governance structures during the Coronavirus pandemic:
 - Daily contact with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable.
 - 24 April 2020 – Extra ordinary scrutiny meeting was held via teleconference in relation to the impact of covid-19 on Lancashire Constabulary covering a 7 week reporting period from the 2nd March 2020.
 - 28 May 2020 – Scrutiny Q & A session – the Commissioner and his Office have throughout the pandemic received correspondence where members of the public have raised queries around the work of Lancashire Police during the pandemic and these challenging times. The Commissioner on the 28 May 2020 raised those concerns with the Chief Constable and a video of their conversation can be found via the following link:- https://youtu.be/ZN_kzAlaAOQ
 - Daily legal Group – The Director chairs the Bronze LRF Legal Group.
 - Director attends the Strategic Coordinating Group and the Tactical Coordinating Group of the LRF and other associated meetings
 - Weekly Local Criminal Justice Board – The Deputy Director is actively involved in the covid-19 (LCJB) meetings
 - The Commissioner's Commissioning Officer has held weekly monitoring meetings with Lancashire Victims Services
 - Staff of the OPCC have assisted with Lancashire Resilience Forum
 - 16 June 2020 – Strategic Scrutiny Meeting

Commissioned Services

14. The Commissioner's commissioned services have been contacted in order to understand any service disruption that may occur and to ensure services receive any support that may be required. We have received plans and/or assurances that are updated weekly by our contracted providers and those delivering high risk provision.
15. Continuing throughout the period the OPCC has held weekly check in meetings with Lancashire Victims Services to understand the level and types of referrals being made.
16. Further, the Commissioner has recently submitted a bid to the covid-19 Extraordinary Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services. The fund has been established to support victims and survivors' of domestic abuse (DA), sexual violence (SV), vulnerable children and their families, as well as victims of modern slavery, during the COVID-19 emergency pandemic.
17. Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) took their place in working with the Local Resilience Forum to support and coordinate the response. LVP set about keeping their volunteers safe and turn their attention to operating a telephone befriending service and supporting local district hubs.
18. As their response developed, volunteers were making approaching 1200 calls a week to vulnerable people. The readiness of people to volunteer was amazing, the LVP signposted hundreds of additional volunteers to local district hubs which were coordinating activity on the ground.
19. Our Lancashire which was only launched in November 2019 came into its own during the crisis with its attention turning to support the local district hubs and act as a bridge between them and local groups changing their activity to support the response.
20. During the crisis, the number of local groups on the 'Our Lancashire platform' increased to over 1000, representing over 116,000 group members across Lancashire.
21. Supporting vulnerable people and assisting in the coordination of volunteers and groups Our Lancashire joined forces with LCC Community Projects team to provide a link officer for every district hub in the County.

Reducing Crime and Re-offending

22. Throughout the pandemic the OPCC has contributed to the weekly Local Criminal Justice Board – covid-19 (LCJB) meetings to understand and mitigate where possible the huge impact on Criminal Justice processes and outcomes.
23. Unfortunately the majority of cases have been delayed or postponed, which has a considerable detrimental impact on the lives of victims, witness and those accused of committing crime. Local justice partners are coming together via the LCJB, working together in order to get the situation moving as soon as is possible, but very much hampered by national restrictions and decision making at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) level.

24. Whilst the use of new technology platforms have been progressed, the backlog in court cases continues to build daily and any move back to 'normal business' is a fast growing challenge.
25. The Commissioner has written to Government raising his concerns about the delays and the impact on the support available to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence cases and is seeking assurance that this issue will be looked at and the effects ameliorated. The Commissioner has also sought clarity on the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme where claims are two year time limited. However, victims are unable to claim until after the court process. With delays mounting up, there are concerns that some may find themselves out of time.
26. A new independent chair, Paul Withers was appointed to the Reducing Reoffending board and has very quickly contributed to the Strategic group and chaired his first virtual local board meeting.

Impact on Crime and Community Safety

27. The National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) have been monitoring the changes in crime across the country during the pandemic. The below figures look at the percentage changes and how they compare in Lancashire. The data was for the 4 weeks prior to the 10th May compared with the same time last year.

	Lancashire	National
Total Crime	-25%	-25%
Assaults and Personal Robbery	-39%	-30%
Rape	-34%	-28%
Residential Burglary	-25%	-36%
Vehicle Crime – theft from and of vehicle	-57%	-41%
Shoplifting	-47%	-53%
999 calls	-27%	-23%
101 calls	-16%	-25%

28. There were some new National indicators included in the NPCC bulletin which included trends in Safeguarding Incidents and they were as follows:

	Lancashire	National
Domestic Abuse Incidents	-3%	+4%
Missing Person related incidents	-43%	-37%

29. The above data should be viewed as provisional, having been gathered at speed, and as only indicative of recent trends. The above data was taken before the changes to the lockdown at the end of May.
30. Early indicators from Lancashire are that the number of calls to the 999 system are now beginning to rise, and total crime is also rising – but still below that seen at this time last year.

31. These are very early indicators and are being tracked on a weekly basis as part of the PCC's oversight of Lancashire Constabulary.

32. The daily data, as at 15 June identifies:

- Daily 999 calls are now moving back towards the usual volumes for this time of year at around 666 calls per day, last year 767.
- Similarly, the volume of 101 calls is increasing (around 1902 per day) and a similar number of incidents attended (a volume of 727 a day now attended, compared to 728 a day last year).
- Arrest levels dropped during the covid-19 pandemic but are now back to pre covid levels (approaching 347 a day).
- Domestic abuse incidents have remained constant from 55 per day to 56 per day
- As lockdown restrictions ease, there has been an increase in ASB incidents to around 255 a day in the last 7 days.
- There continues to be a lower volume of missing person reports.

Policing within new legislation parameters

33. It is expected that the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) England Regulations (various) will remain in place, however there will be likely alterations made to reflect changes in current restrictions.

34. The Constabulary's response continues to follow a four-step escalation process that adheres to NPCC guidance regarding the four E's of 'Engage', 'Explain', and 'Encourage' prior to 'Enforcing' through FPN usage. With an emphasis on the first three 'E's', enforcement action should be predominantly utilised for blatant breaches that endanger public safety through the spread of the virus such as through large public gatherings of more people than is currently permitted.

35. To maintain the ability to police with the consent of our communities, the PCC has worked with the Chief Constable to ensure that Lancashire Constabulary use these powers correctly, fairly and only when absolutely necessary.

36. As previously discussed, the policing of the legislation is scrutinised by the Constabulary's senior leaders on a daily basis.

37. On 15th May the NPCC released updated provisional data from all police forces in the UK which included the numbers of fines given to persons breaching the new legislation up to 11 May 2020.

38. The press release states that fines for breaches of government public health regulations issued by police officers in England and Wales equate to less than 0.02 per cent of the eligible population in England and Wales – with 13,445 fines issued in England between March 27 and the April 11.

39. Lancashire Constabulary has issued 736 fines between 27 March to 11 May in this time period and this compares well with other areas.

40. More recent data is currently being validated by the Home Office and is expected to be released towards the middle of July.

41. The latest press release and associated data can be accessed via the NPCC website here: <https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/npcc-issues-update-on-fines-given-during-covid-lockdown>

Public Engagement

42. The Commissioner and his Office have continued to inform and engage with members of the public throughout the current pandemic in a variety of ways. Numerous members of the office joined the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) to support Lancashire's strategic response to the pandemic – this involved work on county wide campaigns, information sharing across local partnerships as well as targeted stakeholder communications.
43. In addition to the work on the LRF the following activities have taken place:
- The Commissioner's office continues to respond to any incoming enquiries from the public
 - The Commissioner held a Q&A session with the Chief Constable based on queries raised in incoming correspondence
 - A variety of videos have been produced to share messages with the public, topics included:
 - Domestic abuse and available support
 - Hate crime and available support
 - Announcement of the new chair of Lancashire's Reducing Reoffending Boards
 - Videos for Pride month
 - Eid Video message
 - Volunteers' Week video message
 - Fraud awareness – information shared via press release and social media
 - Special Constabulary – work by Specials has been highlighted to the public – by mid-May Specials had already contributed close to 10,000 hours of their time
 - A dedicated Coronavirus Support Page on the PCC's website continues to be updated regularly. Articles include funding advice for domestic abuse services support and advice for victims of domestic abuse, advice on the public can help Lancashire Constabulary, support for victims of crime during the pandemic and how to protect yourself against fraud during covid-19.
 - Updated graphics, messages and videos have been shared via Lancashire Victim Services and the Commissioner's online channels to raise awareness of support during the pandemic, particularly for victims of domestic abuse. Messages have also gone out to the local media, and a new sections for victims of domestic abuse was been added to the LVS website.
 - Government and Lancashire Police messaging and updates around the pandemic have been supported through the Commissioners online channels.
 - Our Lancashire and Lancashire Volunteer Partnership played a key role in the response to the pandemic. Volunteers engaged with some of the most vulnerable in Lancashire through services like telephone befriending and work as part of the response hubs
 - Work is ongoing to ensure that the Lancashire public will have the opportunity to share their views on policing as part of the annual 'Let's talk policing' survey to be launched in July 2020
44. All communication methods are under constant review in terms of any further emerging issues or advice from the Government and NHS.

Violence Reduction Network (VRN)

45. The Commissioner has secured further funding of £1.16M for 2020-21 from the Government to continue the work of the VRN as detailed in the Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy. This will enable the VRN to deliver on the vision for every person living or working in Lancashire to feel and be safe from violence and violent crime through the four key priorities: prevention, enforcement, culture and developing an evidence-base of what works.
46. The Commissioner has also received further funding of £1,189,610 for 2020-21 from the Home Office Police Surge Fund to support police led prevention, enforcement and investigation of serious violence activity. This will enable the Constabulary to continue some of the activities commenced in 2019-20 with previous funding secured from the Home Office as well develop new areas of work. The Constabulary work is being coordinated by the VRN to ensure that it supports and is supported by the wider work of the VRN.
47. The VRN is working as part of the Lancashire Resilience Forum to create a county-wide domestic abuse campaign as part of our response to COVID-19. The campaign is being designed to raise awareness of the help and support available to victims and perpetrators along with how and where people can report their concerns.
48. The campaign will span digital and traditional media and is accompanied with the hashtag #noexcuseforabuse.

Staff Welfare

49. The offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner remain closed and all staff based at this office are working from home in accordance with government guidelines. Work has now commenced on reviewing how the Office will operate in the future. The Office is maintaining service and is operating business as usual..
50. Contact with staff continues to occur on a weekly basis, through staff meetings, email, individual calls and via a weekly internal bulletin

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections

51. The Police Crime and Commissioner elections were scheduled to take place on the 7 May 2020. On the 13 March 2020 the Prime Minister announced that all elections scheduled to take place on the 7 May 2020 would be postponed for one year. These elections will now take place on the 6 May 2021 and the Commissioner appointed will have a term of 3 years to 2024 not 4 years as normal.

Recommendation

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

Angela Harrison
Director