

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Meeting to be held on 7 December 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 2nd Quarter (1 July – 30 September 2020). 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 19 November 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 is available for public inspection on the Commissioner's website.

Key issues discussed included:

- The level of performance in relation to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO), particular in relation to convictions, triage rejection and longevity of investigations.
- A breakdown of types of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents officers were attending during the pandemic particularly around nuisance, unlicensed music events, house parties and outdoor gatherings
- The impact that covid has had on Human Trafficking (HT) and Modern-Day Slavery (MDS).

### **Covid-19**

5. A substantive report in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Constabulary's progress against its recovery plan can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

### **Finance Update**

6. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made his Spending Review statement on 25 November 2020. In this review he set out the departmental budget for government departments including the Home Office for 2021/22 but there was no further detail provided on the amount each PCC will receive. The Home Office budget has increased for some specific spending areas but has not had a 'general' increase, it is therefore reasonable to expect that core grant for policing allocated to the PCC will not increase in 2021/22.
7. The Chancellor confirmed some specific issues that affect policing:
  - Public sector pay freeze – All public sector employees except those in the NHS and those earning less than £24,000 per annum will have pay frozen in 2021/22
  - Funding of £400m will be provided for the recruitment of an additional 6,000 police officers in 2021/22 as part of the national uplift programme, allocations to each PCC will be provided as part of the Police Settlement
  - Police and Crime Commissioners will be able to increase council tax on a band D property by £15 without the requirement for a local referendum.
  - The government will meet 75% of any council tax deficit incurred in 2020/21 due to the Covid pandemic.
8. The Chancellor's statement confirmed that amid unusually high levels of uncertainty, the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts that Gross Domestic Product will fall by 11.3% in 2020 (the sharpest decline since 1709), before returning to growth in 2021. However, the economy is not expected to reach pre-crisis levels until the end of 2022; with long term damage meaning

that in 2025 the economy will be approximately 3% worse off than expected pre-Covid.

9. The implications of this economic outlook will emerge in future years' settlements however it has been widely reported that public spending will be under severe pressure for a number of years. This outlook will impact directly upon the Commissioner's budget proposals for 2021/22 as part of the multi-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that will reflect expectations for the period beyond the next financial year.
10. The PCC's Chief Finance Officer is aware that billing authorities are anticipating a lower than forecast tax base and a lower than currently forecast collection rate than previous MTFS assumptions in the next 3-4 years.
11. Given the sobering economic forecast provided in the Chancellor's statement it is clear that pressure on the budget will be significant in the next few years. As a consequence, the Commissioner has established a planning process to deliver future savings with the Chief Constable to meet the financial challenge this represents.
12. No announcement has been made in respect of when the Home Office will publish the Police Grant Settlement, it has been indicated that they 'expect' to publish 'before Christmas' but no firm date has been provided. Until the Settlement is provided no firm decisions about the construction of the budget for 2021/22 can be made by the Commissioner and therefore presented to the panel.

## **Criminal Justice**

13. Through his Office, the Commissioner continues to be actively involved in the Local Criminal Justice Board Recovery Plan. However, the backlog of court cases continues to grow and there is no significant movement nationally to address this. Demand coming into the police is increasing to more normal levels and whilst the court capacity continues to be very limited the backlog of cases is likely to continue to grow exponentially.
14. Members will recall that the Commissioner has written to the Home Secretary to highlight the difficulties in setting trials, the cost of funding of virtual remand hearings and the impact these delays have on the victims and witnesses. Following a response a meeting has taken place to push progress with the Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCTS) Head of Operations for the Region and other identify alternative venues to ease this burden.
15. Members will recall that the Commissioner recently appointed a new Independent Chair for the local Reducing Reoffending Boards at the beginning of lockdown. The Chair, has been very proactive in his new role supporting the revised membership of the local boards, engendering greater support from Police SMTs and local authorities and driving forward local delivery plans.

## Reducing Crime and Re-offending

16. The latest crime figures were presented by the Chief Constable to the Commissioner at the Strategic Scrutiny Meeting on the 19 November 2020 and are available for inspection on his website.
17. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner achieved White Ribbon Accreditation on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Other local authorities in Lancashire to have achieved the White Ribbon Accreditation include LCC, West Lancashire, Pendle, Rossendale, Hyndburn and South Ribble. The Office is currently working with the Police and other local authorities to achieve accreditation.
18. The Commissioner has approved the allocation of £7,540 from the Community Action Fund to three organisations. The organisations will provide:-
  - Incredible Edible Accrington – provide a range of groups and activities for the community in particularly vulnerable people who suffer from mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse.
  - Lets be Friends - electronic donation terminals to be placed in the centres of Lancaster and Morecambe. Members of the public will be able to donate money to the homeless safely and securely.
  - Moor Nook Youth Development Scheme - run a diversionary activity programme for young people who are on the cusp of offending. Young people will take part in a range of structured sport sessions over the 20 week programme.
19. The Commissioner, through his Office has held two interactive online modern slavery training sessions for up to 80 colleagues from across Lancashire from a range of organisations (Police, Substance Misuse Services, CSPs, Trading Standards, Housing Associations, LVS, Domestic Abuse Support providers, football clubs etc.) providing valuable training and insight to all stakeholders attending. These sessions would have, pre Covid been held in venues for audiences of 150 people at a time and it is to the credit of technology that this training could still go ahead albeit in a different format
20. In order to raise awareness of Modern Slavery on Anti-Slavery Day (18<sup>th</sup> October) there was a tour of the Freedom Bus around the County, which was met and supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC). The bus is normally a school bus during term time but on this particular day it was used to further highlight the PCC's commitment to raising awareness of such a heinous crime. The bus is liveried with details of the Modern Slavery charity Unseen and is co-ordinated by our PLASP chair.
21. Following a successful bid the Commissioner has received £62,000 from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) - No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) - which the Office administer and allocate. The fund is to support Domestic Abuse victims entering refuge who have no access to public funds as a result of:

- being in the country on a spousal visa
- A delay in receiving benefits
- Not having settled status as an EU national

Refuges on behalf of the victim are eligible to claim gross daily refuge rent costs along with £8 daily living expenses (an additional £2 per day will be paid for each child living with the victim in refuge).

To date the office has received 11 claims - currently supporting 7 victims (4 cases have been closed - cases close when either the victim has left refuge or the victim is able to access public funds i.e. housing benefit approved)

22. The Commissioner has allocated up to £20,000 to each Community Safety partnership for projects / initiatives that have a focus on serious violence. So far £14,000 has been allocated (£3,500 to Burnley, Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale) towards the roll out of Operation Provide across East Division. Operation Provide is a domestic abuse initiative in partnership with the Police with the aim to provide victims of Domestic Abuse the chance to access support at the earliest opportunity.

### Commissioned Services

23. The Commissioner's commissioned services continue to be contacted in order to understand any service disruption that may occur and to ensure services receive any support that may be required.
24. Continuing throughout the period the Office has held regular meetings with Lancashire Victims Services (LVS) to understand the level and types of referrals being made.
25. LVS received **13,005** referrals between 1 July and 30 September 2020, which is similar to the last quarter and significantly less than the same quarter last year. The total cases for support was **11,022**.
26. During this quarter LVS have seen fluctuations in Domestic Violence referrals each week but overall they have started to increase to similar volumes pre lockdown. The total number for the quarter was **3,940** (around 200 more than last quarter) with the biggest increase being medium risk.
27. In addition LVS has received **551** sexual violence referrals this quarter. This is the highest volume they have received since the start of the service in 2017 with the exception of Q2 last year which saw an unusually high spike in demand of all referrals.
28. The support service for 10 to 18 year olds, NEST, delivered by Lancashire Victim Services, received **989** referrals which remains lower than on average they received prior to Covid with the most notable reduction being from other

agencies. However as schools and services have started to resume they are seeing this increase and expect to be within normal levels in the next quarter.

29. LVS have seen a significant increase in Hate Crime referrals this quarter and received 268 referrals. This is around 34% higher than previous. Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted the Hate Crime agenda which has meant the team have had to be very proactive in reaching out to communities in need.
30. This past quarter has seen the Hate Crime team and the LVS Partnerships Officer working locally with the OPCC office on the Hate Crime Awareness Week campaign, working with local partner agencies as well as contributing to the national Victim Support Hate Crime agenda via the Community of Practice.

## **Public Engagement**

31. The Commissioner has 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.
32. In addition to the work on the LRF the following activities have taken place:
  - The Commissioner has shared the response to his annual Let's Talk Policing Survey via press release and social media. The survey received over 4,600 responses, the highest total to date. Information received will be used to inform the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire
  - The Commissioner launched the search for the Constabulary's next Chief Constable with information shared on social media, our website and via press release
  - The Commissioner opened a stakeholder event for partners to highlight the signs of modern slavery with key partners across Lancashire. The commissioner also shared video messages and key messages on this topic online to highlight the issue with the wider public
  - In partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit, The Commissioner set up the Youth Engagement Programme on Crime Reduction and Prevention. The programme will recruit 25 young people from 12-25 years from across Lancashire to support, challenge and influence decisions about policing, crime and violence reduction. The Programme will use the approaches outlined in Harts 'Ladder of Youth Participation' with the aim to work with young people to move through the different degrees of participation towards a youth initiated leadership style. The full report can be found on the Commissioner's website via the following link <https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Decision-2020-11.pdf>

- The Commissioner funded Lancashire Victim Services' Let's spell it out. This. Is. Hate campaign to highlight and challenge hateful behaviours and encourage those affected to get support for Lancashire Victim Services. The campaign launched as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week with campaign materials shared with partners across Lancashire. Materials included digital banners, videos, posters and information booklets, all of which were made available to partners and shared with the public. The Commissioner also supported the campaign through media interviews and videos which were shared via social media.
- The Commissioner highlighted the #NoExcuseForAbuse multi-agency campaign as part of a photo call in Blackpool organised by the office. The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, along with local councils, Lancashire Police, support agencies, the NHS and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have come together to create the #noexcuseforabuse campaign. The campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse, the help and support available to victims and perpetrators, and how and where people can report their concerns.
- Relating information was shared via press release to the media and online through our online channels.
- The Commissioner has continued to support communication around local restrictions which included messaging around bonfire night, Halloween and Remembrance Sunday.
- The Commissioner shared successes and statistics around the anniversary of the Constabulary's local taskforces which were set up in 2019.
- The Commissioner supported Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services' Bright Sparx campaign aimed at celebrating Halloween safely and within Covid restrictions.
- An additional £250k in funding has been secured from the Home Office. Funding will be used to combat domestic abuse through local perpetrator programmes. Information has been shared online and via press release.
- The Commissioner shared information from his visit to the Constabulary's Drone Team.
- The Commissioner is supporting international Restorative Justice Week by sharing key messages online and recording video messages to share on social media.

## **Violence Reduction Network (VRN)**

33. Whilst some of the planned work of the VRN has been put on hold due to COVID-19 other activities and resources have been developed to support partners and continue to contribute to the trauma informed approach to tackling serious violence.
34. Members will be aware that the VRN Needs Assessment identified that childhood trauma, often referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), is a key driver of serious violence. Trauma Informed practice aims to develop an approach to working with children and their families that recognises this and adapts practices and approaches accordingly.
35. The VRN has led on providing Trauma Informed training to schools, police officers and children's social care staff. The VRN Education Lead is working with a number of schools in Fylde and Wyre to develop a trauma informed network and support schools in undertaking self-evaluation on their trauma informed approach.
36. The childhood trauma of having a parent incarcerated has been identified as a major ACE and can lead to ongoing generational involvement in the criminal justice system. The VRN has led work on developing training and resources for schools and other partners to raise awareness and understanding of the impact that this has on children. Using "Mia's Story", based on a series of letters between a young person and her father in prison, training is being provided to over 400 schools and 100 partners.
37. Mia's Story, is a picture book for young children, which merges prisoners' lived experience stories with a testimony of a young girl who lived through the incarceration of her father and his release between the ages of 6-10 years old. Further information is available via the following link.  
  
[https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LancsVRN\\_July2020\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://www.lancsvrn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LancsVRN_July2020_Newsletter.pdf)
38. The Lancashire VRN is the national VRU lead for trauma informed approaches and, at the request of the Home Office, has produced a resource to assist understanding of the background, context, evidence, literature, cost implications and future plans relating to trauma informed care. Positive feedback has been received from the Home Office on the draft version of the paper and further consultation is taking place with our Lancashire VRN partners for additional feedback and contributions.
39. The VRN social media knife crime campaign "believe you can" was focussed on 10 areas in Lancashire identified in the Needs Assessment and engaged with almost 450,000 Instagram users with 32% being 13-17 year olds and 68% 18 - 22 year olds. The campaign used a number of short videos which were viewed

fully in over 55,240 instances. A follow up campaign targeting parents and carers and encouraging them to talk to their children about knives and knife crime is currently running.

40. A recent review of Youth Engagement undertaken by the VRN evidenced that despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid situation, including the school closure between March and June, over 6,700 young people have been engaged by VRN funded activities over the past 12 months through:

- Education based work delivered 36 sessions in schools to just under 4100 Young Persons in the period up to March 2020;
- Street based or detached work which has continued during the lockdown has engaged almost 1,100 YPs;
- Community or Youth Centre based work that has continued with appropriate safety measures in place has engaged around 100 YPs;
- On-line support, including mental wellbeing, physical health, healthy living and social contact engaging over 1,500 young people.

## **Complaints**

41. Since the 1 February 2020, the Commissioner has taken on the responsibility for conducting reviews of police complaints which replaced the appeals function for low level service complaints under the previous complaints regime. Supported by the Standards & Compliance Policy Officer, the Director reviews complaint cases to ensure that they have been dealt with reasonably and proportionately. Where there are failings or issues, the Director can request further action from the police in order to assist service recovery and resolve conflict. There have been 67 reviews submitted to the Office since the new legislation went live which is significantly higher than was originally anticipated. At the time of reporting 37 (55%) have been completed.

## **Staff Welfare**

42. The offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner continue to 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.

43. Contact with staff continues to occur on a weekly basis, through staff meetings, email, individual calls and via a weekly internal bulletin

## **Recommendation**

44. 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