

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 7 December 2020

Covid Action and Recovery Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Panel with an update in relation to the impact of the Covid pandemic and the Constabulary's Recovery Plan

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to consider the report.

1. Background

1.1 Recorded Crime

The Panel is advised that the decreasing trend in overall recorded crime in Lancashire has continued in line with national trends since the start of the Covid pandemic. Year on year reductions are now more substantial, with a 15% decrease in recorded offences (from 152,467 Oct 18 – Sept 19 to 130,207 Oct 19 – Sep 20).

1.2 This trend continues when comparing the latest quarter's figures, with the same quarter last year (2019/20) across almost all crime types. Violence with injury is the only exception, which shows a 10% increase (+436 offences) compared with the same three months last year. The longer-term trend is still one of reduction, so this short-term change will be closely monitored.

1.3 National and regional crime figures are 1 month behind, so are only available to the end of August 2020 for comparison. The latest data shows an annual change to all recorded crime for England and Wales at -6.2%, for the North West region -9.8% and for our Most Similar Group -9.1%.

Offence Type	Annual Change to 30 th September 2019	Annual Change to 30 th September 2020	Change Q2 19/20 v 20/21
All Crime	+/-0% (+430)	-15% (-22,260)	- 8% (-2,919)
Violence with Injury	-8% (-1,467)	-13% (-2,209)	+10% (+436)
Violence w/o Injury	+11% (+2,362)	-11% (-2,514)	-11% (-638)
Burglary Residential	-1% (-82)	-27% (-2,361)	-26% (-505)
Robbery Personal	+28 % (+253)	-22% (-255)	-18% (-57)
Public Order Offences	+ 4% (+436)	-27% (-2,879)	-2% (-51)

- 1.4 These changes in recorded crime are broadly in line with national trends, as is the marked increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents.
- 1.5 As highlighted at the beginning of the performance report the Commissioner requested a breakdown of the types of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents officers were attending during the Covid pandemic particularly around nuisance, unlicensed music events, house parties and outdoor gatherings
- 1.6 The table below shows the volume of (ASB) incidents across Lancashire which have been flagged as COVID-19 related or captured under Operation TALLA (the national Covid-19 response) in the last 6 months. ASB demand initially reduced considerably from a peak in April after National lockdown restrictions were lifted but has increased again following the implementation of local restrictions across the County.

Month	C-19/Op TALLA flagged ASB
April	5742
May	5310
June	1193
July	452
August	1242
September	1308

- 1.7 In terms of the nature of (ASB) in Lancashire, Nuisance ASB (incidents suffered by the community from groups etc) specifically, has seen the sharpest increase (+65%, 22,620).

ASB Type	Oct 18 - Sept 19	Oct 19 - Sept 20	ASB and Covid marker	% Change	Volume Change
ENVIRONMENT	1422	1955	424	37%	533
NUISANCE	34980	57600	15378	65%	22620
PERSONAL	16081	19338	468	20%	3257
Grand Total	52483	78893	16270	50%	26410

Covid related absence

- 1.8 In relation to Covid related absence, the Force has taken a number of actions to support the well-being of staff and officers. Agile working has been a key option available to many officers and staff. Supporting people in working flexibly (altering shifts, working weekends, evenings), working from home has been invaluable. The Force Resourcing Unit have also monitored resources across the force to ensure adequate cover is provided on teams and that appropriate operating levels continue to be met. Daily monitoring of absences and a rolling weekly projection of force resourcing is undertaken to understand and track impact.
- 1.9 The Force very quickly developed a Test, Track and Trace Team and was supported by Royal Lancaster Infirmary who have provided testing facilities for officers and staff. The total number of staff / officers testing positive to date is 337. There was an initial spike, with 32 testing positive in April, however, the numbers then dropped off significantly, with a low in July of 3. There has been a steady increase since then however, with 49 in September, 128 in October and 87 to date in November. Geographically, numbers have been consistent across the three divisions, with a slightly higher figure for staff and officers held against HQ (albeit a number of these do work physically in divisions).

- 1.10 There have been 555 individuals required to isolate in total. Of these, 309 are listed as being a result of contact with a positive tested colleague. 59 are as a result of positive tested members of the public. 59 were as a result of NHS app notifications (app notifications were highest in early November at the commencement of the app). There will be additional cases where individuals are isolated as a result of family members testing positive but where the staff / officer does not develop symptoms and their own line management has managed the bookings without informing the testing team (where the individual does not subsequently develop any symptoms).
- 1.11 Whilst there have been specific departments where there have been higher levels of positive tests and isolations, these have been distributed across the constabulary, and the wider impact of these has been contained.

Enforcement Plan

- 1.12 At his Strategic Scrutiny Meeting on the 19 November 2020 the Commissioner received an update from the Chief Constable in relation to the Constabulary's Enforcement Plan.
- 1.13 It was noted that Lancashire Constabulary had submitted a costed Covid Enforcement Plan in response to the letter sent to forces by Director General Patricia Hayes on the 16th October and had been allocated £763,000 from a total fund of £40 million provided for Policing for dedicated enforcement and engagement with specific areas of funding allocation identified.
- 1.14 The approach in Lancashire has been to follow the four Es: Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. The focus is now on enforcement and flagrant breaches of the regulations will attract fines.
- 1.15 Lancashire moved to Tier 3 on Friday 16th October and an increased response to the level of enforcement and engagement which was required was implemented at that time. The areas covered for this additional resourcing are outlined below and weekly updates on this enforcement and engagement response are provided to the Chief Officer Team.
- Force Control Room – Management of self-isolation enforcement, data sharing and protocols for test and trace
 - Response and Local policing dedicated resourcing for engagement and enforcement
 - Criminal Justice support for delivery of enforcement activity
 - Media and Engagement - Development and strengthening of Communications plans
 - Legal Support to delivery of enforcement activity
 - Multi agency enforcement activity, targeted action to ensure compliance with new licensing restrictions, engagement with Local Authority enforcement and information officers

- 1.16 The Commissioner has been advised that, as at the 3rd November 2020, Lancashire Constabulary was in the top 10 forces for issuing fixed penalty notices (FPN). However, in order to provide assurance, a random sample of COVID FPNs was scrutinised at the Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel on the 26 October, the findings were positive overall with the FPN's being assessed as being issued appropriately in the circumstances.

Recovery Plan

- 1.17 In considering and ensuring that the Constabulary's response to recovery from the pandemic was analysed, evaluated and collated into a strategic plan, led by the Assistant Chief Constable a Terms of Reference and Governance framework has been adopted.
- 1.18 In addition, local and national recovery groups have been consulted, and the Constabulary remains in weekly contact with the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF). As such, all best practice and guidance are reviewed daily and recorded and stored within the constabulary gold recovery planning support. Commitment to the LRF and national support remains, managing and accessing updates and escalating or sharing in a timely manner.
- 1.19 A recovery planning workbook has been devised and remains a live document, to capture risk and opportunities for all departments across the Constabulary which have been categorised strategically within 8 themes to assist in recovery management.
- People,
 - Finance and legal,
 - Media and Comms,
 - Environment and Infrastructure,
 - Business and Economic,
 - Science and Technology,
 - Community Recovery and
 - Strategic Opportunity.
- 1.20 The recovery planning workbook and accompanying risk and opportunities assessment document outlines the threat, risks, and opportunities provided by, or on behalf, of these Heads of Departments.
- 1.21 To assist with defining the business opportunities, a strategic assessment has been undertaken linked to process, our people, and technology. The results of these opportunities have been assessed as follows:
- Meetings – Online, internal and external broadcasts, virtual de-briefs
 - Agile working
 - Contact and Front Line – Pronto desktop, Quick crime, e-Bit, automate operational Encompass referrals, automate the sending of Officer In Charge contact Details, automate victim service info sharing, Online Statements,

Visualisation of officer workload, Digital planned response appointments, virtual face to face contact with the caller.

- Training – online training, webinars
- Recruitment – Online recruitment, online interviews

1.22 Evaluation of the opportunities and management of risk identified in the recovery planning workbook is currently ongoing and will assist with measuring progress continually.

Recommendation

1.23.1 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