

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 8 March 2021

Police & Crime Plan Performance Monitoring Report

Contact for further information Ian Dickinson, 01772 533587, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 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 delivering the current Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) for Lancashire 2016-2021.

This is the final report before the PCC elections in May 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel are recommended to consider the report and comment accordingly.

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. Unfortunately, due to annual leave and school half term the Strategic Scrutiny meeting scheduled for February has been re-scheduled for the 16 March 2021. However, for information please find attached at Appendix 'A' the performance data for the last quarter.
3. The past year has been filled with challenges. The pandemic has required everyone to adapt, to look at new ways of working and to respond to the added difficulties brought on by an international health crisis.
4. A substantive report in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic can be found elsewhere on the agenda.

- Despite these added difficulties, the Commissioner has used his role and that of his office to make positive contributions, to secure extra funding for local services, to explore new areas of work, to overcome the challenges of remote working and to continue to offer the best possible service to the people of Lancashire.

a) External Funding secured by the Police and Crime Commissioner

- Over the last 12 months the Commissioner has secured over £4M of external funding, details of which, are set out below.

	£
Ministry of Justice Funding	598,000
Additional Victims Services Grant from Ministry of Justice	CHISVAs 131,500 ISVAs 65,897
Safer Streets Funding	745,000
Covid-19 Support funding	98,000
Violence Reduction Network	1,100,000
Surge Funding	1,180,000
Home Office funding – Operation Adder	1,275,000
No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)	62,000
Taser funding	313,500
Total	4,388,897

Ministry of Justice Funding

- The Commissioner has secured over **£598,000** in additional Ministry of Justice funding to support local domestic abuse and sexual violence services in their response to the pandemic.
- The funding has been used to set up remote support for victims of crime. This includes online chat facilities, telephone services, additional counselling hours and work with Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.
- 16 local services have benefitted from this additional funding to ensure that victims can continue to receive the best possible support.

4. In addition, the Commissioner has secured a further **£197,397** per annum of Ministry of Justice funding for two years for the recruitment of 2 independent sexual violence advisors and 3 Children and Young People's Independent Sexual Violence Advisors who provide emotional and practical support for victims, while guiding them through the criminal justice process which many can find daunting.

Safer Streets Funding

5. The Commissioner has secured over **£745,000** in Safer Streets Funding. The money will be targeted at crime hotspots in the county to improve the safety and security of local residents.
6. Funding will be invested in CCTV, improved street lighting, alley gates, motorcycle barriers and in improving home security in high risk areas
7. Both Burnley and Skelmersdale are set to benefit from these improvement measures and the OPCC is working closely with the local Community Safety Partnerships and the police to ensure the money is utilised in the best possible way.
8. The Home Office have announced a second round of the Safer Streets Fund (SSF) for the 2021/22 financial year with the deadline for submissions at 1pm on Thursday 25th March 2021.
9. Police and Crime Commissioner's and Local Authorities are able to submit bids however, the Home Office will only accept three bids per PCC area and they have specified that the Police and Crime Commissioner must support and prioritise bids (primary/secondary/tertiary) prior to submission.
10. A total of 7 expressions of interest were received from district councils which have now been evaluated by the Commissioner and the Constabulary. Accordingly, the Commissioner has approved the priority order of the three expressions of interest as follows: 1. Blackburn with Darwen 2. Preston 3. Lancaster

Covid-19 support for Vulnerable Children's Charities

11. The Commissioner, together with Lancashire's Violence Reduction Unit administered over **£98,000** to support vulnerable children's charities.
12. The emergency Home Office funding was used to support local charities who experienced immediate financial hardship, significantly increased level of demand or an urgent need to adapt services as a result of the pandemic.

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network

13. The Police and Crime Commissioner has secured over **£1,1million** to continue the important work of Lancashire's Violence Reduction Network (VRN).
14. Lancashire Violence Reduction Network is one of 18 violence reduction units across England and Wales which were launched two years ago to tackle the root causes of knife and violent crime.
15. Taking a public health approach, the network works with more than 20 partner agencies to support interventions including the DIVERT intervention programme, Emergency Department Navigators and projects working directly to support young people most at risk of being involved in violent crime.
16. Developing a trauma informed approach to the way partners operate and services are delivered is a key element of the LVRN and is supported through the roll out of training and awareness raising sessions
17. Over the last year Lancashire Violence Reduction Network projects have directly supported over 5,600 individuals and seen the introduction of several new multi-agency programmes of work. Lancashire Violence Reduction Network has also led police enforcement activity around knife and violent crime including weapon sweeps, knife bins, and community engagement resulting in over 2,600 knives being taken off Lancashire streets since April 2020.

Surge Funding

18. Further funds of over **£1.18 million** has been secured by the Police and Crime Commissioner from the Police Surge Fund to support the Constabulary in the delivery of additional, targeted activities to prevent, enforce and investigate serious violence crime.
19. The Surge Fund is managed alongside the VRN to ensure there is consistency in the approaches taken and a co-ordinated response to serious violence.
20. As well as supporting a dedicated Serious Violence Sergeant in each Police Division the Fund has also supported the investigation and local follow up responses to a number of high profile serious and fatal incidents in Lancashire.
21. By way of example, over the last year, the Constabulary participated in Operation Sceptre, which covered both enforcement and prevention. During that week alone there were 33 weapons sweeps in hot spot areas, 48 arrests, 127 stop searches, 28 engagement and education events took place, 380 knives recovered / seized plus 17 more during arrests.

22. In addition, test purchase operations took place at 5 locations and 21 operation Uchee visits around weapons purchased online.
23. The Constabulary also delivered Operation Thunder, aimed at exploitation, which includes violence. In total there were 41 arrests with 36 individuals being charged. Specialist family support has been provided to maintain trust and develop confidence in reporting this type of crime.

Home Office funding – Operation Adder

24. Through the Home Office's Drugs Supply and County Lines Unit £1,275,000 of funding was secured to enable Lancashire Constabulary to carry out enforcement and diversionary activity as part of the Blackpool Project in the Project ADDER Programme. Project ADDER will test a new approach to drug supply involving coordinated law enforcement activity alongside expanded diversionary activity and treatment/recovery provision in the pilot areas, of which Blackpool is one. The overarching aim of the programme is to reduce the rate of drug deaths, drug related offending and the prevalence of drug use.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

25. 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.

26. Tasers

27. Last year has seen investment in new technology following a successful bid by the PCC to secure **£313,500** for Tasers in March 2020.
28. The money is being used to bring over 380 Tasers into use across the force over the next three years. This allows for greater flexibility and capacity when making operational decisions all aimed at keeping people safe from harm.

b) Investment by the Commissioner

29. In addition to the external funds secured by the Commissioner, the Commissioner has also made investment from within his own budget.

Community Action Fund

30. The Commissioner's Community Action Fund is designed to provide small grants to assist groups in tackling local concerns and helping to deliver the priorities of his Police and Crime Plan.
31. Over the past year the Community Action Fund has provided funding of **£112,589** to 42 local projects which have supported over 3,700 individuals across Lancashire. Projects continue to address issues by strengthening local communities, providing diversionary activities and tackling anti-social behaviour.
32. The final opportunity for this financial year for schemes that meet Government guidelines is now open and will close in the next couple of weeks. Full details can be found on the Commissioner's website.

<https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/grant-funding/community-action-fund/>

Reducing Reoffending

33. The Commissioner's Reducing Reoffending Fund continues to support projects aimed at breaking the cycle of reoffending. Since the fund launched in 2018 it has supported projects which work with ex-offenders and address the root causes of offending, through group work, one-to-one sessions and other support.
34. This has seen around **£400,000** invested back into communities and dedicated organisations to help deliver this work.
35. The criminal justice system is about more than just punishing those who break the law but also providing the opportunities and support to ensure that they do not reoffend having been through the system

Street Pastors

36. Five groups received a total of over **£45,000** from the Commissioner's dedicated fund for street pastors, street angels and similar organisations.
37. Blackpool & The Fylde Street Angels received **£13,500**, Chorley Street Pastors **£5,000**, Ormskirk Street Pastors **£3,000**, Preston & South Ribble Street Pastors were allocated £12,000 and IMO **£11,990** for their winter warmer project across Blackburn.

38. These groups include trained volunteers who patrol the streets of their community. Supporting the homeless and other vulnerable people. They work to prevent violent incidents escalating, and support night-time revellers, something they will do again when coronavirus restrictions are eased.
39. Funding will be used by the groups to help them train and equip new volunteers, upskill current volunteers and for resources such as drinks and food to give out to vulnerable people.

Community Safety Partnership

40. The Commissioner has allocated £280,000 (up to £20,000 to each Community Safety Partnership) for projects / initiatives that have a focus on serious violence. So far £15,300 has been allocated to Fylde CSP towards the Safe Communities and Confident Young Citizens Project.
41. The project consists of two themes:
- Theme One: to engage with 45 young people per week aged 13-17 through a range of multi sports sessions in a friendly and safe environment over a 50-week period.
 - Theme Two: is aimed at young people aged 18 – 24 who are not in employment or education, those at risk of addiction and ex-offenders by working with the Divert programme and will focus on employability skills and work experience.
42. In addition, £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.

The Youth Commission

43. The Youth Commission was established in November 2020 with the aim of enabling young people to support, challenge and influence decisions about policing, crime and violence reduction in Lancashire.
44. The Commission will work in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network and other partners to inform, support and shape their organisational priorities.
45. 25 Youth Commissioners will engage more than 1,200 young people across Lancashire as part of 'The Big Conversation'.
46. Since its conception the Youth Commission has identified six local priorities covering mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, relationships with the police, social media and its impact, domestic violence and hate crime.

47. Youth Commission members are already involved in reviewing campaign materials aimed at tackling issues including county lines and promoting support services for young victims of crime.

c) Volunteering

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership

48. The Commissioner established the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) with public service partners just over four years ago, with the aim of bringing public service volunteers together by creating a one-stop-shop for people wanting to support their local communities.

49. The Commissioner knew then the enormous impact volunteers could make in supporting people, and with the onset of the Covid-19 national public health crisis in March 2020, LVP was ready for the challenge.

50. Over the past year LVP changed their entire operation to support the response effort by;

- Opening up the Community Support Befriending Programme to anyone who was vulnerable, isolated or in need
- Signposting volunteer enquiries to district hubs for support services, delivering much needed food parcels and support to vulnerable people
- Creating a new Telephone Befriending Service for the lonely, isolated or those shielding.
- Supporting the NHS vaccination programme delivering over 20,000 hours of volunteer support to date with almost 1,500 Covid marshal volunteers made available to the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Our Lancashire

51. The Commissioner funded the creation of Our Lancashire in November 2019.

52. As well as bringing together small local groups, clubs and associations Our Lancashire has been able to provide a place where people can network and find activities to get involved in; from boxing to knitting, litter picking, residents' associations, book clubs, coffee clubs and support groups. Our Lancashire has become a platform to make new friends and make communities stronger, by providing a support network – hosted by the community, for the community.

53. In response to the pandemic, the Our Lancashire team quickly rearranged its structure to form a bridge between public services and those groups who were able to help the response effort. Over the past year Our Lancashire.

- Worked with 14 Lancashire Local District Hubs in response to the pandemic
- Reached over 62,000 people on social media
- Supported community groups to access the Lancashire Covid Support Fund that has provided £1.8m of grants during the period of the pandemic
- Made over 30 online training and development opportunities available
- Provided Covid-19 volunteering safety guide to over 1,100 group leaders
- Recorded over 12,000 website visits

d) Lancashire Victim Services

54. The Commissioner's commissioned service 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.

55. 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.

56. LVS has received **39,091** referrals between 1 April and 31 December 2020.

57. Of these referrals LVS received 11,188 referrals for Domestic Abuse, 1,515 referrals for sexual violence, 2,033 referrals for support for 10 to 18-year olds, and 648 Hate Crime referrals.

e) Public Engagement

58. Despite the pandemic the OPCC has continued to engage with the public, partners and stakeholders across Lancashire.

Surveys

59. The Commissioner's surveys have seen a higher response rate than ever before with **more than 4,000 residents** responding to the annual priorities surveys as well as this year's survey around the Commissioner's budget for 2021/22.

Campaigns

60. Despite the pandemic the Commissioner and his office have continued sharing key information with the public through county wide campaigns.

The #NoExcuseForAbuse partnership campaign

- Partnered with the 230+ SPAR stores in Lancashire to advertise the help and support available across the county at key points of sale

- Had 2,047 unique visits to the campaign website
- Developed and deployed 20 social media adverts
- Distributed 10, 400 posters across the county
- Had 342 radio spots for the campaign radio advert on Rock FM
- Shared an In The Know message with 33, 703 members
- Reached over 1.3 million people on Twitter with dedicated campaign messages
- Produced 20 additional social media adverts
- Enabled a campaign branded advertising van to visit 28 towns over 12 days

The "This.Is.Hate." campaign

- Distributed over 2,000 posters requested by partners including Colleges, Probation Service, Councils, Constabulary and Victim Services.
- Social media partner pack shared with partners and stakeholder across Lancashire
- Reached over 20,000 people through Facebook
- Over 50,000 impressions on Twitter
- Featured on BBC Radio Lancashire, Rock FM, Global Radio, That's Lancashire TV as well as in the Lancashire Evening Post, Blackpool Gazette, Champion newspapers

Sexual Violence

- Social media adverts to promote services available through Lancashire Victim Services reaching over 12,000 people
- Over 5,000 views of promotional videos.
- Social media pack created and shared with partners across Lancashire including Community Safety Partnerships, Local Authorities, Lancashire Constabulary
- Featured in Lancashire Resilience Forum stakeholder bulletin

f) Events

61. Despite the pandemic the Commissioner and his office have continued to host and to contribute to key events to inform stakeholders and professionals across the county. The following are examples of this work.

Domestic Abuse

62. In December 2020 the OPCC was able to welcome Nicole Jacobs, Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England Wales, as part of an online event for professionals working to tackle domestic abuse in Lancashire.

Modern Slavery

63. The OPCC has coordinated two training sessions in partnership with the Rah Rah Theatre Company to raise awareness of modern slavery and how to spot the signs of trafficking. Just over 60 colleagues from a range of agencies (Police, Councils, Victim Services, Housing Associations, Substance Misuse Services, Football Clubs, Charities) accessed the online training.
64. Following excellent feedback, the Commissioner has applied for funding from the modern slavery small grants fund and the OPCC is now in the process of arranging a further three sessions for colleagues across Lancashire in particularly targeting the business community and partners from the safeguarding arena.

g) Complaints reviews

65. Following the introduction of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, which brought about significant changes to the management of the Police Complaints System, the Commissioner has successfully implemented a new system to review police complaints in accordance with his new statutory duty.
66. The model implemented means that the Commissioner's Office now holds the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of the Chief Constable's function in relation to handling complaints.

Recommendation

67. The Panel are recommended to consider the report and comment accordingly.

Angela Harrison
Director