

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 12 October 2021

Police & Crime Commissioner's update

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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 during the 2nd Quarter (1 July – 30 September 2020).

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 21 September 2021, the Commissioner held his regular quarterly Scrutiny meeting with the Chief Constable (CC). The Commissioner received updates on force performance, the impact of the introduction of Neighbourhood Taskforces as well as how the police is dealing with antisocial behaviour.
5. The Commissioner also heard how the Constabulary is expected to perform against HMICFRS inspection reports as well as how the Force Control Room was performing whilst facing an unprecedented level of demand.

The Constabulary's performance data is attached at Appendix A.

6. The Commissioner is currently developing his police and crime plan 2021 -25 with input from residents and partners and will be underpinned by an understanding of need to ensure it becomes a key planning document for all responsible authorities and the criminal justice system. A report setting out the progress of the draft police and crime plan appears elsewhere on the Agenda and a verbal update will be given by the Commissioner.
7. As part of his commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and ensuring the force address local concerns around it, the Commissioner has been out on dedicated operations to see the variety of issues that officers are dealing with and how they are being addressed. He visited Mill Hill in Blackburn during an operation in response to ASB reports and increases in criminal damage which saw officers' partner with Blackburn with Darwen Council representatives following groups of youths under 18 involved in different forms of ASB. He also attended an event in Blackpool highlighting the tackling of off-road bikes and the disruption they are causing in the area.
8. The Commissioner has reiterated his commitment to strengthening rural policing and ensuring all areas of Lancashire get the best possible service, engaging with partners such as the NFU and meeting farmers and other members of rural communities from across the county.
9. The Commissioner has also engaged with local councillors across the county, at County, Borough, and Parish Council level to discuss the issues they face as he reaches out across Lancashire.
10. In order to meet the Commissioner's ambition for more visible front-line policing to tackle things like anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving, the Chief Constable has created a new neighbourhood team comprising of 19 police officers to operate out of Waterfoot police station in Rossendale. The team will focus on public engagement, problem solving and targeting criminals using community intelligence and pro-active patrolling.
11. The Police and Crime Commissioner has signed a collaboration agreement with four other North West police forces to provide a new regional forensic science service to help in the fight against crime. The initiative brings together expertise from Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Merseyside and North Wales in drug analysis, footwear examination, firearm classification, toxicology and a forensic science courier service. All these services provide shared intelligence and evidence across the North West region to work towards supporting safer communities and getting results for victims of crime.
12. The Commissioner has re-iterated his commitment to making it easier for residents to contact the police. Both before and since taking office in May this year, the Commissioner has promised to ensure each borough area in

Lancashire has at least one police station front counter open to the public. As part of his drive to improve public confidence that Lancashire Constabulary will be there when people need them, whilst also proactively tackling crime the Commissioner has announced that Clitheroe police station's front counter has re-opened to the public from Monday 20 September 2021.

13. The Commissioner recently visited Morecambe to meet with David Morris, MP and the new Inspector to discuss policing and crime in the area as well as hearing about the challenges police face in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.
14. The Commissioner has welcomed the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network's success in securing over £1 million of government funding to steer young people away from violent crime and create a better understanding of childhood trauma amongst services. Three initiatives, Trauma Informed Lancashire, DIVERT Youth, and ED Navigators will benefit from the additional funding to support our work to tackle crime, prevent it from happening in the first place and keep people safe, whilst ensuring those who require support get what they need.

Recommendation

15. 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