

The Neighbourhood Policing Task Group

Reason for the Task Group

The Task Group were looking at how the Police and Crime Commissioner ensures that the Chief Constable delivers his priorities. In this particular case how does the Commissioner ensure that the priorities in his policing plan relating to neighbourhood and community policing shape the delivery of policing in Lancashire?

The Task Group

The Task Group met with the Commissioner and Support Officers on 9th February 2022 to look at how the Commissioner would ensure that neighbourhood policing will be delivered in the County, in line with the priorities outlined in his policing plan. The group noted that the meeting had had to take place late in the municipal year as the Commissioners Policing Plan which outlined the intentions relating to neighbourhood and community policing had to be published before scrutiny could begin.

The group firstly noted the relationship between the policing plan which sets out the intentions of the Police and Crime Commissioner on his priorities for policing in the County and the role of the Chief Constable who delivers policing in the County. The group noted that-

- (1) A Police and Crime Commissioner must, in exercising the functions of commissioner, have regard to the police and crime plan issued by himself.
- (2) The Chief Constable of the police force for a police area listed in Schedule 1 to the Police Act 1996 must, in exercising the functions of chief constable, have regard to the police and crime plan issued by the police and crime commissioner for that police area.

A breakdown of the roles and functions of are set out at appendix A.

The group looked at the Policing Plan agreed by the Police and Crime Panel and looked at the references to Neighbourhood and Community Policing in the County contained in the plan.

What does the plan say?

The Plan sets out the Commissioners vision for policing in Lancashire and how this will be achieved. The Commissioner had stated that his “number one priority was the safety of each of our residents, whether they live in our busy urban cities, growing market towns or rural communities that have been neglected. To rectify this I will invest in rural policing by increasing police numbers and providing better equipment to catch those committing all levels of crime. I want to prevent and fight crime to keep our communities safe. I will have a real focus on neighbourhoods policing with dedicated

teams for every area- building a visible and effective frontline service that protects our communities by taking the fight to criminals.”

Set out at appendix B are the extracts from the plan which relate to Neighbourhood Policing.

The Task Group examined the ways in which the Commissioner would meet the challenges and ensure that this, his number one priority was enacted and delivered by the Chief Constable.

Holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery of Neighbourhood and Community Policing.

The Task Group discussed with the Commissioner the ways that he would ensure that his priorities set out in the Police Plan were the focus of the forces work. The Commissioner informed that group that this would be done in a number of ways, including-

- Weekly meetings with the Chief Constable that would include a focus on the delivery of the policing priorities in the Policing Plan including Neighbourhood and Community Policing.
- These meetings would also include a challenge on how these priorities were being delivered, how policing was being targeted to areas of need and outcomes.
- The Commissioner would regularly meet with divisional commanders and included in these meetings would be a focus on how policing was being delivered at a local, neighbourhood and community level. These meetings would be used to establish the views of those dealing with the issues at the delivery level of the policing plan.

The meeting was informed of the work that was ongoing to ensure that neighbourhoods and communities were the focus in delivering policing in the County. The Commissioner drew attention to the following work that would support the delivery of his policing plan priorities-

- Divisional Commanders have now been appointed to the three divisions. One of their tasks was to know their areas and set the pace for policing therein. The divisions were also meeting on a very regular basis to look at the issues in their area and how they were to be policed.
- Counters would also be open in every borough area.
- Improved tasking of neighbourhood officers was being implemented.
- Reporting arrangements through social media, Lancashire Talking etc. were being improved and more staff would be carrying out monitoring this would improve confidence in policing.
- Outcomes would be publicised more – “Justice seen is Justice done” which would also improve confidence in the police.

- The PCC would continue to go out with officers on duty on the front line to ensure that he could be aware of the issues from the ground up.
- The use of Neighbourhood Officers as a call in resource was being reviewed to ensure neighbourhood policing was not compromised.
- The work with partner agencies to tackle neighbourhood issues was being enhanced with funding available to tackled issues in a community.
- Work on targeted interventions to prevent nuisance was being undertaken and work to access education establishments was being undertaken with Youth Direct.
- Appropriate support will be offered to Neighbourhood Watch where required .
- Work was ongoing to reduce paperwork for police officers to enable them to be available in the communities more of the time. The use of new technology that could mean that officers could do more of this work online without having to return to stations was also being examined.
- Chief Inspectors were each required to have an engagement strategy to ensure that they were talking with their communities and listening.

How will be know if the priorities set out in the Commissioner's Policing Plan are being delivered?

The Task Group asked the Commissioner how the Police and Crime Panel would measure success in the delivery of his Policing Plan priorities. The group were informed that there were a number of ways that the delivery would be measured, these included-

- Reports to the Police and Crime Panel on progress
- Scrutiny reports available from meetings between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable.
- The Annual Survey on Policing in the area
- Crime Statistics (it was noted however that increase in reported crime may be an outcome of more trust in the work of the police)

The Task group thanked the Commissioner and staff for the information that they had given to the group and noted the ways that they could monitor progress on the delivery of Neighbourhood and Community Policing.

Recommendations.

- 1 That the thanks of the group be forwarded to the Commissioner for the open discussion that had taken place outlining the priorities in his Policing Plan and how this shaped the vision for policing in the County.
2. That the ways that the Commissioner will use to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of his priorities be noted
3. That the ways that will be used to measure success be noted and that a further task group meet to look at these after a reasonable time.

Peter LeMarinel
Chair of the Task Group.

Appendix A

Role: Police and Crime Commissioner

Responsibility

- To secure an efficient and effective police force for Lancashire.
- To appoint /remove from office, the Chief Constable and hold him to account.
- To set the strategic direction and objectives for Lancashire Constabulary.
- To publish a Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire.
- To set the budgets and determine the council tax precept.
- To issue an annual report.
- To monitor all complaints made against officers and staff, whilst having responsibility for complaints against the Chief Constable.
- To be the local link between the Police and communities.

Role: Chief Constable

Responsibility

- To maintain the Queen's peace.
- The direction and control of staff and officers.
- To be responsible to the public and accountable to the PCC.
- To be the operational voice in policing.
- To be politically independent of the PCC.
- For the day-to-day responsibility of allocated budgets.
- For managing complaints against police officers and staff.

Role: Police and Crime Panel

Responsibility

- To scrutinise the PCC's exercise of their statutory functions.
- To be responsible for complaints about a PCC.
- To review the draft Police and Crime Plan and the precept and make recommendations to the PCC.
- To hold confirmation hearings for the proposed appointments of Chief Constable, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.
- For suspending the Police and Crime Commissioner if charged with an imprisonable offence or appointing an acting Police and Crime Commissioner where the incumbent is incapacitated, resigns or is disqualified.

Appendix B

References to Neighbourhood and Community Policing in the Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2021-2025.

Neighbourhood Policing (page 6)

We will not beat anti-social behaviour unless Neighbourhood Policing Teams are visible, accessible, and responsive to community needs. This means they are out there walking the beat, talking with residents and targeting hot spot areas, including in our rural communities. Police are vital to combatting antisocial behaviour and are often the first agency residents turn to for help and support, but they cannot solve all problems by themselves. It is only by working closely with residents and partners, that effective long-term solutions can be found to complex problems. Here in Lancashire, we have the benefit of both statutory and non-statutory agencies such as local councils, health and social care services, business partners, the third sector and communities themselves. The combined strength of all of us working together is formidable and is more likely to deliver sustainable solutions to the problems that residents face.

Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund (page 8)

I am committed to taking money illegally gained by criminals and giving it back to local communities to prevent crime. My Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund will use money recovered from criminals through the Proceeds of Crime Act to provide grants to benefit community initiatives, grassroots projects and innovative neighbourhood schemes.

What I will do as the Police and Crime Commissioner:

- Increase funding for additional neighbourhood policing officers to build a visible, effective and impactful police front line in neighbourhoods across Lancashire.
- Look to ensure every community has a dedicated neighbourhood policing team to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Invest resources to increase the capacity of proactive task forces in both rural and urban areas.
- Ensure every borough has access to a police front counter to report crime.
- Invest in a problem-solving approach to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Invest in civil enforcement resources to ensure police use the full suite of criminal and civil tools available including Criminal Behaviour Orders, Closure Orders and Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions to tackle and deter crime.
- Launch a Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund.
- Engage with the public and continue to invest in 'Lancashire Talking' to identify the top issues in every community.
- Work with the Government to secure further funding for Youth Divert, helping 10-17-year-olds who commit crime or anti-social behaviour, diverting young people from a life of crime and reducing reoffending.
- Support Community Safety Partnerships to focus our collective resources on tackling anti-social behaviour and delivering local action plans.

- Ensure that policing initiatives are publicised to deter crime. Justice seen is justice done.
- Support victims of anti-social behaviour through my commissioned Lancashire Victim Services. I will hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering the following:
 - The targeting of repeat and persistent offenders.
 - Improved public confidence in the police, measured through national and local benchmarks and engagement surveys.
 - Greater visibility and engagement of police officers and PCSOs in hot spot areas that are blighted by anti-social behaviour.
 - Increased and effective partnership based problem solving initiatives related to tackling anti-social behaviour.
 - An increase in the use of civil orders by the Constabulary to tackle anti-social behaviour

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Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime (Page10)

Specialist and neighbourhood police resources The Constabulary will utilise all available officers and staff to proactively target and disrupt organised crime groups. This includes maximising every opportunity to work in partnership with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU) and National Crime Agency, (NCA) using their specialist capabilities to relentlessly take the fight to serious and organised crime groups. Working closely with the NWROCU, we will work to stop criminals from crossing our borders into Lancashire, gather intelligence, cracking the most serious and organised crime networks and then seizing the assets of the criminals involved. Stepping up the Constabulary's approach to tackle and disrupt serious and organised crime will be critical over the next few years as we continue to live with the effects of the pandemic and offenders exploit new opportunities to avoid detection.

Cracking down on Burglary and Robbery (page 17)

What I will do as the Police and Crime Commissioner:

- Invest in building up Neighbourhood Policing Teams to ensure officers can tackle burglary and robbery offences and investigate them fully to bring offenders to justice.
- Support a partnership problem solving approach to tackle burglary and robbery.
- Tackle substance misuse with partners and root causes of offending for persistent offenders with a view to preventing them continuing to commit crime.

- Invest in innovation, with an emphasis on reducing the opportunities for burglary and robbery offences, including tagging and targeting repeat offenders.
- Support victims of burglary and robbery, particularly those who are vulnerable, and prevent them being re-targeted, and ensuring we comply with the Victim's Code and make referrals to other agencies where appropriate.
- Launch the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund.
- Work with the business community and non-statutory partners such as Business Improvement Districts to reduce the opportunities for burglary and robbery and look to secure shared funding opportunities in areas of high crime.
- Tackle business and retail crime by enabling increased reporting of incidents through technology and smarter police processes.
- Support the Shop Kind campaign uniting the retail sector to tackle violence and abuse against shop workers by asking people to Shop Kind when in stores.
- Back bids from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund and other funding sources to design and deliver crime prevention measures to local communities across Lancashire.
- Champion community volunteers, such as Neighbourhood Watch to build resilient communities. I will hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering the following:
 - The reduction in the number of recorded residential burglary and robbery offences.
 - The increase in the number of offenders brought to justice for residential burglary and robbery offences.
 - The targeting of persistent and repeat offenders to bring them to justice and tackle their reoffending to reduce future crime.
 - Improved victim satisfaction levels for serious acquisitive crime offences.
 - A reduction in repeat burglary victims by proactively working with partners and communities

Monitoring and accountability (page 33)

I will also look at and monitor the work of Lancashire Police in several ways:

- Go out and talk to local communities and stakeholders to get an ongoing picture of local community needs.
- Engage with specialist independent advisory groups on policing issues.
- Consider what the public are telling me through my new 'Your Commissioner, Your Voice' and council tax precept surveys.
- Gain insight from the Lancashire Constabulary User Satisfaction Surveys.
- Look closely at reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service to ensure recommendations and areas for improvement are actioned as appropriate.
- Review quarterly financial monitoring information.
- Action recommendations from Internal and External Audit and the Joint Audit and Ethics Committee, to ensure good governance in both my office and the Constabulary.
- Report to the Police and Crime Panel for their scrutiny, progress and performance against the Police and Crime Plan
- My Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner will chair the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), and through working with partners, we will collectively work to ensure an effective and efficient criminal justice system in our area.

- My Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner will hold quarterly performance meetings on the Lancashire Victim Services commissioned by my office.
- My Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner will chair the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) and we will collectively work to ensure an effective and efficient partnership for Lancashire