

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 14 September 2022

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.

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 Accountability Board meeting.
2. This link <https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/meetings-reports/accountability-board-meeting/> details of the Accountability Board papers received from the Chief Constable and the Minutes of the meeting records the PCC holding the Chief Constable to account.
3. The Panel are therefore referred to the Accountability Board 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 17 August 2022, the Commissioner held his Accountability Board meeting with the Chief Constable. The Commissioner received updates on the Constabulary's performance against the Police and Crime Plan priorities, workforce planning and the work of the Professional Standards Department.

Key issues discussed included:

- The inflationary cost pressures on the policing budget.
- The recruitment of the additional police officer as part of the uplift programme.
- Policing the night-time economy and protecting vulnerable women and girls
- The increase in arrests relating to Organised Crime Gangs.

Following the meeting the Commissioner and the Chief Constable produced a short video via his website highlighting the areas discussed.

Accountability Board Meetings - Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner
(lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)

The report attached at **Appendix A** contains performance data relating to the Constabulary's performance against the Police and Crime Plan priorities.

5. The Commissioner has continued to deliver on his priorities with the re-opening of Waterfoot front counter to the public from 1st August. This follows the re-opening of front counters in Clitheroe, Kirkham, and Leyland in 2021 and means that residents in all areas of Lancashire now have access to an open police station within their borough.
6. The Commissioner has also delivered on his priority to bring 24/7 response policing back to Leyland. The base has been used exclusively as a community base for neighbourhood policing for several years following the removal of the response policing function during financial difficulties. However, following a reconfiguration of structures across the force the Constabulary has taken the opportunity to reinvest in policing services in South Ribble and restore the 24/7 emergency response function at Leyland.
7. The Commissioner has welcomed the news that two Lancashire projects that have received almost £900k of funding in the Government's latest Safer Streets Fund. The projects, endorsed by the Commissioner as part of the bidding process, support the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan, helping to protect people and deter crime. Blackburn with Darwen Council have been awarded £750k aimed at making the Queens Park and Highercroft areas safer with activity including alley gating and home security packages. Preston City Council were also successful in their application which will see over £146k used to target crime and anti-social behaviour in Preston City Centre with a focus on the night-time economy and the St Matthews area with CCTV, lighting and activities and engagement.
8. The Commissioner has secured over £7m to enhance domestic abuse and sexual violence support across Lancashire. The funding, awarded by the Ministry of Justice, will benefit a wide range of local organisations and services over 3 years and will ensure that victims have access to specialist support to help them move forward and recover. The additional funding will also be used to strengthen existing services and to bolster Lancashire's programme of placing specialist support in health settings.

9. As part of his Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund launched in June 2022 the Commissioner has now launched his Police Innovation Fund enabling Police Officers and Staff to apply for funding for innovative projects that aim to make policing more efficient and effective and will have a positive impact on the community.

In July 2022 the Commissioner awarded £2,200 to the West Rural Task Force for a poaching initiative that aims to tackle reoccurring wildlife offences (decision 2022-14 relate).

In September 2022 the Commissioner awarded £49,691.57 towards the upgrade of Protestor Removal Kit and the upgrade of West Mobile Command Unit (Decision 2022-18 relate).

10. Through his Community Fund, the Commissioner has awarded £54,238.80 to six projects throughout the policing area that support the delivery of the priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan. (Decision 2022-19 relate)
11. The Constabulary, supported by the Commissioner is continuing to tackle anti-social driving offences through the online portal 'Operation Snap' where members of the public can upload digital footage of suspected traffic offences which they have witnessed. Since its launch more than 1,400 submissions have been made by the county's road users. Using that footage, Lancashire Constabulary have been able to take positive action in 58% of cases.
12. The Commissioner, through his Office hosted a Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery Tabletop Exercise in partnership with the Pan Lancs Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP). The event brought together over 50 colleagues from a range of agencies to discuss how Modern Slavery is often a hidden crime that has devastating impacts on individuals and communities. The day focussed on a series of scenario bases exercises to identify the roles and responsibilities of various organisations. Agencies included the Police, Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, National Probation Service, NHS and third sector organisations.
13. The Commissioner, together with the Chief Constable Chris Rowley have agreed to reintroduce traditional flat caps for all male police officers, with female police officers also given the option of wearing bowler hats, replacing the existing baseball hats. Traffic officers will be given white flat caps ensuring they are clearly visible when dealing with road traffic incidents on public roads and motorways whilst PCSO flat caps will be distinguishable by a blue band. Baseball caps will continue to be used for deployment on public order duties. This change is about reinforcing the figures of authority police officers should be in our communities. The uniform and appearance of police officers is an important part of that and the Commissioner believes baseball caps were a backward step in how modern policing is presented given that now more than ever the values of respect, pride and professionalism are so important.

14. The Commissioner has launched his Anti-Social Behaviour Survey which is seeking the views of residents across Lancashire. At the time of writing this report over 3,500 responses had already been received with half of those who responding saying they have experienced ASB on a weekly basis. Of those that do report ASB, 80% do so to Lancashire Police and 38% to their local authority of councillor – the most common method being by 101.
15. The Commissioner recently attended the Garstang Show to meet stakeholders and talking to the public about the £700k investment into the rural taskforces.

Recommendation

16. Panel Members are recommended to consider the information contained in this report, and the information provided within the meeting, and comment accordingly.

Angela Harrison
Chief Executive