

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 5 December 2022

Police & Crime Commissioner's update

Contact for further information Ian Dickinson, 01772 533587, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk

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 16 November 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:

- Work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network
- Update on demands on the service and calls from the public
- Discussion around the governance of the police museum in Lancaster
- Discussion on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

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 \(lancashire-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)

5. The Commissioner, as part of the priority in his Police and Crime Plan to crack down on Burglary and Robbery, Funded and supported the launch of Op Defender, a dedicated Constabulary campaign to tackle residential burglary, address local concerns, identify, and target hotspot areas for surge activity, whilst helping the public deter offenders and protect themselves and their properties.
6. The Commissioner welcomed the news that Lancashire Constabulary has exceeded its national recruitment targets, in October alone 140 new officers were sworn in during recent attestations.
7. Since 14th September, the Commissioner has awarded **£ 314,041.33** through the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhood Fund (breakdown below)
 - 20th Sept – Community Fund – 54,283.80 – 6 projects (2022-19)
 - 20th Sept – Community Fund – 31,400 – 5 projects (2022-20)
 - 26th October – Community Fund – 14,332 – 5 projects (2022-22)
 - 26th October – Police Innovation Fund – 28,925.85 – 5 projects (2022-23)
 - 31st October – Police Innovation Fund - £165,156 – 1 project (2022-24)
 - 7th October – Fighting Crime Grants - 19,943.68 – additional police resource over bonfire weekend (2022-26)
8. In October, the latest HMICFRS report on Lancashire Constabulary was released. HMICFRS was pleased with the performance of Lancashire Constabulary in keeping people safe and reducing crime. HMICFRS also recognised that the new leadership team had made a very positive start and was acting quickly on issues they had raised throughout the inspection. The Commissioner has praised the commitment and dedication of the Constabulary's officers and staff to make people safer in Lancashire.

The full report can be viewed via the following link

[Lancashire PEEL assessment 2021/22](#)

9. The Commissioner welcomed the launch of the latest Operation Sceptre national campaign, with surge activity in Lancashire tackling knife crime and being clear around the risks posed by carrying a knife. Throughout the week-long operation an increase in activity took place which resulted in a total of 957 knives being taken off Lancashire streets and 77 arrests being made.
10. In October, the national Project Edward campaign came to Lancashire. The aim is to change minds, change behaviour, with a focus on how to get road users to think differently about their trip and what a safe trip looks like. The event was hosted by the Deputy PCC, Andy Pratt MBE, and supported by members of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.
11. The Commissioner has welcomed the latest Operation Vanquish activity by the Constabulary with a fortnight of intensified action. The operation in October saw:
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 - 60 people arrested for drink or drug-driving
 - 54 people caught for not wearing a seatbelt
 - 217 people dealt with for speeding
 - 15 people stopped who were driving while using a mobile phone
 - 72 cars on the road without an MOT
 - 82 seized vehicles from people for driving without insurance or a licence
 - 229 people given traffic offence reports and 79 people summonsed to court
 - Several stolen vehicles recovered and returned to their rightful owners.
12. The Commissioner welcomed the decision from Government, announced by the Home Secretary at the Joint APCC/NPCC summit, to scrap the requirement for a degree within police officer recruitment. This followed a months long campaign by the Commissioner, lobbying for a change to the requirement so it is not the sole entry route.
13. The Commissioner saw first-hand the new x-ray scanning kit he funded, in action. The kit enables police officers to search for objects in cavity walls in houses, concealed items in cars as well as being able to efficiently search large scale public events such as conferences.
14. In September, the Deputy PCC Andy Pratt spoke at the county's first heritage crime conference held at Salmesbury Hall which brought together partners across policing, local authorities, business and wider stakeholders to discuss how we can work together to protect our historic homes, churches, buildings, and property. Around 100 people attended, recognising the collective importance of protecting and preserving our heritage and supporting the police in making it tougher for offenders to target these sites.

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
Chief Executive