

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 3 October 2023

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. The latest Accountability Board, scrutinising the Chief Constable on the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan priorities, took place in August.

Items discussed included:

- Latest crime statistics showed an overall drop in crime of 6% compared to the previous year and a look at the data behind enforcement actions including arrests, charges, and convictions.
- Successful Op Warrior operations including dismantling of cannabis factories valued at more than £2m dismantled, cash seizures including one for £250k and targeting of drugs lines.

- Discussion of ongoing improvements to police infrastructure

Operation Centurion was launched in July and backed by the Police and Crime Commissioner and £2m of extra funding secured from the Government's new Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan for specific ASB hotspot areas.

In addition to business as usual the operation, has seen extra police patrols in ASB hotspots across the county and tough action being taken against offenders by Police and partner agencies who use the full force of the law – as well as civil powers – to protect local communities.

The first six hotspots which have seen additional dedicated patrols are areas within Preston, Chorley, Blackpool, Fleetwood, Padiham, and Accrington.

Over July and August Lancashire Police have dealt with over 400 individuals for ASB across

- 130 people have been arrested for offences relating to drug supply offences.
- 278 people have been arrested for criminal damage.
- 37 civil orders have been issued.

5. At the end of July, the Police and Crime Commissioner visited the Cuerden enforcement check site, just off the M65 and M6, during an operation that focused on tackling dangerous drivers.

Operation Vertebrae saw increased enforcement across the M6 corridor as the longest motorway in the country, targeting speeding, mobile phone and seat belt use, drink, and drug driving, alongside vehicle safety. It brought together National Highways, Lancashire Constabulary the DVLA and others, building on year-round enforcement.

204 fixed penalty notices were handed out and £16k in fines were issued during the week.

6. The Police and Crime Commissioner has spent time throughout the summer, joining local Members of Parliament and the respective policing teams within their constituencies, out on patrol seeing how Lancashire Constabulary and our partners are getting tough on anti-social behaviour through Op Centurion.

MPs have had a direct opportunity to hear how the ASB campaign is progressing, and how additional patrols through the Government's hotspot funding is keeping people safe.

During patrols in areas like Accrington, Lancaster, and others the Commissioner has seen officers intervene on dangerous and anti-social driving, street drinking and drug dealing.

7. The Commissioner supported businesses in Bacup and answered questions from the public at a meeting organised by Bacup Business Association.

It saw residents share their views on the key issues facing the town and how the police can better support business owners.

During the meeting the Commissioner answered questions and highlighted ways Bacup has benefited from investment through his Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund for CCTV and diversionary activity, alongside additional police officers with the bolstering of the dedicated neighbourhood policing team.

8. At the end of August, the Police and Crime Commissioner announced another round of funding through his Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund, with £69k being invested through the following projects.

Community Fund:

- Accrington Stanley Community Trust – sport based diversionary activity to reduce anti-social behaviour across Hyndburn- £9,500
- Burnley Leisure & Culture Group – diversionary activity with sports focus to reduce anti-social behaviour – £10,000.
- Flowhesion – workshops with young people around the dangers of drugs, co-designed by young people – £10,000.
- The Salvation Army – CCTV upgrade around the centre in Hyndburn where anti-social behaviour is taking place – £4,000.
- Chorley Borough Council – summer holiday diversionary activity in areas identified as anti-social behaviour hotspot areas – £3,228.
- RAFT (Residents Association of Farringdon and Thirlmere) – early intervention in the Farringdon Park area working with young people to reduce anti-social behaviour – £7,755.
- Blackpool Council – prevention and diversionary activity through youth work in anti-social behaviour hotspot areas – £10,000
- Blackpool Stanley Rugby Club – coaching sessions for young people, outside of school time, to reduce anti-social behaviour – £8,040.

Police innovation Fund:

- Lancashire Talking – promoting “In The Know” for better engagement with residents & South rural taskforce – security markings for property in rural areas to prevent burglary and theft - £6,744

9. A further £53,879 was provided to 6 projects through:

Community Fund:

- 180 Programme - CrossFit programme aimed at providing a structured and supportive environment for young people - £10,000.
- The Bacup Family Centre – Opening of a Child & Youth Hub, 'The Station' delivering sessions addressing issues having a negative impact on young people's lives - £10,000.
- Longridge Community Action – Friday Night Youth Club tackling ASB through prevention, diversion, and intervention - £10,000.
- Empowerment Charity - The Youth Change Makers project is a youth led approach to preventing youth interpersonal violence through, campaigning, education, culture change and challenging systems - £9,599.
- BDS Training - project based on a bespoke learning programme designed specially to meet these priorities and targeting young people aged 12-18, taking 16 sessions to complete - £9,280.
- Chorley Borough Council – Licensing accreditation scheme for Chorley, Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (Licensing SAVI)(pilot) - £5,000

Police Innovation Fund:

- Cyber Crime Unit – Cyber Protect Conference. The event is aimed at Disrupting and Dismantling Serious and Organised Crime by providing Cyber protection / security advice to Small and Medium Enterprises from across Lancashire to safeguard their existing infrastructures from compromise and protect the data of public of Lancashire from theft abuse- £1,840.

Fighting Crime Grants:

- Blackpool Council – support for additional Council patrols that will support the Blackpool Op Centurion Patrol Plan – £18,000

10. The Police and Crime Commissioner joined officers in the newly re-modelled Roads Crime Team, which, since launching in June has already made 92 arrests, seized 90 stolen vehicles and stolen cash and drugs.

To assist in the changes, the Constabulary has also been taking delivery of a range of new high-performance vehicles, fitted with the latest law enforcement technology to help target criminals, with more over the coming months.

11. The Deputy Commissioner Andy Pratt MBE met with Mike Freer MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Justice, to discuss issues including court delays and staffing and how they affect victims of crime and the wider criminal justice system in Lancashire.

They discussed several options and ideas to help the situation to ease the pressures around court buildings and staffing to reduce delays and speed up justice.

12. The Right Care, Right Person, which Lancashire has been pioneering for a year, has now been rolled out on a wider basis nationally, with the Commissioner highlighting the work ensuring vulnerable people receive the specialist health support they need whilst also recognising the savings to police officer time and budget through the approach.

Recommendation

13. 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