

## **POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

**Meeting to be held on 4 December 2023**

### **Police & Crime Commissioner's update**

Contact for further information Ian Dickinson, 01772 533587, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, [ian.dickinson@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:ian.dickinson@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. Two Accountability Boards, scrutinising the Chief Constable on the delivery of his Police and Crime Plan priorities, took place in October and November.

Items discussed included:

- Decreases of crime recorded of 7% and 8% respectively against previous year
- Seizures in cash hitting £900k over a five-month period, almost doubling from the same period a year prior

- Updating on the progress since the new Targeted Operating Model was launched and the impact this is having on different areas of the Constabulary.
  - Successes in disrupting organised crime gangs, through Op Warrior, with 28kg Class A and B drugs seized in a six-month period, and 3,599 cannabis plants taken.
5. The Commissioner continues to receive positive reports in relation Operation Centurion following its launch in July which focused on getting tough on anti-social behaviour (ASB).
  6. A further 8 hotspot areas were identified in October targeting areas within Darwen, St Annes, Morecambe, Clitheroe, Colne, Bacup, Leyland and Skelmersdale. This brings the total number of hotspot areas to 14. By taking the fight to anti-social behaviour, 578 people have now been arrested for criminal damage since the start of Operation Centurion with over 5,700 additional police hours in hotspot areas up to October.
  7. The Commissioner opened the Cyber Crime Protect Conference in Preston, which he helped fund through the Police Innovation Fund strand of his Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund.
  8. Hosted by Lancashire Police's Cyber Unit during Cyber Security Awareness Month, the event aimed to advise Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on the importance of cyber security and protection.
  9. Attendees from local SMEs were able to network with other business owners and staff from organisations such as the North West Regional Crime Unit and National Crime Agency, whilst talks varied in subject from cyber support to ransomware.
  10. The Commissioner announced at the end of October, the three projects awarded money through the latest Safer Streets funding, provided to his Office by Government.

These were:

- A project delivering across the Pennine areas of Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Burnley and Rawtenstall will see £400k for the installation of new CCTV, and investment into greenspace and townlink radio.
- Blackpool will benefit from £311k for new lighting, CCTV and radio links, alongside work within schools on issues such as ASB, with Blackpool FC Community Trust delivering a project with young people.
- Lancaster and West Lancashire will also receive £288k for CCTV investment and early intervention programmes.

This Safer Streets fifth round of funding is the biggest single pot to date, awarded directly to Police and Crime Commissioners.

It builds on the previous rounds of Safer Streets Funding that has seen a total of £2.6m invested into 6 projects in Lancashire, this money will support further funding of schemes that deliver the key priorities in the Commissioner's Fight Crime Plan, deter crime, make areas feel safer and support enforcement.

11. The Commissioner's Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund, designed to give cash seized from criminals back to the communities of Lancashire, has passed through the £1m mark.

Since the last meeting a further £175k has been awarded to projects taking the fight to criminals:

### **Community Fund:**

EAST:

*Accrington Christians Together – Accrington Street Angels – £8,250*

This is a 'Street Angels' project supporting vulnerable people in Accrington particularly in the night time economy, dealing with minor incidents, preventing escalation and offering support – to ensure no harm comes to vulnerable people.

*Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service – Health and Wellbeing for Children and Families – £10,000*

Project working with young people focussing on diversionary activity to reduce anti-social behaviour and reduce the risk of exploitation of vulnerable young people.

*Colne Youth Action Group – CYAG Holiday Club Extension – £10,000*

Offering more weeks and sessions meeting demand for the Youth Action Group sessions and additional resources, helping combat ASB concerns in Colne.

*Nature Warriors Nelson – New Centre Support – £9,850*

Diversionary activity and workshops working with young people focusing on martial arts sessions and sessions around confidence and public speaking and employability skills

*Bacup Family Centre – Community Youth Project – £10,000*

Supporting the further development of a child & youth hub 'the station' used by young people within Bacup, to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour.

*Ribble Valley Community Safety Partnership – CCTV network – tackling ASB, rural crime and dangerous driving – £8,000*

CCTV covering arterial routes in rural areas to deter and detect crime in rural communities.

SOUTH:

*Preston and South Ribble Street Pastors – Preston Street Pastors – £10,000*

Support for uniformed volunteers engaging with vulnerable people, particularly in the night time economy, to keep them safe and reduce crime.

*Wigan Athletic Community Trust – Football in the Community – £9,600*

Football and other activity sessions within the Digmoor and central area of Skelmersdale for 8-16 year olds, acting as a diversionary activity and opportunity to signpost, in order to continue to reduce anti-social behavior.

WEST:

*Blackpool FC Community Trust – Tower Above – £10,000*

One-to-one mentoring programme working with young people deemed at risk of and/or involved in anti-social behaviour/crime.

*Kirkham Town Council – Playground and Ginnel CCTV – £10,000*

Installation of CCTV system to deter and detect any anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

*Slyne with Hest Parish Council – Respect our Recreation Field – £4,440*

Installation of CCTV around the site to deter and detect any anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

*The Boathouse Youth, Blackpool – £10,000*

Installation of CCTV to deter ASB in Blackpool and help identify any perpetrators.

TOTAL – £110,140

#### **Police Innovation Fund:**

Enforcement scene units – £50,000 – Investment into two refitting two special operations vehicles for use by the roads policing unit, growing operational capacity to target dangerous drivers and vehicles.

### **Fighting Crime Grants:**

Fylde Borough Council – £14,976 – support for additional council patrols that will support the Op Centurion Patrol Plan by enforcing civil powers to reduce anti-social behaviour.

*Total – £175k*

12. As members will be aware, the Commissioner has released the report from the College of Policing's independent review into the handling of the widely publicised missing from home investigation into Nicola Bulley. The Commissioner has asked the Chief Constable for a report in the new year setting out his implementation plan in relation to the report's recommendations.
13. A copy of the report can be viewed via the following link.  
  
[Commissioner publishes Independent Report into Nicola Bulley case - Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner \(lancashire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/Commissioner-publishes-Independent-Report-into-Nicola-Bulley-case)
14. In October, the Commissioner, joined members of the local policing team on the beat in Preston City Centre, to see first-hand and discuss efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour and crimes such as shoplifting.
15. During the walkaround, the Commissioner heard about the difference the additional policing patrols were making, with 882 additional policing hours spent on the beat in Preston since July, as part of the £2million of additional funding the Commissioner secured from the Government.
16. Figures up to the end of September also highlighted that these additional patrols have already seen 16 arrests, 373 business visits and 180 incidents attended.
17. The Commissioner spoke to over 40 Police Cadets at the University Centre, Blackburn College.
18. The Blackburn Cadet Unit discussed some of the work they have been doing during their weekly sessions and what they were looking forward to in the months ahead.
19. They also heard from the Commissioner more about his role and had the opportunity to ask questions about his work as PCC, his Fighting Crime Plan and a range of other areas across policing and criminal justice.

20. In November the Commissioner visited Kirkham and discussed local policing issues with the local neighbourhood Sergeant and Mayor of Kirkham Town Council, Cllr Chris Hopkinson.
21. They discussed funding provided through his Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund to upgrade the Town Council's CCTV system, and the work of the policing team in the area to address local concerns.
22. The Commissioner has walked the beat with Members of Parliament in their constituencies, discussing with local policing teams the issues being raised with their local offices.
23. During walkarounds with Jake Berry MP and Paul Maynard MP, they talked about how additional officers recruited through the Police Uplift Programme were already making a difference to the policing service constituents were seeing out on their streets and local challenges.
24. The Commissioner joined students at both UCLan and Runshaw College, who are completing policing related qualifications, to discuss his plans for Lancashire Constabulary and the future of policing.
25. UCLan students were given the opportunity to ask the Commissioner a series of questions including if he would alter his Fighting Crime Plan priorities given the opportunity, and what are the biggest issues he faces in his role.
26. The Commissioner also joined pupils on Runshaw College's Policing Horizons programme to discuss their future ambitions in policing, whether that be as staff or an officer.

## **Recommendation**

27. 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