

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Meeting to be held on 4 March 2024

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

Chief Constable Recruitment

4. Following the announcement that Chief Constable Chris Rowley would retire in Spring at the beginning of 2024, the Police and Crime Commissioner launched the recruitment process to identify a new Chief Constable, with applications closing in early February 2024.

The Commissioner outlined that he sought to appoint a Chief Constable who possessed the skills and expertise to harness, prioritise and build on the foundations in place to continue the delivery of the priorities set out in his Police

and Crime Plan. Moreover, the Commissioner wishes to appoint a Chief Constable who endeavours to build on the Constabulary's reputation as the most pro-active, crime fighting force in the country, with a highly visible presence, whose officers and staff were seen as figures of authority and respect, with a clear focus on reducing the number of victims, ensured that people felt safe and instilled public confidence.

Budget Consultation

5. The Commissioner launched his budget consultation at the end of November 2023, which asked the public for their views ahead of setting the police budget for Lancashire Constabulary for 2024/25.

The survey asked for the public's views regarding what issues matter most to them, what Lancashire Police should focus on, and whether the public would be willing to pay more through the council tax 'precept' to bolster the Force's budget and the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

Following consultation with the Police and Crime Panel on 31st January 2024, the Commissioner took the decision to set the precept at 4.75%. The formal notification of this decision was made available via the Commissioner's website, alongside the associated recommendation report (links below):

- [Decision Notice](#)
- [Recommendation Report](#)

Operation Warrior

6. Operation Warrior, the campaign taking the fight to organised crime, marked its first year since launch. Over the course of the Operation's first year, there have been 1,212 suspects arrested, 352 vulnerable children and adults safeguarded, 649 years of jail time sentenced, and seizures of 10,550 cannabis plants, 286KG of class A and class B drugs, and £1.2M of cash.

The Operation, supported by online appeals, updates, leaflets, and a radio and billboard campaign, has resulted in a recorded increase in information being passed to the Police, which has provided vital intelligence to continue to close the net on organised crime and bring more offenders to justice.

7. In early 2024, further results were reported from the Operation, as follows:-
 - Arrests of crime gang suspects increased by 35%.
 - Cash seizures from organised crime gangs increased by 103%.
 - Jail time for organised crime gang members increased by 25%.
 - The number of cannabis plants increased by 250%.
 - The amount of class A and B drugs seized increased by 200%.

Operation Centurion

8. There has continued to be success through the delivery of Operation Centurion, which seeks to take the fight to anti-social behaviour, with:
 - Over 14,000 additional policing hours in police hotspots.
 - Since launching in July 2023, officers have:-
 - Attended 1,378 incidents,
 - Carried out over 3,300 stop checks,
 - Carried out over 640 stop searches, and;
 - Made upwards of 140 arrests.

Additional hotspot patrols were initially announced for six areas of Lancashire, following the Commissioner's successful bid to secure £2m worth of funding from Government. Since, an additional eight hotspot areas have been identified, meaning dedicated anti-social behaviour hotspot patrols are now being carried out in every district across the county.

Drink and Drug Driving Campaign

9. At the beginning of December, the Police and Crime Commissioner joined Lancashire Constabulary in launching a joint campaign, targeting drink and drug drivers, particularly during the festive period.

The campaign, which links into the Fighting Crime Priority of 'targeting dangerous drivers', urged drug drivers to 'get help or get caught'. Through December and until New Year, officers intensified their work around this, stopping drivers at checkpoints and targeting people where intelligence suggested they may be drug or drink-driving.

In a bid to educate drivers about the dangers of drug driving, a multimedia campaign was launched in Lancashire across billboards, beer mats, posters, radio ads and social media to warn about the effects of drug driving and to signpost people to supportive services via Talk to Frank. Lancashire County Council committed £3000 towards the campaign, which also urged people to contact Crimestoppers if they suspected anyone who was driving impaired.

Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Funding Allocations

10. At the end of 2023, £77,000 was awarded to projects to take the fight to criminals in Lancashire, utilising cash seized from offenders to boost schemes that worked to make the county safer.

Eleven local projects received funding from the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund (SLNF), including activities to keep people away from crime, installing more CCTV cameras, and supporting vulnerable people.

The latest Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund Community Fund grants issued were, as follows: -

East	
Organisation Name	ACT at the Cheethams
Project Name	ACT at the Cheethams
Location	Blackburn with Darwen
Amount of Funding Awarded	£9,804
Summary	The Safe project at the Cheethams, led by ACT at the Cheethams, aims to establish a weekend drop-in centre, providing a safe refuge for children and young people, reducing the risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour and minor crime.

East	
Organisation Name	Barlick First
Project Name	Barlick First Youth Sessions
Location	Pendle
Amount of Funding Awarded	£9,560
Summary	The Barlick First Youth Sessions project, led by Barlick First, in Pendle aims to develop targeted sessions for young people aged 11-19, with a focus on the 14-16 age group, addressing anti-social behaviour.

East	
Organisation Name	Blackburn BID – Newground CIC
Project Name	Operation BAUBle (Blackburn Against Unacceptable Behaviour)
Location	Blackburn with Darwen
Amount of Funding Awarded	£6,002.50
Summary	Operation BAUBle, a partnership project led by Blackburn BID and Newground CIC, involves security patrols and town centre police-led operations to deter anti-social behaviour and minor crime.

East	
Organisation Name	Oswaldtwistle Immanuel Cricket Club
Project Name	CCTV Installation
Location	Hyndburn
Amount of Funding Awarded:	£1,371
Summary	Oswaldtwistle Immanuel Cricket Club aims to enhance security through a CCTV installation project, covering the Cricket and Bowling Clubs and entrances to prevent anti-social behaviour.

West	
Organisation Name	Lancaster City Council
Project Name	Westgate and Mainway CCTV
Location	Lancaster
Amount of Funding Awarded	£10,000
Summary	Lancaster City Council's Westgate and Mainway CCTV project involves the installation of cameras to address anti-social behaviour and enhance security, aligning with efforts to disrupt organised crime.

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West	
Organisation Name	St Annes on the Sea Town Council
Project Name	Summer Activity Sessions (SAS)
Location	Fylde
Amount of Funding Awarded	£10,000
Summary	St Annes on the Sea Town Council's SAS project aims to combat boredom and promote positive learning experiences through diverse activities during summer holidays, aligning with the priority of getting tough on anti-social behaviour.

West	
Organisation Name	The Trinity Parish
Project Name	No More Knives Campaign
Location	Blackpool
Amount of Funding Awarded	£9,000
Summary	The Trinity Parish's No More Knives Campaign addresses anti-social behaviour by combining music, powerful stories, and education to equip young people with the skills to reject knives.

South	
Organisation Name	City Church Preston
Project Name	Perimeter Fencing
Location	Preston
Amount of Funding Awarded	£8,000
Summary	City Church Preston's Perimeter Fencing project aims to secure part of the site to prevent illicit activities, supporting the priority of getting tough on anti-social behaviour.

South	
Organisation Name	Community Network and Outreach Services CIC
Project Name	CNOS Youth Initiative
Location	South Ribble
Amount of Funding Awarded	£10,000
Summary	Community Network and Outreach Services CIC's CNOS Youth Initiative provides non-formal educational sessions for young people, aiming to address issues and support the community against anti-social behaviour and organised crime.

South	
Organisation Name	Tanteron Village Centre
Project Name	CCTV Upgrade
Location	Preston
Amount of Funding Awarded	£2,152.42
Summary	Tanteron Village Centre's CCTV Upgrade project involves installing cameras to enhance surveillance and address disturbances in specific areas, aligning with priorities of getting tough on anti-social behaviour and cracking down on burglary and robbery.

Pan-Lancashire	
Organisation Name	Certain Curtain Theatre Company
Project Name	Lady In Red – Domestic Abuse Project
Location	Pan-Lancashire
Amount of Funding Awarded	£2,600
Summary	Certain Curtain Theatre Company's Lady In Red – Domestic Abuse Project aims to raise awareness about domestic abuse through live theatre performances and educational workshops, aligning with the priority of tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence.

11. Another £33,000 was confirmed through the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund at the start of 2024:

Organisation Name	Beacon Rossendale
Project Name	Beacon Shed at the Whitaker
Location	Rossendale
Amount of Funding Awarded	£3,490.66
Summary	Extend their CCTV system to cover the Beacon area of the shed, storage shed and surrounding entrances.

Organisation Name	IMO Charity
Project Name	Agaah - Awareness
Location	Blackburn with Darwen
Amount of Funding Awarded	£9,950
Summary	Run a road safety/awareness programme within Blackburn with Darwen, engaging parents and children to keep them safe in the evening, avoiding accidents and supporting individual marshalling at individual Madrassah.

Organisation Name	Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnership
Project Name	IMPACT!
Location	Chorley and South Ribble
Amount of Funding Awarded	£10,000
Summary	Project run in conjunction with C.E.L.L.S and Natural High to educate children and young people about the effects of engaging in criminal behaviour and its related issues/consequences

Organisation Name	Lancashire Youth Challenge
Project Name	RESTORE
Location	Preston
Amount of Funding Awarded	£10,000
Summary	A collaboration between several partners, including Foxtan Centre, Lancashire Youth Challenge, Preston Bus station, and Sector Security aiming to facilitate staff training and youth engagement initiatives designed to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Observing Policing Operation of Major Event

12. The Commissioner joined officers in Blackburn during November to observe the arrangements for policing a major event. In this case, a football match between Blackburn Rovers vs Preston North End.

The Commissioner met with the policing teams involved and observed how they operated in preparation for and during an event of this nature in terms of the intelligence and partnership working that took place to ensure public safety. For example, visiting the operations room at Ewood Park alongside representatives from the Club, policing, other emergency services and local authorities who worked in collaboration.

Veterans in Communities

13. At the end of last year, the Commissioner visited Rossendale based charity Veterans in Communities (VIC) who support those who have served in the Armed Forces and Emergency services in East Lancashire and areas of Greater Manchester. The charity worked to ensure those that have retired from service remained engaged with former colleagues and had access to support whilst utilising their skills and knowledge.

The visit provided Commissioner Snowden the opportunity to observe how they engaged with former police officers and the work they undertook to strengthen connections within the community. The Commissioner observed how the charity engaged veterans in recreational activities and discussed how further ties could be made with Lancashire Constabulary to increase the number of retired police officers who made use of the services offered at the VIC.

Neighbourhood Policing Week

14. The Commissioner welcomed Lancashire Constabulary's involvement in the national 'Neighbourhood Policing Week' initiative, highlighting the important role neighbourhood policing played in ensuring local communities felt safe and highlighted the different ways local officers took the fight to criminals.

Activities during the week included:-

- Initiatives to tackle burglary, bike theft and anti-social behaviour,
- Visits to schools and community groups,
- Targeted action aimed at reducing drug and traffic offences; and,
- Public engagement events.

Working with Partners

15. A meeting between the Commissioner, Burnley Business Improvement District (BID), local officers, the local Member of Parliament and the Council's Chief Executive saw discussions regarding Burnley Town Centre policing.

Discussions involved recent operations in Burnley town centre, including a pre-Christmas crackdown on anti-social behaviour, illegal e-scooters and other concerns raised by the public.

Opportunities for collaboration were also discussed to deter crime, such as CCTV, Stopwatch and other intervention programmes that seek address the root causes of anti-social behaviour and other offences.

Accountability Board

16. The Commissioner held an extraordinary Accountability Board meeting to discuss progress with the Chief Constable and his team on the action plan that seeks to address the local recommendations from the 'Independent External Review of Lancashire Constabulary's Operational Response to missing person Nicola Bulley'.

Recommendation

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

Angela Harrison
Chief Executive