

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities	Scrutiny Committee	Tuesday, 17 January 2023

Community Safety Partnership Crime and Disorder

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to provide an overview of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Recommendations

2. To note the report.

Reasons for recommendations

3. To provide a challenge to the CSP that they are appropriately responding to community safety issues including those raised by the communities

Other options considered and rejected

4. The Scrutiny Committee can call in representatives from the Responsible Authorities on CSPs in order to improve its delivery and hold decision makers to account
5. This report is provided to give an oversight of the ongoing work of the Community Safety Partnership during the pandemic. The report demonstrates the resilience of the CSP and its capability to provide a dynamic response to local needs during a national lock down. The Police have continued to carry out operations to address vehicle, knife and organised crime, despite significant pressures on the neighbourhood policing team, diverted to the Covid response.
6. It is noted that overall crime figures have reduced, the identification of vulnerable people in our community has had a significant impact on the case load of the South Ribble Integrated Team.
7. Simultaneously, the CSP has continued to support strategic development within reducing reoffending, Prevent agenda and the Domestic abuse bill and the domestic abuse service commissions.

Corporate priorities

8. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

9. Section 5 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 established Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) which is an alliance of organisations who generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area.

CSPs are statutorily responsible for reducing crime & disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in each local authority area. Each CSP is made up of six 'responsible authorities';

- Local Authority
- Police
- Fire & Rescue Service
- National Probation Service (NPS)
- Community Rehabilitation Company (Merged with NPS June 2021)
- Clinical Commissioning Groups

10. Lancashire is a two-tier authority, of which South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Council, are neighbouring districts with similar demographic profiles. Therefore, both Chorley and South Ribble Community Safety Partnerships work collaboratively in order to work more efficiently, allowing for better communication, sharing skills, knowledge and project opportunities.

11. The success of the partnership is dependent on the collaborative working with Lancashire County Council and the valuable contributions of other partner agencies such as Registered Social Landlords, Drug & Alcohol Services, Citizens Advice Bureau, voluntary community faith sector (VCFS) organisations and commissioned services.

Overall Position

12. 2021/22 has seen the country emerge from the Covid 19 pandemic. Resources have been re-deployed to pre Covid positions in most cases. Although resilience is still needed in case of a resurgence of Covid variants when there may be a need to deploy dynamic deviations at short notice. The strong and cohesive working relationship of the CSP and wider agencies, has endured and continues to enable an effective response to community issues. CSP meetings operate bimonthly and are combined with GENGA.

Review of Governance and Partnership Arrangements

13. The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board commissioned a review of existing partnership and governance arrangements. The review had a focus on community safety, safeguarding and health and wellbeing. The conclusion of the review provided the option of a Thematic Model and a Geographic Model approach. The view of both South Ribble and Chorley Councils was the Thematic Model would work better. However, a final and collective decision for Lancashire, has yet to be made.

Integrated Offender Management- Reducing reoffending.

14. The aim of the IOM is to make communities safer by reducing reoffending in order to provide community protection and confidence within the criminal justice system.

This is done by identifying offenders who commit crimes such as burglary, robbery, theft and putting in place effective supervision, by the police offender managers and national probation service. In order to support desistance, rehabilitative pathways are put in place to address the criminogenic need of the individual in order to reduce their likelihood of reoffending.

A dedicated IOM review panel has recently re-established for South Ribble and Chorley in order to target repeat offenders. It is too early to demonstrate its effectiveness locally. However, South Ribble Borough Council and the wider CSP are working together to support the work of the IOM, to reduce the risk of reoffending.

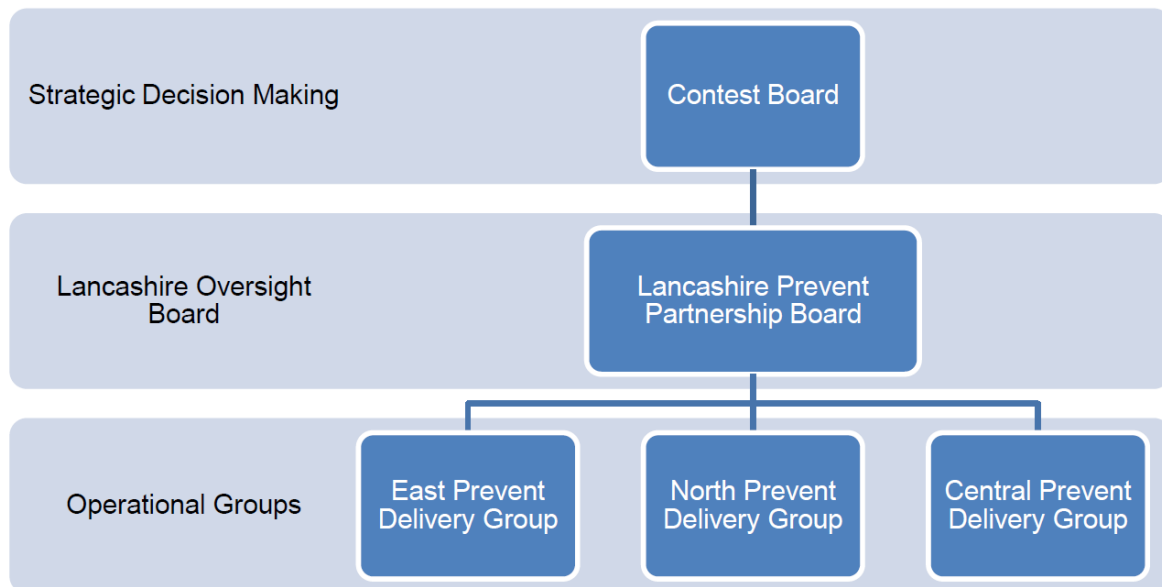
Prevent

15. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The Specified Authorities identified in the Act, are Local Authorities, Police, Prisons, Young offender institutions, Probation services, Schools, Colleges, Universities and NHS bodies.

Local Authority duties under the Prevent Duty Guidance:

- Coordinate Prevent using multi-agency groups.
- Assess risk of at-risk adults and children being drawn into terrorism using Counter Terrorism Local Profiles.
- Develop an action plan to reduce risk to identified vulnerable groups.
- Identify and train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism.
- Refer identified vulnerable adults and children to Channel where there is an evidence base of risk factors.
- Establish responsible booking policy for public venues.
- Refrain from working with extremist organisations.

The countywide Prevent governance structure (below) was agreed in May 2020. All meetings will provide both Prevent and Channel oversight.



Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

16. The May 2021 elections resulted in the appointment of a new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Andrew Snowden.

As a result of successful funding bids to the OPCC (under the guidance of the previous PCC, Clive Grunshaw) the CSP was able to support

- Lancashire wide domestic abuse campaign during the lockdown following the increase in reporting of domestic abuse.
- an awareness campaign for suicide awareness across South Ribble & Chorley
- Camera doorbell campaign (led by the Police) for victims at risk of doorstep crime. This is expected to be rolled out imminently Quarter 2 and 3 of 2021/22

Domestic Abuse Service Commission

17. The current contract for the delivery of Commissioned Domestic Abuse service, providing support for high, medium and standard risk victims covering the Lancashire 12 area was let as part of the Lancashire Victim Services contract. This contract ends on 31 March 2022.

The Commissioner and his office have begun the process to re-commission victim services in Lancashire from 1 April 2022. It is intended to offer a contract for three years with the option of an extension of a further two years. This would provide a commissioned service for the period 2022/33 to 2026/27 if the extension is activated.

To enable this standard of service to continue the previous Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, asked Chief Executives to further commit funding for the three years 2022/23 to 2024/25 and continuing to provide £100,000 towards the service in total.

Each district's contribution is based upon their respective population and for South Ribble the contribution requested is £9,082 for each year.

In South Ribble the number of referrals into the service over the life of the current contract is 4,031 reflecting a significant amount of service for the district.

18. A new post of Domestic Abuse Prevention Co-Ordinator was created in July 2022 and has been specifically funded to ensure that the duties of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are met effectively by both South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Borough Council. The principle purpose of this collaborative role is to assist the Councils' shape their services to ensure all contact from those experiencing domestic abuse are dealt with effectively and in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Working together with partner agencies, including local refuges and Women's centres, specialist outreach support providers and commissioned victim services (Lancashire Victim Services), Children's Services and immigration services, under multi agency frameworks (MARAC and Community Safety forums), will ensure there is capacity to offer relevant support for victims and their families under the continuing development of the Lancashire Domestic Abuse Strategy.

They will also co-ordinate and facilitate domestic abuse campaigns and projects including the White Ribbon, to whom both Chorley and South Ribble councils are accredited to. This is an annual campaign to support the following 16 days of action to raise awareness of the gender-based violence of men against women. Other national campaigns include Yes Matters and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) are currently being supported and further projects and initiatives will be identified.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

19. South Ribble Borough Council is currently coordinating five Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR).

Under section 9(1) of the 2004 Act, domestic homicide review means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by—

(a) a person to whom he¹ was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or

(b) a member of the same household as himself.

It should be noted that an 'intimate personal relationship' includes relationships between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Where a victim took their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern, for example it emerges that there was coercive controlling behaviour in the relationship, a review should be undertaken, even if a suspect is not charged with an offence or they are tried and acquitted. Reviews are not about who is culpable. (*Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews, 2016*)

¹ Section 6 of the Interpretation Act 1978 - words importing the masculine gender includes the feminine.

South Ribble Integrated Team (SRIT)

20. April 2021 until March 2022 The South Ribble Integrated Team have received 77 referrals. These cases have been for families and individuals with multiple complex needs such as hoarding, declining mental health, loneliness, isolation, substance misuse, homelessness, financial issues and bereavement. This is a decrease on the previous year and reflective of the nation coming out of Covid restrictions. The SRIT has worked in partnership to provide support and intervention, together they have closed 71 cases within the 12-month period, with 1 cases being supported past March 2022 and 4 cases escalated to Lancashire County Council Safeguarding Team.

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (LVRN)

21. Lancashire Violence Reduction Network is made up of several partners from across public services and the third sector. The aim of the network is to facilitate a system wide trauma informed approach to preventing and tackling the root causes of serious violence. The LVRN will support the CSPs in their approach to prevent serious violent crime.

The LVRN is also key to the implementation of the new Serious Violence Duty. The Duty aims to ensure that agencies are focussed on their activity to reduce serious violence whilst also providing sufficient flexibility so that the relevant organisations will engage and work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area.

The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to collaborate and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence: taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.

This is due to receive Royal Assent in January 2022 and to become law around July 2022.

This will impose a duty on district councils and other statutory agencies to understand their local issues, prepare and implement a strategy.

The LVRN will offer leadership and strategic coordination working with CSPs in their local response to serious violence

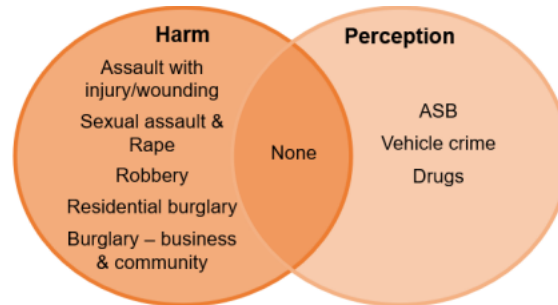
South Ribble Strategic Assessment

23. The Strategic Assessment Local Profile for South Ribble completed in 2021 (Appendix A) forms part of the output of the 2022-25 Pan-Lancashire Strategic Assessment. The analysis within the profile is underpinned by the strategic threat matrix covering key areas including harm and perception, risk and threats, serious and organised crime, road safety.

24. An assessment of the evidence base has been undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership Analysts. This assessment highlights some of the key issues and risks across Lancashire which affect the local communities. They require multi-agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the well-being of our residents. A brief outline is below, the full document is appended.

Harm and Perception

25. The Office for National Statistics crime severity tool was used to calculate the level of harm of crime in South Ribble. Lancashire Talking provided an indicator of the public's perception of the crime and community safety issues important to South Ribble.



There were no crimes that were both a concern to the public and caused a high level of harm.

Anti-Social Behaviour

26. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) features as one of the primary concerns for the people of South Ribble in the Lancashire Talking Survey.

The wards with the highest volume of ASB reported were Leyland Central, Middleforth and Seven Stars.

Mental health is a common factor in anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes.

23% of all ASB in South Ribble is youth related, which involves groups congregating, being rowdy and causing other issues.

Domestic Abuse

27. Females accounted for 75% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 25%. The peak age group was 25 – 34 years. A quarter of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related. The highest number of offences were in Middleforth ward, followed by Seven Stars ward.

Serious and Organised Crime

28. As part of operation Genga (partnership approach to tackling organised crime) The following were highlighted in the Serious and Organised Crime profile as key issues for South Ribble:

- County Lines OCGs (organised crime groups) travelling from Liverpool and Manchester to supply Class A drugs
- Exploitation of vulnerable drug users and children to deal Class A drugs
- High performance vehicles and motor bikes stolen
- Theft of catalytic converters
- Illicit tobacco and alcohol sales funding OCGs

Climate change and air quality

29. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

30. There are no known equality impact implications.

Risk

31. The report demonstrates the council is aware and is fulfilling its duty under section 5 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 in order to suitably respond to, prevent, reduce and eliminate where possible the associated risks in connection with crime and disorder.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

32. This is a progress update report and as such there are no direct financial implications arising from it.

The Council's role in the Community Safety Partnership is set out in the report and the financial implications, including staffing resources and the contribution to the Domestic Abuse service across Lancashire, are contained within existing budgets

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

33. There are no concerns with this report from a Monitoring Officer perspective. The report is essentially for noting and discussion – there are no direct legal implications arising from this.

Background documents

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Crime and Disorder 2 July 2020

Appendices

Appendix A – Strategic Assessment

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