

## **Report of the Community and External Scrutiny Committee**

This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Community and External Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 January 2024.

### **Road Safety Partnership**

We welcomed the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, Andy Pratt MBE to provide an overview of his role and answer questions from the Committee.

We asked a range of questions including:

- How the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership is effective and fit for purpose, and how individual partners are held to account;
- What work the Partnership does to make roads and communities in South Ribble safer;
- How the Partnership engages with district councils and councillors more widely;
- How the Road Safety Partnership links with the Community Safety Partnership in their statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder;
- What more enforcement around speeding can be done by the Police to deal with repeat offenders;
- The current position with 20mph zones and whether existing zones are enforceable;
- On the police response to issues with e-bikes and scooters;
- The outcomes of Operation Vertebrae – aimed at traffic enforcement along the M6 corridor;
- On what is being done to tackle parking issues around schools; and
- What more local communities can do to help improve road safety.

We subsequently;

1. Thanked the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for attending and answering questions;
2. commended the outcome of the Christmas drink and drugs campaign;

3. welcomed the offer of viewing the high speed road traffic response vehicle capabilities;
4. agreed to help promote the speed portal road safety and traffic reporting system among councillors and employees, including the community hubs;
5. asked the Council to consider training operational employees and councillors to be life savers in helping in the event of a vehicle collision or incident; and
6. welcomed the offer of data associated with Operation Vertebrae and warning letter template for parents and schools.

### **Community Safety Partnership**

We welcomed the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership/ Director of Communities and Leisure, Jennifer Mullin and Sergeant Zaf Hussain from Lancashire Police to present the annual update and answer questions from the Committee.

We asked a range of questions including:

- Progress over the last 12 months, what had gone well and areas of further improvement;
- A current assessment of the effectiveness of the Partnership;
- How representative of the whole Partnership is the officer working group, and whether members of the Committee are able to observe;
- How the Partnership Plan was developed and whether this could be provided to members;
- How up to date the data used in the plan was, given the strategic assessment is dated 2021;
- How successful the Integrated Offender Management review panel is;
- Operation Centurion and the additional support deployed in Leyland and other parts of South Ribble to tackle anti-social behaviour;
- On ensuring South Ribble is receiving the support it needs;
- Around reasons for Domestic Abuse cases being rejected, in addition some being uncontactable;
- On confidence in whether lessons are learnt following Domestic Homicide Reviews;

- On outcomes of the South Ribble Integrated Team (SRIT) and the process around cases being closed;
- On whether the crime figures are a true reflection and if under-reporting is an issue;
- On what the Partnership is doing to reduce serious crimes that have seen a concerning increase;
- On what diversionary activities for young people are available to provide a positive alternative to anti-social or criminal behaviour; and
- What difference will be seen in a year's time when the Committee next reviews the Partnership.

We subsequently;

1. Thanked the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership/Director together with the Police Sergeant for attending and answering questions;
2. welcomed the progress made by the Partnership over the last 12 months;
3. Were grateful for the offer of a copy of the Partnership Plan;
4. Suggested that consideration be given to the strategic needs assessment being produced more frequently to support and inform the work of the Partnership;
5. requested that further re-assurance be provided on the domestic violence victim support journey around rejected referrals;
6. would be grateful for future reports including crime detection rates and more specific information on what is being done to tackle these crimes; and
7. asked for more information on the plan to extend diversionary activities for young people to help tackle anti-social behaviour be provided to the committee.

### **Lancashire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee Update**

Councillor Lou Jackson, the Council's representative on Lancashire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee provided an update on discussions from recent meetings.

Updates were noted on the NHS recovery and transformation strategy and reconfiguration of the Integrated Care Boards, community care, dentistry, the New Hospitals Programme and ongoing assessment of buildings for RAAC concrete.

We noted the update.

## **Task Group Update**

The Chair of the Inequalities Scrutiny Review Task Group, Councillor Lesley Pritchard, provided an update on the establishment of the Task Group, which now had a remit looking at wider aspects affecting inequalities across the borough. Plans were underway to arrange a number of meetings and engagement activities with members, key stakeholders and partners in the coming months with a final report to be presented in January 2025.

We noted the update.

## **Recommendation(s)**

That Council note the report.

Councillor Angela Turner  
Chair of the Community and External Scrutiny Committee  
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