

Community Safety Report 2021-22

REPORT TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



DATE	09/03/2022
PORTFOLIO	Community Services
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PURPOSE

1. To provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee of Burnley's community safety performance as part of the required statutory duty, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Scrutiny Committee notes the detail of the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Lancashire Strategic Assessment has been completed for 2022-2025. The strategic priorities for Lancashire are:
 - Domestic abuse
 - Violence
 - Exploitation – criminal and sexual
 - Serious Organised Crime
 - Road Safety
4. Burnley as part of the Pennine Community Safety Steering Group will be part of a process to establish the strategic priorities for Pennine Lancashire, for 2022-2025.
5. Local community safety delivery in Burnley remains the responsibility of the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) group which meets monthly and is chaired by Councillor Bea Foster, Executive Member for Community and Environmental Services
6. Local activities and the response of the MATAC group also take into account emerging threats identified through the Partnership Analyst and/or data provided by partner agencies and the community monthly via the partner meetings.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Community Safety Projects and Activity in Burnley 2021/22

7. All local activities are agreed through the Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating meeting and emerging and predictive threats, such as alcohol related crime in the run up to Christmas are considered. In addition, informing the community of our actions and their responsibilities in reducing crime are a key element in all local activities undertaken.
8. Officers have continued to support both local and Pennine CSP priorities. Thematic groups established across Pennine Lancashire's CSP continue to deliver against local priorities and concerns. Both Pennine and local thematic groups have continued to meet virtually during the Pandemic and make progress. For instance, the low crime and anti-social behaviour Pennine Group is jointly chaired by Joanne Swift, BBC Head of Streetscene and C.I Stephanie Hurst, Lancashire Constabulary.
9. The Safer Streets project has provided two areas in Burnley Wood and Bank Hall with extensive work to reduce the impact of acquisitive crime. As a result of interventions based on home security and alleygating, over 500 properties in the project areas have directly benefitted from the grant. The funding has also provided an extension to the CCTV network and significant green space improvements within the area. External evaluation of the scheme is being undertaken by Central Govt. and will be available later in the year.
10. 7 new alleygate schemes have been selected for installation this year. The new schemes will be in Gawthorpe, Trinity, Daneshouse with Stoneyholme, Rosehill with Burnley Wood, and Queensgate.
11. Through the co-ordination that MATAC and the Youth Panel provides, youth service partners are proactive in targeting outreach resources in areas of concern. Partner agencies range from statutory agencies such as Lancashire County Council's Children & Family Wellbeing Service (CFW) to third sector and community based providers such as Participation Works (Youth Bus) and Burnley Boys and Girls Club. Where appropriate, local partners will also use Staysafe Operations to address hotspot areas where youth related ASB is an issue.
12. Domestic Abuse training. A programme of interactive, theatre-based, awareness raising sessions have been developed to refresh the Council's approach to domestic abuse. This work commenced prior to lockdown and, due to restrictions, was put on hold. The training will now be completed in 2022.

13. The Council has gained White Ribbon accreditation demonstrating its commitment to standing against violence against women and girls. The Council continues to support pan-Lancashire work to raise awareness of domestic abuse.
14. The Council continues to make strong progress in its response to the priorities within the revised Domestic Abuse Act (2021). Working within a County Group and in partnership with the County Council and other key stakeholders, the Council is currently working on the requirements within the Act that is known as the Part 4 Regulations. The Regulations require local authorities to review the provision of safe accommodation for victims and their children. During 2021, the Council received £31k of funding from Central Government and working in partnership with Safenet our local Domestic Abuse Provider we are looking to develop key roles that will strengthen the community outreach services for victims and their families from early 2022.
15. The Youth panel continues to bring together statutory agencies and youth service providers to co-ordinate youth activity across the borough and address youth related anti-social behavior. The work of the group has continued throughout the pandemic
16. The Town Centre Offender Group coordinates targeted work against prolific shoplifters, aggressive beggars, and other anti-social individuals affecting the town centre. Through coordinated work the group have been able to obtain restrictive orders against some of the most problematic individuals, helping to create a more pleasant environment for businesses and members of the public alike.
17. Prolific, high risk offenders are being targeted through the expanded Police Managing Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) unit. Local districts form the Pennine Lancashire screening panel and with partners from the police, probation services, and drug and alcohol services, identify candidates to be included on the enhanced project.
18. As part of the review through the Scrutiny Committee a brief overview of crime and anti-social behaviour performance for the Borough is provided.

As a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic and associated lock downs, 2020 saw marked decreases in many crime categories. For example, domestic burglary, which saw a decrease of nearly 30%. As lockdown restrictions were relaxed during 2021, crime rates rose again to a level comparable to 2019 with a slight increase of 2.35 on all crime. Of note, all burglary crime remains 43.89% below pre pandemic levels.

Conversely, as restrictions have lifted and the covid related offences and powers have been suspended, overall anti-social behaviour reports to the police have reduced. They do however remain above the period immediately before the pandemic struck and localised issues remain.

Proposed activity for 2022/23

19. The town centre Public Space Protection Order will be due for renewal 2022. A working group with membership of key stakeholders will review the performance and appropriateness of the existing order and oversee the consultation and implementation of a new PSPO.
20. A coordinated programme of alleygate review has commenced and will continue during 2022/23 to identify schemes that are not meeting the expected standards of usage.
21. A further roll-out of alley gating with approximately 6 new schemes to be identified from existing applications.
22. Continue to support the development and delivery of key, pan-Lancashire, strategies around reducing reoffending, violence reduction and knife crime, as well as locally defined priorities through Pennine Lancashire CSP and MATAAC.
23. In response to localised youth ASB matters and as part of a process of continual review of local delivery, partners, led by the Burnley Council and Burnley Police, will establish a dedicated ASB panel. This working group will follow the ASBRAC (Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference) model and will be delivered in parallel to the Borough's MATAAC Group and will be chaired by a senior police officer and include officers from local statutory and third sector partners.
24. The proposed priorities and activities mirror and reflect the priorities set out by Lancashire's Policing and Crime Plan that was launched at the end of 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

25. Community Safety delivery has remained pro-active over recent years with strong partnership arrangements in place, collaborative and funding opportunities continue, wherever possible to be sought to support activities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

26. The Strategic Assessment will be reviewed annually with a full assessment to be carried out in 2022 overseen by the Pennine CSP.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

27. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

28. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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