

Community Safety Report 2023-24

REPORT TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



DATE	11/01/2024
PORTFOLIO	Community, Health and Environmental 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 Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Priorities have for 2022-2025 are:
 - Maintaining Low Crime & Antisocial Behaviour
 - Targeting repeat offenders and those causing the greatest harm
 - Serious Violence.
 - Road Safety
 - Tackling Serious and Organised Crime
 - Domestic Abuse.
4. Local community safety delivery in Burnley remains the responsibility of the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) group which meets on a monthly basis.
5. 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

Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2022-2025

6. In 2022 the Pennine Lancashire CSP, in line with its statutory duties and to reflect the Lancashire Strategic Assessment (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/929934/lancashire-strategic-assessment-2022.pdf>), set the strategic priorities for the next three years.
7. The Serious Violence Duty came into effect 31st January 2023 (Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022) and a Pennine Lancashire thematic group was established to ensure that local activity links in with the Lancashire Violence Reduction Unit and is consistent with the County Strategy.
8. There are Lancashire wide governance arrangements for reducing reoffending, with mature partnership arrangements in place. The Pennine Community Safety Steering Group has local oversight, and overall governance falls to the Lancashire Reducing Reoffending Board. This group is Chaired by an Independent Chair, appointed by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Locally, officers from Burnley Council attend and contribute the multi-agency Integrated Offender Management meetings to assist the control of some of the boroughs most prolific offenders.
9. Road Safety is a priority in every district across the County. Thematic leadership sits with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, the coordinating body responsible for activity between Lancashire and the unitary authorities in Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.
10. As part of the County's approach to tackling Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Operation Genga has been the delivery approach to the Lancashire SOC strategy. The strategy is built on a fully engaged partnership approach involving police and law enforcement, local authority and other statutory community safety partners, and other public sector bodies, to maximise information sharing and ensure all powers available are used in tackling SOC. Each district has its own local Genga panel tackle issues specific to those areas.
11. Domestic Abuse is a priority across the County and is overseen by the Pan Lancashire Domestic Abuse Steering Group. Locally the PLCSP Steering Group oversee performance around Domestic Abuse, with representation from commissioned services attending to update. In Burnley an officer and partner working group has been established to oversee local responses, coordinate with local providers, and respond to Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 4 Regulations.

Community Safety Projects and Activity in Burnley 2023/24

12. 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.
13. The ASBRAC panel, chaired by the Police Neighbourhoods Inspector and comprising of local partner agencies, focuses on both geographic issues and specific cases to ensure coordinated responses where necessary.
14. The Community Alcohol Partnership panel (formally Youth Panel) brings provides an effective forum for youth service providers, local agencies, and representatives of the town's schools to meet, share updates and ideas, and more effectively work together to provide support for young people. In 2023 Burnley CAP won 'Most Improved Locality' award at the National CAP Awards. The award commended the work partners had done to contribute to significant reductions in Youth ASB, particularly in the town centre.
15. 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.
16. Prolific, high-risk offenders continue to be 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.
17. New alleygates continue to be rolled out in the district with a further six schemes installed in 2023. These schemes were in Queensgate, Daneshouse with Stoneyholme, Rosehill with Burnley Wood, and Gawthorpe wards. The new schemes provided increased home security for over 130 properties. These schemes, and those already in place are managed by a Borough-wide Gating Public Spaces Protection Order, which was renewed in November.
18. In a pilot review, four gating schemes were identified that persistently fell below the accepted standard. These schemes have been reviewed and, after failing to show improvement, they will be removed and used to supplement the 23/24 alley gate roll out.

19. Working with SMILE mediation services consultation and review of alley gating in Burnley has been conducted and a report is currently being drafted. Staff from SMILE canvassed residents in the Burnley Wood, Trinity, Coal Clough Lane and Cog Lane parts of Burnley, and those parts of Padiham with gates to get their views on the project.
20. The Council maintains 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. To mark International White Ribbon Day (25th November 2023) the Council joined with Burnley Football Club to make a joint statement in support of the campaign.
21. The Council and Police worked together to deliver a series of partnership days of action and resident engagement in the Queensgate area. Days were delivered looking at issues such as ASB, environmental issues, road safety, and trading standards. Following a resident meeting patrols took place on a weekly basis directly tackling issues brought to partners by the public.
22. Under a joint bid Pennine Lancashire CSP were successful in securing £400k funding through the Safer Streets Project. This will be used for improvements in areas associated with the night time economy to improve safety. In Burnley this funding will provide improvements to CCTV in strategic areas of the town centre.
23. As part of the review through the Scrutiny Committee a brief overview of crime and anti-social behaviour performance for the Borough is provided.

Crime in Burnley for the 12 months to November 2023 fell by 7%, compared to the previous 12 months, compared to the 3% increase in the previous 12 months. This is slightly ahead of the County trend.

Notable reductions were seen in Public Order offences (-29%), Sexual Offences (-16%), and Violence Against the Person (-13%). All of which were significantly better than the Lancashire average.

However, across the County there have been increases in theft offences, most notably shoplifting.

For the same 12 months Burnley had a reduction of 13% in reported ASB. This is the 4th highest reduction in the Lancashire.

Proposed activity for 2024/2025

24. 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.
25. Support the establishment of the new Police-chaired Youth Panel to manage partnership responses to youth related ASB. The panel will operate as a youth focused ASBRAC.
26. Using the review model developed in 2023/24, further alley gate schemes will be identified with the view to utilising them elsewhere as part of the 2024/25 roll out.
27. The alley gate policy will be refreshed to incorporate the new review and removal process.
28. The working arrangements with SMILE mediation service have been reviewed and a new referral procedure has been developed which will be trialed this year.
29. Taking the model that was piloted in Queensgate, the Council will look to deploy this way of working in other 'hot spots', working with the police and other agencies to look at issues affecting communities.
30. The MATAAC / ASBRAC / Youth Panel structure is reviewed regularly to ensure that it is delivering.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

31. Community Safety delivery remains pro-active with strong partnership arrangements in place, collaborative and funding opportunities continue, wherever possible to be sought to support activities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

32. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

33. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

34. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT: Richard Brown, Community Safety Officer
ALSO: Joanne Maclean, Head of Streetscene