

# Pendle Community Safety Strategy



Our Partnership Plan 2022- 2025

## Foreword: Councillor David Whipp, Chair of the Pendle Community Safety Partnership

We continue to keep a local focus on what needs to be done to keep people safe in the Borough against a background of change and reductions in provision in the public sector.

Pendle Community Safety Partnership continues to deliver actions on a range of local issues. The past three years has seen work in schools to raise awareness of knife crime, and joint approaches to tackling Youth Anti-Social Behaviour in local hotspots. On a wider footprint, there are links to the Pennine Community Safety Partnership operating across East Lancashire; including Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Rossendale and Hyndburn. We will continue to work with our East Lancashire neighbours to achieve our shared aims, for example through the Reducing Reoffending Board.

Nationally, the Serious Violence Duty comes into force in early 2023. To deliver on this, we will continue our working relationship with Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Pennine Community Safety Partnership.

We remain focused on crime reduction, despite government austerity and the challenges this brings. Crime levels are on the rise again, and central government, Police and local authority resources have reduced significantly. Added to organisational changes, the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and now, a cost of living crisis, there are collective challenges which affects the way services are delivered and so has an impact on keeping communities safe. Partnership working is called for now more than ever, to work on the collective priorities of our Community Safety Partnership.

To help set the direction for this Strategy, Pendle Community Safety partners were invited to a workshop to consider the current picture from a national, Lancashire and Pendle level, and to identify local community safety priorities. To support this, views from our local communities have been drawn from the recent *Life in Pendle* and *This is Pendle* survey, considering community safety themes.

Our local multi-agency forums continue to play a key part in facilitation the delivery of our priorities, including: Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum, Pendle and Ribble Valley Genga/Serious Organised Crime Panel, Pendle and Burnley Child Exploitation Awareness Group and Pendle Transforming Lives Panel. Some of these forums will be reviewing how to operate most effectively in a post-pandemic world to continue partnership working in a meaningful way.

Once again, I would like to thank all our partners for their ongoing support. We are also indebted to those who look out for their neighbours and play an active role in keeping Pendle safe.

## Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the police, local authorities, key partners and organisations to work together to develop and implement local crime reduction plans. Before developing such plans, they must identify key local crime and disorder priorities through consultation, and by analysing crime and disorder levels and patterns in the area.

Together with the Police, Pendle Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, offender management services, the fire and rescue service, health, voluntary and community sector organisations and housing providers, Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is the representative body through which each agency discharges its Crime and Disorder duties.

The result is this three-year Strategy, with local forums to deliver actions based upon an assessment of partner and other data, including community concerns, to provide an accurate picture of local community safety priorities.

## Pendle Community Safety Partnership's Priorities 2022-25

Feedback from a local workshop, research and surveys has been used alongside the data outlined below, to develop the priorities in this Strategy.

**Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP) will focus on the following priorities over the next three years:**

- Prevention and early intervention:
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Child Exploitation
  - Youth Anti-Social Behaviour
  
- Crime prevention
  - Serious Violence
  - Serious Organised Crime
  - Anti-Social Behaviour

Pendle CSP will seek to deliver these priorities through these existing local partnerships:

- Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum
- Pendle and Burnley Child Exploitation Awareness Group
- Pendle Youth Forum
- Pendle and Ribble Valley Genga Panel (tackling Serious Organised Crime)

Alongside this, Pendle CSP will continue to link with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, the coordinating body for Lancashire, to tackle road safety issues and help make the roads safer, and feel safer, for all users.

All partners represented are responsible for identifying and driving action to deliver positive outcomes. This will be achieved through a multi-agency approach which adds value to the day-to-day business of CSP partners.

Each year we will assess whether these priorities have changed and whether new threats are emerging. Overall, the impact of deprivation within the poorer areas of the Borough, factors affecting the health and wealth of citizens and the emerging demographic trends in the Borough will all impact on crime and the causes of crime and a partnership approach must continue to maximise our impact.

## What the data tells us

Crime Group	19/20	20/21	21/22	19/20 vs 20/21		20/21 vs 21/22		19/20 vs 21/22 (Pre-covid vs current)	
				Number	% Difference	Number	% Difference	Number	% Difference
<b>All Crime</b>	7451	6909	7273	-542	-7.3%	364	5.3%	-178	-2.4%
<b>All Burglary</b>	683	498	361	-185	-27.1%	-137	-27.5%	-322	-47.1%
<b>Burglary Residential</b>	406	318	279	-88	-21.7%	-39	-12.3%	-127	-31.3%
<b>Burglary Business &amp; Community</b>	277	180	82	-97	-35.0%	-98	-54.4%	-195	-70.4%
<b>Vehicle Crime</b>	428	275	281	-153	-35.7%	6	2.2%	-147	-34.3%
<b>Violence Against the Person</b>	2925	3050	3339	125	4.3%	289	9.5%	414	14.2%
<b>Domestic Abuse related Violence Against the Person</b>	896	1161	1132	265	29.6%	-29	-2.5%	236	26.3%
<b>Anti- Social Behaviour incidents</b>	2885	5865	3771	2980	103.3%	-2094	-35.7%	886	30.7%

The position from April 2019 to April 2022 shows a varied picture in relation to year-on-year crime and disorder in Pendle. It is important to note that this three year period includes the Covid-19 Pandemic (20/21) which impacted crime and disorder in unprecedented ways. Although the 20/21 figures cannot be disregarded they should be treated with caution as the pandemic and numerous national lockdowns and restrictions impacted crime and disorder heavily across the whole country.

When looking at 2021/22 compared to 2019/20 (pre-Covid):

- Crime as a whole decreased in Pendle by 2.4% with decreases noted in five of the 11 crime categories. Increases in drug offences, miscellaneous crimes against society, possession of weapons, public order offences, sexual offences and violence against the person offences compared to 2019 ranged from 14.2% (violence) to 52.3% (drug offences).
- Violence against the person is the only crime group from the table which has seen a continued increase year on year from April 2019 to April 2022. Crimes increased by 125 offences (+4.3%) in 20/21 and by 289 (+9.5%) in 21/22. With an overall 14.2% increase when comparing 21/22 to 19/20 (pre-Covid).
- All other crime groups recorded reductions in offences in 2020/21 and have all, with the exception of vehicle crime, recorded continued reductions in 2021/22 compared to 20/21. Vehicle crime rose by 6 offences (+2.2%) in 21/22, but still records a reduction of 34.3% (-147 offences) compared to 2019/20.
- Domestic abuse related violence against the person offences recorded a 29.6% increase (+265 offences) in 20/21, but a reduction the following year in 21/22 of 29 offences (-2.5%). With an overall 26.3% increase (+236 offences) compared to 19/20.
- Anti-social behaviour saw a dramatic increase of 103.3% in 20/21. However, this inflation was attributed largely to the reporting of Covid-19 breaches which were classified under anti-social behaviour. These increases affected not only Pendle, but the whole of Lancashire as well as other police forces due to the way the reports of lockdown restrictions were recorded.
- The level of anti-social behaviour in Pendle, despite the fluctuation in figures due to Covid, is still 30.4% higher than the levels recorded in 19/20 (+886 incidents).

**Notes:**

Crime groups are the current Home Office Classification groups.

All crime consists of the following crime groups: Arson & criminal damage, burglary, drug offences, miscellaneous crimes against society, possession of weapons, public order offences, robbery, sexual offences, theft, vehicle offences and violence against the person.

All Burglary is made up of burglary residential and burglary – business & community – these include the following crime classes for both residential and business & community burglary types: burglary, aggravated burglary, attempted burglary, distraction burglary, attempted distraction burglary.

Violence against the person offences include the following crime classes: Assault with injury, assault with injury on a Constable, assault without injury, assault without injury on a Constable, attempted murder, child abduction, cruelty to children/young persons, harassment, kidnapping, malicious communications, modern slavery, murder, racially aggravated common assault, racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury, racially or religiously aggravated harassment, stalking, threats to murder, wounding, manslaughter, causing death by dangerous driving (indictable), engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate/family relationship, emergency worker - assault occasioning actual bodily harm, causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Vehicle crime offences include the following crime classes: Aggravated vehicle taking, interfering with a motor vehicle, stealing motor vehicles or UTMV and theft from vehicle.

Domestic abuse related violence against the person offences are all of the violence against the person offences (regardless of crime class) with a flagged domestic abuse marker.

## Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022-25

From this Lancashire-wide Strategic Assessment, a Pendle Profile has been produced by the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Analyst team. Some key findings from the Profile are shown here:

- Pendle is ranked 36/317 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation against all local authorities in England, with approximately 16.3% (3,245) of children living in low income families.
- Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the England average. There are also inequalities within the district between the most deprived areas and the least deprived – 10.8 years lower for males and 6.4 years lower for women.
- Residential burglary and drugs are of concern to the public and result in a high level of harm.
- Key issues for serious organised crime in Pendle are cited as: Drug supply by local Organised Crime Groups (OCGs); Violent activity between rival OCGs; Cannabis farms, production and cultivation and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE).
- Assault without injury was the most common recorded offence type for both males and females.
- Females accounted for around 77% of victims of domestic abuse (DA) and males 23%
- 18% of domestic abuse offences were alcohol related
- Assault without injury and assault with injury were the most commonly reported DA crime types in Pendle.
- The reoffending rate for Pendle is 25%, which is lower than the Lancashire average of 27.8%
- 22% of all Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Pendle is youth related, and can involve groups congregating, being rowdy and abusive and contributing to criminal damage. Seasonal trends within ASB include moto-nuisance in and around parks, open fields and residential areas. There is a direct correlation between the increase in ASB and the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Pendle has the second lowest rate of pupils achieving the Key Stage 1 expected levels of reading, writing and mathematics across Lancashire.
- Across all districts in Lancashire, Pendle has a lower attainment 8 score (average grade across 8 core subjects) than the average 43.3% to 46.7%.
- The growing elderly population coupled with technological advancements/changes and the impact of COVID (more people reliant on technology than ever before) has led to an increased risk of the elderly becoming a victim of these sorts of crimes.

## What you told us

### Partner workshop

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, a workshop was held with CSP partners to consider the existing national and local picture, current data and trends; and to identify priorities for this Community Safety Strategy. This has been used along with other data and findings here to form the priorities of this Community Strategy over the coming three years.

### Surveys

In some recent survey and engagement work which took place to look at Pendle's priorities: *This is Pendle*, community safety was one of six suggested themes for Pendle Borough Council's Corporate Plan. Comments included:

- "Improved policing to prevent criminal activities and promote safer streets"
- "Improve safety on road by adding more speed cameras, these would be self-funding"
- "Tackle drug dealers and drug takers"
- "Antisocial behaviour including surrounding villages"
- "Increase policing particularly of traffic"

Data collected from the Pendle Profile and *Life in Pendle 2021* survey found that:

**1 in 5 Pendle residents feel unsafe in their local area.** This rises to one in three in Nelson, who feel very or quite unsafe in their local area, with nearly three in ten Brierfield & Reedley residents also feeling unsafe. **Anti-social behaviour is the key reason given for feeling unsafe. In particular, residents mention / witness gangs of youths being disrespectful, using rude and abusive language, using threatening and intimidating behaviour and causing criminal damage, and a lack of police presence.**

Despite this, the crime rate in Pendle (75 recorded crimes per 1000 population) is similar to the county average (76) and anti-social behaviour incidents in Pendle are lower (32.1 per 1000 population compared to 38.1 across Lancashire)

Hospital admission rates for **self-harm and deaths from suicide are lower than the national average. But 2 in 5 residents report that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health.**



**Residents are most likely to say cleaner streets and a greater police presence would improve their local area**

Respondents often reflect on the need to encourage people in the community to take more pride in their local area and to have more respect for other residents.

**Residents often reflect on the need for the people in the community to improve their own behaviour and for authorities to encourage this.**

**'Cleaner streets/more bins'**

- People need to be encouraged to take more pride in their local area
- More general waste and dog waste bins and fines for littering may help the situation
- More removal of fallen leaves, particularly off pavements is needed
- Fly-tipping needs to be more dealt with more, and more aggressively

**'Improved traffic and less speeding'**

- Residents mention young people in particular 'racing' cars
- Need more speed cameras, more fines and more active policing to tackle issues of speeding and reckless driving
- Some areas, especially Colne, would benefit from better traffic management to improve the "traffic gridlock"

**Lower crime rates, a cleaner environment and better services/facilities would encourage people to stay in the area.**

**For those who say they are unlikely to stay in Pendle, the most common barriers echo the main perceived current issues of crime, cleanliness and a lack of facilities/services**

**Key things that would need to change in order for people to stay in Pendle in future:**

- Lower crime rates
- Feeling safer in their area
- Cleaner environment
- Better/more housing options
- More opportunities / better job prospects
- Improved town centres
- Better services, particularly healthcare
- Better facilities, particularly leisure facilities

## Supporting Strategies

### National

Nationally, the Government has endorsed the role of Community Safety Partnerships as an important mechanism to tackle crime and reduce crime rates, whilst reducing the level of regulation and national scrutiny on the work of partnerships. There are national strategies which guide our work and provide a framework for action. The key strategies are:

- From Harm to Hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives 2022
- Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021
- Serious Violence Strategy 2018
- Serious & Organised Crime Strategy 2018
- Victims Strategy 2018

### The Police and Crime Plan

The Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2021-25, which is the responsibility of the Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner, has five priorities:

- Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour
- Disrupting and dismantling Organised Crime
- Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Cracking down on Burglary and Robbery
- Targeting Dangerous Drivers

With the funds Pendle Community Safety Partnership has received from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in previous years, SMILE Mediation has been commissioned. This has been a joint funding approach with Burnley Council, to support the resolving of neighbour and other disputes. Over 90% of referrals have resulted in a resolution for the parties involved, preventing escalation to anti-social behaviour problems. The service has also been used for one party conflict resolution coaching and as a first point of contact for Transforming Lives referrals, for vulnerable adults. The OPCC funding has also helped to facilitate further multi-agency youth engagement work to tackle local issues in Colne and Brierfield.

## The Lancashire Picture

At a Lancashire-wide level, the strategic direction is set by the Lancashire Community Safety Agreement which is steered through the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board. From April 2014 there has been Pendle Community Safety Partnership attendance at the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Steering Group, which aims to co-ordinate action at divisional level and link to both County level and local Community Safety Partnerships. Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner guides and supports the work of the Partnership and makes funding available for local crime reduction initiatives.

Pendle Community Safety Partnership Strategy also links and supports the following Lancashire-wide strategies:

- The Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2021-2025
- Lancashire Community Safety Agreement
- Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy 2020-25
- Pan-Lancashire Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Lancashire Road Safety Strategy
- Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy

## Local arrangements

Locally, Pendle Community Safety Partnership includes a number of partner organisations who can ensure their actions link to their own strategic and business plans. The CSP also links with the Pennine Community Safety Partnership.

Several local groups report into Pendle Community Safety Partnership:

- Pendle and Burnley Exploitation Awareness Group
- Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum
- Pendle and Ribble Valley Genga/ Serious Organised Crime Panel
- Pendle Transforming Lives Panel
- Colne Community Safety Area Working Group

These groups are integral to the delivery of the priorities outlined in this plan.