



Sarah Astin-Wood, the Council's Localities and Policies Manager began by providing information on the following -

## **Operation GENGA**

A leaflet which provided information on Operation GENGA and an image of the Operation GENGA van had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was explained that Operation GENGA was a programme of work aimed at strengthening the coordinated response to Serious and Organised Crime across Lancashire and had been developed by the Lancashire Organised Crime Partnership.

Members were advised that GENGA spanned across the 4Ps (Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare) and involved –

- **Pursuing** criminals in disrupting and deterring Organised Criminality
- **Preventing** people from engaging in Serious and Organised Crime
- **Protecting** the most vulnerable; reducing the impact of Serious and Organised Crime
- **Preparing** communities to be resilient against Organised Criminality

GENGA was made up of over 200 multi-agency partners that spanned across government, public and third sector agencies in Lancashire. These included councils; trading standards; police; and fire and rescue.

GENGA also linked local to regional and national agencies which allowed organisations to improve knowledge by accessing data; sharing partnership tools and powers; and increasing capability and safeguarding opportunities.

It was acknowledged that a lot of organised crime involved drug dealing; gangs; and child criminal exploitation, although this was not always the case. The work of Operation GENGA allowed for a picture of intelligence to be built.

The Group was advised of the importance of people reporting crime as and when it occurred. During discussion it was recognised that many crimes went unreported due to fear of reprisal, despite the option to report crime anonymously through Crimestoppers. This could be done online or by calling 0800 555 111.

It was also noted that, prior to this meeting, Members had little knowledge of Operation GENGA and further information was sought on where the van could be seen in the area. It was explained that, due to the nature of the work, many Operations were not widely known, however it was still important to get the message of GENGA out to the public.

It was agreed that information on the way in which the van was used to get the message of GENGA out be circulated to the Group following the meeting.

## **Pendle Community Safety Partnership**

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

The CSP met on a quarterly basis. Although not a part of the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Steering Group which operated across East Lancashire, the Pendle CSP continued to link with the Group via attendance at those meetings and in joint Pennine ventures. Colne Community Safety Area Working Group continued to address local community safety issues and the Council's area committees included local community safety issues on their agendas.

In accordance with its statutory requirement Pendle CSP had developed a three year Partnership Strategy. This included a three year Action Plan, which was updated annually.

To help develop the current Action Plan, the CSP partners had attended a workshop at which they considered the current picture from a national, Lancashire and Pendle level. In addition, views from the local community had been drawn from recent Life in Pendle and Nelson Town Centre surveys, along with a specific survey which had reached a wide range of partners, including town and parish councils. The various surveys asked about community safety perceptions and priorities and also sought ideas/suggestions and challenges on a number of themes, one of which was drug and alcohol misuse. Comments made with regard to this particular theme included the need for education about drugs/alcohol and the effect it has on individuals, families and wider society, and the need to tackle poverty and mental health, as it was felt that this was often a factor.

Feedback from the workshop, research and surveys had been used alongside other data and findings to develop three realistic priorities.

Priority 1 was keeping young people and adults with vulnerabilities safe, which covered issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse.

Work on this priority, as with the others, would be delivered through a Task and Finish Group with a clear lead and partner representation from the CSP and would be achieved through a multi-agency approach. Membership of the Group working on this priority included representatives from the substance misuse services Inspire (adults) and Young Addaction (under 25s).

Actions included –

- Get messages to communities about where to get help and support for drug and alcohol misuse
- Analysis of substance misuse data to target communities – identify gaps and joined up working
- Seek to introduce mandatory substance misuse training for license holders
- Influence local authority planning department to restrict licensing establishments and local retailers on choice of products for sale
- Promote success stories of those who have gone through recovery – using case studies, role models, mentors, and working with Red Rose Recovery (support network)

The Group would report back to the broader CSP meeting and partners would be held accountable for delivering on actions.

It was agreed that last year's Action Plan be circulated to the Working Group for information.

## **Discussion**

The Group discussed various factors that they felt contributed to this issue, such as family trauma; poverty; housing; and the reduction in community policing.

It was noted that there were many professionals working together to address many of these issues. Particular reference was made to work around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and

targeted early intervention work being carried out by LCC's Children and Family Wellbeing Service.

Other suggestions for dealing with specific problems included –

- Reporting visual drug taking/dealing immediately. This would result in the neighbourhood policing team patrolling the area more frequently
- Raising issues at area committee meetings when the police were present
- Council Members on the CSP taking their opportunity to place items on the agenda

Members felt that further information should be made available to the public on how best to report crime. As a result, the Localities and Policies Manager agreed to speak with the local Police Inspector to establish the police's view on this matter.

Members also asked that the minutes of the CSP meetings be made available to Councillors.

### **AGREED**

That Council be recommended to –

- (1) recognise that Pendle Council already plays a key role in delivering actions to deal with the problems of drug taking and drug dealing in Pendle with its representation on the Pendle Community Safety Partnership;
- (2) agree that proposals for additional measures would risk duplication of work, waste already stretched resources and would therefore be counterproductive;
- (3) acknowledge and support the ongoing collaborative work of the various agencies in dealing with this problem;
- (4) in consultation with the police, be proactive in publicising how best to report crime.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_