

**REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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## **POLICY THEMES - ANNUAL REPORT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide an update on the following policy themes:  
Community Safety, Community Cohesion, Children and Young People, Health and Wellbeing,  
Climate Change/Emissions, Equality and Diversity and Pendle Vision Board.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (1) Notes the annual progress of these thematic areas, and challenges to delivery.
- (2) Reviews the Healthy Weight Advocates and encourage Member involvement in the Healthy Places, Healthy Future programme
- (3) Determines what, if any, action the Council and partners could take to consider child poverty in Pendle, e.g. by establishing a Scrutiny Group.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To recognise and take forward partnership working in order to deliver the Objectives in the Council's Strategic Plan.

### **Background**

When the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) structure was disbanded in 2013, it was agreed that the main theme groups which delivered Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy continue, and report progress to the Council's (then) Executive, in recognition that partnership working is key in delivering the Council's Strategic Objectives. An annual report has been provided since then.

Each of these theme areas impact on each other to a varying degree and work in one area can have a direct or indirect benefit in another. It is important to recognise these linkages, and to encourage joint working across the Council, and between partners. Building more effective

partnership working is even more significant in today's climate of constant change and reduced resources, in order to meet the needs of Pendle's communities.

**Covid-19 Pandemic** – The report mainly covers the period 2019-20 and thus was broadly unaffected by the pandemic, however it is clear that the pandemic is having significant repercussions for all areas of work for the 2020-21 period and this will be reflected in next year's report. Specific areas of work which have been affected are:-

- Community safety
  - a rise in anti-social behaviour incidence,
  - concerns related to domestic abuse issues particularly during lockdown
- Community cohesion
  - The recent rise in Covid-19 cases in Pendle in late July 2020, could result in issues related to community cohesion
- Child poverty
  - The economic impact of the pandemic may already be affecting some households in the area. The full economic impact of the pandemic is as yet, unknown.

It is also anticipated that the pandemic will have significant impact in areas including safeguarding and health & wellbeing.

## **Community Safety**

Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meets on a quarterly basis. The CSP continues to collaborate within the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Steering Group, via attendance at those meetings and in joint Pennine ventures such as the resurrected Reducing Reoffending Board. Colne Community Safety Area Working group has continued to address local community safety issues and Area Committees have included local community issues in their agendas.

Pendle CSP has a statutory requirement to develop a three-year Partnership Strategy. The latest Strategy was developed in June 2019 and includes an action plan based on three priorities ([https://www.pendle.gov.uk/info/20031/community\\_safety/50/community\\_safety\\_partnership](https://www.pendle.gov.uk/info/20031/community_safety/50/community_safety_partnership))

These priorities, for 2019-22, are:

- Keeping young people and adults with vulnerabilities safe
- Tackling the causes of crime through education and early intervention
- Community Engagement in community safety priorities

A multi-agency Task Group has been established to take forward each of these priorities, with a different Lead and Supporting Officer for each one.

Pennine Community Safety Partnership currently consists of Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley, Rossendale and, more recently, Hyndburn. It is the statutory CSP for these areas and they share a Pennine CSP Strategy, of which its priorities are not dissimilar to those of the Pendle CSP. There is still an appetite from the Pennine CSP members to bring Pendle on board to cover a wider Pennine footprint and to bring benefits for increased funding, efficiencies and enhanced partnership working.

## Current Crime and Disorder Trends

**All Crime** recorded monthly in Pendle between April 2016 and March 2019:

Pendle	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Total	Change on previous year	
2016-17	463	472	435	493	588	503	440	501	468	474	361	598	1,370	1,584	1,409	1,433	5,796	Numeric	Percentage
2017-18	567	563	562	570	522	549	531	528	519	576	587	729	1,692	1,641	1,578	1,892	6,803	1,007	17.4%
2018-19	748	899	792	831	796	754	829	798	604	629	645	748	2,439	2,381	2,231	2,022	9,073	2,270	33.4%
2019/20	700	731	608	651	615	572	691	618	547	673	591	594	2,039	1,838	1,856	1,858	7,591	-1,482	-16.3%

There have been a total of 7,591 crimes recorded in Pendle between April 2019 and March 2020.

- This represents a reduction of 16%, down 1,482 offences when compared to the same period in 2018/19.
- There has been a 16% reduction in crime across the East, and pan-Lancashire a 13% reduction during the same period.

Comparison of crime groups and classes:

Year Crime Group	April 2018- March 2019	April 2019- March 2020	Difference	
			Numeric	Percent
All Crime	9135	7591	-1544	-16.9
Residential Burglary	570	422	-148	-26.0
Vehicle Crime	562	433	-129	-23.0
Assaults with Less Serious Injury	895	755	-140	-15.6
Domestic Assaults	632	603	-29	-4.6
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	2838	2976	138	4.9

Most crime classes recorded in Pendle in 2019/20 are recording a reduction on the previous year.

### Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Community Protection and Victim Support

Anti-social behaviour incidents have increased by 4.9% in 2019/20 when compared to the previous year.

The long term trend for anti-social behaviour in Pendle along with Lancashire was downward. However due to the restrictions imposed in March to reduce the impact of the coronavirus there have been significant increases in Pendle and pan-Lancashire.

In March 2020 (the government introduced 'lockdown' measures on 23rd March) the Police in Pendle recorded 300 ASB incidents; this is a 52% increase on March 2019, up 102 incidents. In April 2020 that monthly total increased to over 600 ASB reports an increase of 121% on April 2019. Contacts to Pendle council regarding ASB have also increased by 50% in April and May 2020. It remains to be seen if these increases or this higher level is maintained over the coming months or a reduction is evident as lockdown measures are eased and people return to work and education.

We use a multi-agency case management approach to working with victims at risk of harm from anti-social behaviour and vulnerable adults with complex needs. This is managed through the Pendle Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC); now part of the Transforming Lives Panel. The processes work because of the commitment of a range of partners

and, primarily, the interventions actioned between Panel meetings. During the lifetime of this strategy we will work with partners to improve referral and initial intervention processes and review information sharing protocols.

Mediation, using the SMILE organisation, is an integral part of resolving neighbour and other disputes and we continue a joint funding approach with Burnley Council funded by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner. Over 90% of referrals result in a resolution for the parties involved. We increasingly use the service for one party conflict resolution coaching and as a first point of contact for Transforming Lives referrals.

Use of the new powers brought in with the Anti-Social, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 continues with 471 community protection cases recorded to 31 May 2020 (up 100 since May 2019). Of these 72% have been resolved; 66% without any formal warning; 90% without serving a Community Protection Notice and 99% before prosecution. There are eleven Public Spaces Protection Orders in place in Pendle with specific remits around alley gates; alcohol control; dog control and behaviour in parks; play areas, multi-use games areas and sports grounds. The five alcohol control PSPOs are currently under review before they lapse in October 2020.

### Organised Crime Groups

- A GENGA/ Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Panel is established, now as a joint Pendle and Burnley, multi-agency forum.
- The PAM online system continues to be used to exchange information on Organised Crime Groups across East Lancashire.
- Pendle Council also attends the Police Priority setting meeting, which meets monthly to tackle local issues and includes consideration of organised crime and child exploitation.

### Progress

- Blackburn with Darwen CCTV Hub continues to manage and monitor cameras 24/7 in Nelson, Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Earby.
- The CCTV function and ownership has now been transferred to each of the above Town Councils who now have a direct SLA with Blackburn with Darwen Council.
- Funding secured from the OPCC to support each of the three CSP Task Groups in delivering their action plans.
- This includes a PDVI campaign on Domestic Abuse during the lockdown period, to help to raise awareness and reporting of DA.
- SMILE Mediation also continues to be funded.
- The Domestic Abuse Forum continues to provide a partner focus on domestic abuse in the Borough and deliver the DA Action Plan.
- Pendle Youth Forum and the Burnley and Pendle Child Exploitation Awareness Group also continue to meet and take local action on these specific issues.
- On 13.11.19, a successful Child Exploitation Awareness half-day event was held at Walshaw House. A future event is planned to take place when this becomes possible again.
- Pendle continues to contribute to the effectiveness and innovation of the Lancashire Anti-Social Behaviour Group

## Community Cohesion

We continue to collaborate with Building Bridges, who lead on the Good Neighbours Project. Alongside funding from the Big Lottery and Bowland Trust, Pendle Council is supporting Building Bridges in this work, with a commitment of £7,500 per year for four years (from 01.07.17).

This is to primarily sustain the work of two community-led forums:

1. Community Cohesion Action Network (CCAN) - This forum consists of representatives from community groups across Pendle with a responsibility to maintain Cohesion as a priority local agenda. Most of our resources in terms of time goes into the function and development of this forum.
2. The Pendle Forum of Faiths – This forum consists of Ministers, Imams and committee members from both local Churches and Mosques who engage in dialogue to better understand each other, develop friendships, work together on common social issues and Interfaith matters.

### 1. Community Cohesion Action Network - Progress to date

- This network currently has a membership of 39 agencies/organisations that represent a cross-section of our community and a good geographical range of our borough. This includes, Community, Education, Police, Health, Housing, Faith, Young People, Refugees and Asylum seekers, older people, Women and BME communities.
- Members also include network-based organisations / groups such as BPRCVS, Positive Action in the Community, Pendle Schools Linking Network, Displaced People's Steering Group and the Pendle Forum of Faiths.
- The 'Fusion' group of CCAN that seeks to take on action points from meetings for delivery within organisational work plans is still in place and consists of BBPendle, InSitu and BPRCVS.
- Members meet regularly and on a quarterly basis with average attendance is around 25 people.
- In-between meetings there is a system in place whereby members can circulate weekly activity and events updates on a fixed day. This helps to sustain a connection and contact in-between our face to face meetings.
- Since our last progress report in April 2019, we have met in varied locations rather than being based consistently in Nelson Town Hall;
  1. May 2019 – Leisure Box, Brierfield on theme on young people and Cohesion. Meeting included pupils from Secondary schools and Pendle Youth Parliament.
  2. August 2019 – Nelson Town Centre, an outdoor and informal meeting for member organisations and our network to proactively engage with members of the public.
  3. November 2019 – Nelson Town Hall on the theme of Nelson Town Centre development and the Future High street fund.
  4. February 2020 – The Garage (InSitu) on theme of developing the Cohesion strand of the Cultural Strategy for Pendle.
  5. March 2020 – Emergency meeting at Nelson Town Hall in preparation for sharing plans / approach to lockdown and Community sector response to Covid-19.

Events steered by outcomes of CCAN meetings;

- June - Pendle Festival Culture held in Nelson Town Centre.
- July - Good Neighbours Day held in x8 wards and x4 towns across Pendle.
- November - Pendle 2050 event and youth opportunities and economic outlook for Pendle.

## 2. The Pendle Forum of Faiths - Progress to date

- This forum's membership was reviewed in March 2019 and we have 15 people from 11 Churches and 4 Mosques across the borough form the current membership of this forum. The PFF runs very differently to CCAN and the focus is to bring people together for discussion, dialogue and relation-building.
- Regular meetings take place, once every 4 months with an average attendance of 7 people. Additional meetings have taken place between members as part of Faith community engagement in broader agendas of community development, such as RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) in Schools.
- Since our last progress report in April 2019 we have met in;
  - May 2019 – At BBPendle office regarding Peace walk events.
  - July 2019 – Steering group setup for planning of Interfaith week 2020
  - July to September 2019 – Series of meetings between members and local Schools regarding community consultations for the Relationship and Sex Education agenda in Schools.
  - November 2019 – Members meeting and forum review.
  - February 2020 - .Members meeting on theme of 'Faith matters for young people'.
  - June 2020 – Meeting on digital platform to discuss approaches to re-opening of places of worship and managing risks associated with Covid-19.

Events steered by outcomes of PFF meetings;

- June - Community Peace Walks preceding the Pendle Festival of Culture.
- November – Major Faith community involvement with Remembrance Sunday event as part of procession of assembly.
- November – Faith leader's seminar in Nelson Library.

## **Lancashire Safeguarding Boards**

The Government's *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance 2018 means that Local Safeguarding Children Boards no longer exist, since September 2019. Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) have replaced them.

In pan-Lancashire, this is now known as the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP), again with three Tactical Groups covering East, West and South.

The CSAP includes 3 main statutory partners: Police, Health and Local Authority.

The Local Safeguarding Adults Boards continue to remain as they are for now.

## Child Poverty

A report by Loughborough University: *Local indicators of child poverty, 2017/18*, has been published in May 2019: <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/child-poverty-indicators-2019-report-to-ecp-1.pdf> It says:

Child poverty exists in every part of the UK, but in some local areas, the risk is far higher than in others. In some local areas, the majority of children are below the poverty line. As the present national increase is projected to continue under present policies, with rates set to reach record levels by the early 2020s, children's life chances in the worst-hit areas are set to diminish further.

More significantly, the figures suggest overall that child poverty is rising fastest in places where it is already high, and we report on evidence to suggest that inequalities between areas are growing.

It puts Pendle as 9<sup>th</sup> out of the top 20 local authorities with highest levels of child poverty across the UK – after housing costs; with 44.7% (10,293) children in poverty in 2017/18.

Pendle is identified as 19<sup>th</sup> of top 20 local authorities with highest levels of child poverty across the UK – before housing costs; with 31.7% (7,299) children in poverty in 2017/18.

Out of 29 electoral wards with the highest levels of child poverty across the UK (after housing costs), i.e. above 60%, three wards in Pendle feature: Bradley at 69.2% and Whitefield and Walverden both at 63.2%.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to take forward the resolution from the 2019 – Policy Themes Annual Report '*that a cross-party scrutiny group (3:3:2) be established to consider child poverty in Pendle*' in 2019-20. Especially in light of the pandemic, which is likely to have significant detrimental effects on child poverty, it is recommended that the same, or a similar action be taken forward in 2020-21.

## Pendle Challenge

Whilst the Pendle Challenge Steering Group hasn't met for some time now, the various projects continue to be delivered:

- Pendle Reading Challenge and the Imagination Library
- Developing Future Leaders
- English as Additional Language Sharing
- Voice Pendle (oracy project)
- Arts in Early Years Project (with Curious Minds)
- Children's University
- Enterprise Advisor Network
- Business in the Community project
- Raising Aspirations
- STE(A)M

An Education Summit was held in June 2019, in partnership with Lancashire County Council (LCC) to attempt to address educational under-performance in Pendle (and Burnley and Hyndburn). This explored the issues of 'leadership' and 'teaching and learning' across educational phases (early years, primary and secondary) to assess long term opportunities that may exist that support children and young people to achieve greater outcomes.

An 'Education in the East' Group was established following this event, which is now being replaced by LCC's plans to reinvigorate its School Effectiveness Service.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

Pendle continues to represent the East Lancs districts on the Pennine Lancashire Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and the Chief Executive has been appointed Chair of the PL Prevention Board. Pendle facilitates the East Lancashire Health Leads group, established to strengthen district links with the PL health structures and increase democratic oversight within the Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Throughout 2019/20, this has resulted in district officer representation and engagement on a number of emerging ICP Boards.

### ***Pendle Health & Wellbeing Partnership (PHWBP)***

The Partnership has met quarterly over 2019/20 and focussed on physical activity and mental health and wellbeing priorities. Updates from the Partnership include:

- **Social Prescribing**

In 2019/20, Pendle community and voluntary groups benefited from ELCCG social prescribing investment to the value of £30,000 to help empower communities to take action for their own health and wellbeing. As with previous years, Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale CVS administered the community grants scheme on behalf of the ELCCG. 13 Pendle projects were awarded funding, along with 4 projects delivering across the CVS footprint area. Pendle beneficiaries included Colne Open Door, Idle Women, Community Lighthouse Foundation, Colne Citadel and Trawden Forest Community Centre for initiatives that ranged from free counselling services, meditation training, photography courses and a community cafe.

Additional to this, the NHS has invested resources into a Social Prescribing Link Workers scheme, aligned to the Primary Care Networks. We now have 2 Social Prescribing Link Workers for Pendle, based in each of the Primary Care Networks (Pendle East PCN and Pendle West PCN). The Link Workers are managed by Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale CVS, building on the team of Community Connectors and providing an additional resource in the absence of the now ceased Lancashire Wellbeing Service.

- **Arts & Culture**

A Pendle Arts & Culture Strategy and action plan has been produced, which PBC endorsed in Jan 2020. This advocates increased opportunities for the arts as a means of improving health and wellbeing.

Pendle Health & Wellbeing Partnership allocated £30,000 of its Social Prescribing budget to PLT to support delivery of the Arts & Culture action plan from Mar 2020. With potential match funding from the Arts Council, this provides an opportunity for enhancing and promoting Pendle's arts and culture offer.

- **Dementia Positive Pendle**

Over 2019/20 Dementia Positive Pendle has:

- Presented at the Pendle Primary Care Nurse Forum
- Attended the Musical Journey with the Pendle Young Musicians and the Manchester Camerata event which raised £500 for Dementia Positive Pendle
- Developed Information Packs for those recently diagnosed with Dementia and their Carers
- Delivered Dementia Action Week 2019 activities, raising £355



- Pendle Leisure Trust - Dementia Friends sessions delivered to all staff. Dementia Champions for each of the centres have been nominated and waiting for training. PLT and Hospice working to deliver activities for those living with dementia. So far, dementia friendly swimming sessions are being delivered at West Craven pool and there is also a weekly dementia café. However, this has now ceased due to Covid-19.
- Pendle Council Dress down days – raised £105.73
- Facilitated Pendle Dementia Information Hub at Walton Lane Day Care Centre. Alternative venues and formats are now being considered to help increase uptake and will need to be picked up once social distancing measures permit
- Instigated the Memory Choir in Colne. This is currently on hold due to Covid-19
- Produced Dementia Positive Pendle enamel badges which are available for a donation
- Revised and widely distributed its volunteer leaflet
- Shared information and promoted events on its dedicated Dementia Positive Pendle Facebook page
- Organised a highly successful community Christmas Event at the ACE Centre, raising £356.76.

## **Together an Active Future (TaAF)**

Pennine Lancashire (PL) TaAF successfully secured £3m Sport England funding to tackle physical inactivity within PL. Pendle's allocation is £360,000. The programme is about doing things differently and challenging the status quo to planning and delivery of physical activity interventions and is guided by nine TaAF principles.

The Pendle programme, Together an Active Pendle (TaAP), focuses on two work streams:

- Seat to feet- primary care setting
- Feet to street- community setting

Utilising the arts sector to guide creative engagement, we're currently in the research and insight phase to gain a better understanding of the barriers and motivating factors that affect people's physical activity decisions and choices.

A Programme Manager was appointed in February and Project Officer in March. Although both are managed by Pendle Leisure Trust, the Principal Policy Officer provides regular support to the Programme Manager to ensure continued alignment to the TaAF approach.

## ***Healthy Place, Healthy Future***

Members will recall that Pennine Lancashire has been selected as one of the 5 national Childhood Obesity Trailblazers to help tackle childhood obesity in our communities. The Pennine Lancashire programme is known as Healthy Place, Healthy Future.

Healthy Place, Healthy Future focuses on four key levers for change:

**System Leadership:** Aims to test how we can enable and empower Councillors to consider health and wellbeing across their ward, district and portfolio. A Pennine Lancashire Elected Member Forum has been established to co-design and test various learning resources, including a health and well-being module across the six districts which provide Elected Members with specific information about their communities.

As agreed by PRC, representatives from each Area Committee have been identified as Healthy Weight Advocates and invited to attend the Pennine Lancashire Elected Member Forum to help

shape the emerging learning resources. The invite has been extended to Health & Social Care Panel members too. However, involvement from Pendle Members in the Pennine Lancashire Forum has been minimal and Pendle has not always been represented or involved in any follow up activity.

Pendle signed the Healthy Weight Declaration in October 2019 and work has commenced to implement the associated actions, including embedding health into Nelson's Masterplan.

**Local Planning:** The planning lever aims to challenge current planning policy with a view to aligning policy across the six districts - using a memorandum of understanding to underpin any local decisions, and by testing innovative planning permissions, including personal and positive permissions. A deep dive assessment to consider planning decisions from 2015 on A3 (restaurants and cafes) and A5 (hot food takeaways) food outlets is currently underway to consider how well applications complied with specific health related policies from the National Planning Policy Framework, 2019 (91.a and 92.b). In Pendle we are also considering creative ways to conduct Local Plan consultation and reach a wider audience engagement.

**Business Support:** The business award scheme lever will use the existing Recipe 4 Health award scheme which is operated by both Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council to develop a package of support for out of home food retailers across Pennine Lancashire. It is this lever that has been most affected by Covid-19

**Social movement for health:** This lever takes a bottom-up, community-led approach and will be a space for residents to share views, create campaigns and to be involved in training and local project driving the demand for healthier food environments.

## Climate Change

### ***Climate Emergency Declaration***

Policy & Resources Committee will recall that in July last year, PBC declared a Climate Emergency, joining over 200 other councils in committing to take local action on climate change:

*'Pendle Borough Council recognises that the world is in the midst of a climate and environmental emergency and that action is required at all levels of Government – local, national and international – in order to protect our planet for future generations of life in all its forms and for human society as we know it.'*

Actions and commitment to date to support implementation of the Climate Emergency Declaration include:

- Establishing the Member Climate Emergency Working Group (4 meetings to date)
- Engaging interested parties to collate their views and ideas for local action (meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019)
- Organising a Pendle Schools Climate Summit in Dec 2019 to engage young people. Over 100 pupils and teachers attended from 20 Pendle schools, kick-starting the Pendle Schools Climate Movement
- Developing a Communication Plan for the Pendle Schools Climate Movement
- Undertaking a PBC staff survey to seek views from staff on possible council actions
- Embedding climate change into the refreshed 2020- 23 PBC Strategic Plan
- Securing the One Carbon World Carbon Neutral Gold Standard grant to enable an external calculation and assessment of PBC's carbon footprint
- Allocation of a 2020/21 Climate Emergency Budget of £100,000

- Agreement to support the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme to the value of £30,000 over 2 years, providing a much needed tree planting resource for Pendle.

A Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020- 2025 has been developed to identify short, medium and long term actions to support delivery of the Declaration, which was approved by PRC in March 2020. A progress report is scheduled to go to PRC in Oct.

### ***Climate emissions***

PRC may recall the Annual Emission report which monitors our energy consumption and direction of travel for carbon reduction.

Early in 2020, PBC secured a One Carbon World Carbon Neutral Gold Standard grant, enabling us to externally validate our 2018/19 carbon footprint, and highlighting recommendations to reduce and off-set our emissions.

Their methodology was consistent to our own internal assessment methods used to calculate our annual emissions and provided assurance that our internal calculations and processes are sound.

One Carbon World calculated that in 2018/19, PBC, PLT and Liberata generated **2,895 tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub>, equating to **4.3 tonnes** per employee. The most significant sources of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions were identified as natural gas (i.e our heating systems) and diesel and petrol use in the Council fleet.

Their recommendations for emission reductions have been included in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Our carbon reduction targets of 5% for our fleet and 2% for our building stock are being reviewed in light of the Climate Emergency Declaration. We have approached One Carbon World to help us understand the potential attributable reductions associated with our action plan. We have also asked for their assistance in calculating the extent of our carbon off-setting measures required to meet the Declaration 2030 carbon neutral aspiration.

PRC will consider the 2020/21 Annual Emissions report, along with progress achieving the annual carbon reduction targets, in Sept 2020.

### **Equality and Diversity**

Following a review of the work of the Corporate Equalities Steering Group (CESG) in May 2018, Management Team has taken on the role of CESG as part of its wider work going forward. In 2019-20, work has continued to deliver the actions identified in the Equality Objectives Action Plan 2018-2022. This included updating the Council's website and Intranet in relation to equalities issues and ensuring that where appropriate, service impact assessments were completed.

There are no known legislative developments expected in the short-term with regards equalities issues but on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, Public Health England (PHE) released a report entitled - [Disparities in the risk and outcomes of Covid-19](#). This is a descriptive review of data on disparities in the risk and outcomes from Covid-19. The review presents findings based on surveillance data available to PHE at the time of its publication, including through linkage to broader health data sets. It confirms that the impact of Covid-19 has replicated existing health inequalities and, in some cases, has increased them.

The largest disparity found was by age. Among people already diagnosed with Covid-19, people who were 80 or older were seventy times more likely to die than those under 40. Risk of dying

among those diagnosed with Covid-19 was also higher in males than females; higher in those living in the more deprived areas than those living in the least deprived; and higher in those in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups than in White ethnic groups.

These inequalities largely replicate existing inequalities in mortality rates in previous years, except for BAME groups, as mortality was previously higher in White ethnic groups. These analyses take into account age, sex, deprivation, region and ethnicity, but they do not take into account the existence of comorbidities, which are strongly associated with the risk of death from Covid-19 and are likely to explain some of the differences.

PHE advise that the results of this review need to be widely discussed and considered by all those involved in and concerned with the national and local response to Covid-19. Thus, going forward, the Council will need to consider its response in light of this report.

## **Pendle Vision Board**

Over the last 12 months the Pendle Vision Board has continued with its aim of promoting the economic wellbeing of the borough and enhancing the quality of life in Pendle. The group represents a number of the borough's business people to offer one voice to represent the private sector of Pendle. Once again this year saw the Board welcoming new business members; the board is representative of the economic make-up of Pendle.

The Vision Board meetings give an opportunity for Members to discuss business conditions in the light of major events, and challenges both locally and nationally. This year in particular discussion has focused on marketing and promoting the area following on from the success of the "This is Pendle" film. The Board is continuously promoting Pendle through the online "Make It In Pendle" social media campaign. The Vision Board is also supporting the ongoing Nelson Masterplan and Nelson Town Investment Plan which will guide investment in Nelson over the coming years

A focus on the skills agenda has also remained high. The Vision Board supports a number of initiatives including the national Enterprise Advisor Network, and continues to support the Careers Hub (Blackpool, Burnley and Pendle). The programmes seek to improve careers and enterprise advice and activities within schools by engaging employers to work with schools and colleges to develop careers. The Vision Board has also supported the production of immersive films. Viewed through virtual reality headsets, each film features a 360 degree tour of workplaces by the businesses. They show life on the factory floors, in a professional kitchen, an artist's studio and a technology lab. The virtual reality project takes students inside five Pendle businesses, exploring the range of career paths available in the area.

In addition, the Vision Board supported the annual Work Inspiration event in March 2020. Work Inspiration is a 1 day event to provide students with an all-inclusive, business led opportunity to explore possible careers. Approximately 800 pupils attended from Pendle schools together with 26 local businesses.

The Vision Board also supported the annual Pendle Business Week in October 2019. This is an annual event which hosts workshops to support and target businesses from start-up stage right through to sector leading companies. The week involved 18 different events/workshops with approximately 255 delegates attending.

Pendle Vision Board continues to be complemented by Pendle Connects. These events are free to attend and open to any Pendle business. They involve a guest panel of experts debating a particular topic or sharing knowledge, with an opportunity for business networking before and after. Four events are held every year, with approx. 50 businesses attending each time.

The seventh Pendle Business Awards were to be held in July 2020 at the Fence Gate Inn. The event jointly hosted by the Vision Board in partnership with Pendle Council has unfortunately been postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** All are priority policy action areas for the Borough Council and its partners. The delivery will make a significant contribution to the Council's Strategic Plan.

**Financial:** No direct implications from this report. Groups such as Pendle CSP, DAA and CCAN are currently attracting funding into Pendle to deliver actions or support delivery.

**Legal:** Delivery of this work supports the Council to deliver its legal responsibility

**Risk Management:** Any risks in relation to the recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic will need to be assessed on a case by case basis.

**Health and Safety:** No direct implications from this report.

**Sustainability:** These policy areas assist in building and maintaining healthy, safe, economically sustainable communities in Pendle.

**Community Safety:** Pendle CSP fulfils the Borough's statutory responsibility under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act.

**Equality and Diversity:** The Council's Equality and Diversity policy continues to be applied across these areas of work.

## APPENDICES

### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

***Pendle Council Equality Objectives Action Plan 2018-22***

[https://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/8480/equality\\_objectives\\_2018-22](https://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/8480/equality_objectives_2018-22)

***Pendle Community Safety Strategy 2019-22***

[https://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/2859/pendle\\_community\\_safety\\_partnership\\_plan](https://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/2859/pendle_community_safety_partnership_plan)

***Local indicators of child poverty, 2017/18***

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/child-poverty-indicators-2019-report-to-ecp-1.pdf>