

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Report Author: Wayne Forrest
Tel. No: 01282 661044
E-mail: wayne.forrest@pendle.gov.uk

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, Equality and Diversity and Climate Change.

RECOMMENDATION

That Policy and Resources Committee note the developments within these thematic areas.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

That Policy and Resources Committee are aware of developments within these thematic areas which contribute significantly towards the objectives of Pendle Council Strategic Plan 2020-23.

Background

Since the Local Strategic Partnership structure was disbanded in 2013, an annual report has been provided in relation to policy themes. This report covers the period August 2020 (*date of the last annual report*) to September 2021.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

As with almost all aspects of Council business, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on taking forward policy work. This has included the cancellation / delay of many meetings during the first lockdown, huge disruption to face to face work such as consultations and generally a prioritisation of 'covid-19 work' above other areas. Taking forward policy work often involves working with many external agencies, who have been equally affected by the pandemic and thus generally, progression of the themes has, in some cases, been very much limited.

Specific work undertaken by Localities & Policy to support the Council's overall response towards the pandemic has included:-

- Providing a 'single point of contact' to ensure that all Government messaging related to covid-19 was successfully passed on to relevant service areas within the Councils.
- Support to ensure the successful delivery of Pendle Community Support Hub
- Working with Pendle Food Poverty Network and Pendle Food Alliance to help ensure foodbanks were sufficiently resourced to support people affected by the pandemic.
- Successful bids for and administration of
 - Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Emergency Assistance Grant Scheme
 - Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Covid Winter Grant Scheme
 - Community Champions Fund

Community Safety

The Council's approach towards community safety is led by Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The CSP has developed a three-year Partnership Strategy which includes an action plan based on three priorities over the period 2019 – 2022 for which a multi-agency Task Group has been established for each:-

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

The CSP collaborates with Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Steering Group via attendance at meetings and in joint areas of work such as the Maintaining Low Crime and ASB Group, the Keeping Vulnerable Young People and Adults Safe Group and the East Lancashire ASB Leads Group.

The CSP is represented at the East Lancashire Reducing Reoffending Board and contributes to the delivery of its action plan. This includes participation in the Integrated Offender Management Steering Group which helps to deliver the national Neighbourhood Crime and Integrated Offender Management Strategy.

Colne Community Safety Area Working group has continued to address local community safety issues and Area Committees consider local community issues in their agendas.

Crime and Disorder Trends

In common with trends nationally and regionally, crime was down in Pendle during the first year of the pandemic. However violent crime was an exception and there were increases in alcohol related and racially/religiously aggravated crime.

| | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | Change |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| All Crime | 7361 | 6868 | -6.7% |
| All Burglary | 674 | 493 | -26.85% |
| All Robbery | 45 | 33 | -26.67% |
| All Theft | 2294 | 1608 | -29.90% |
| All Violent Crime | 3647 | 3811 | +4.50% |
| Criminal Damage and Arson | 920 | 869 | -5.54% |
| Racially/Religiously Aggravated Crime | 50 | 87 | +74% |
| Alcohol Related Crime | 524 | 620 | +18.32 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 2976 | 5968 | +100.54 |

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

Again, in common with national and regional trends Police recorded ASB incidents have increased significantly in 2020/21 and by just over 100%. This is largely due to the classification of incidents related to Covid regulations being classed as ASB.

The long term trend for ASB in Pendle along with Lancashire was downward. The previous year saw the first increase in ASB in Pendle for 15 years also due to Covid regulations imposed prior to and during the first Lockdown. Levels are reducing again since restrictions were lifted.

We use a multi-agency case management approach to working with victims at risk of harm from ASB and vulnerable adults with complex needs. This is managed through the Pendle 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 525 community protection cases recorded to 31 March 2021 (up 74 since March 2020). Of these 82% have been resolved; 68% without any formal warning; 90% without serving a Community Protection Notice and 99% before prosecution. There are six Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) 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 Parks and Sports Grounds PSPOs are currently under review before they lapse in January 2022.

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 is available 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

- Pendle Transforming Lives Panel is currently supporting over 40 residents with complex social needs
- Blackburn with Darwen CCTV Hub continues to manage and monitor cameras 24/7 for Nelson, Brierfield, Barnoldswick and Earby town councils. Colne Town Council owns and monitors its own CCTV system
- Funding secured from OPCC to support each of the three CSP Task Groups in delivering their action plans, including a Pendle Domestic Violence Initiative campaign on Domestic Abuse (DA) during the lockdown period and the Euros to help to raise awareness and reporting of DA.
- SMILE Mediation continues to be funded.
- The Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum continues to provide a partner focus on DA 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; with recent success in Colne and a new project in Brierfield.

Community Cohesion

The Council continues to collaborate with Building Bridges, who lead on the Good Neighbours Project. This is to primarily sustain the work of two community-led forums:

1. Community Cohesion Action Network (CCAN) – A forum with representation from community groups across Pendle with a responsibility to maintain cohesion as a priority local agenda.
2. The Pendle Forum of Faiths – A forum with representation from 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 Inter-faith matters.

Children and Young People

Pendle Youth Employment Support (YES) Hub

£97K was secured from DWP to deliver the YES Hub from Scotland Road premises in Nelson. Active Lancashire has been commissioned to deliver the service which opened, albeit virtually, in Feb 2021. The service is now fully operating from Scotland Road. PBC purchased the Scotland Road premises from LCC in February 2021 through the Nelson Town Deal Accelerator funding. The YES Hub is included in the Nelson Town Deal to enable this service to continue longer term.

Pendle Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme

LCC received £4.2m in funding from the government's HAF Programme to deliver a range of school holiday activities for children and young people between the ages of 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meal (FSM). This is the first year that Lancashire has received funding under this programme. The funding was awarded to district Councils, based on FSM ratios, recognising that district Councils were best placed to plan and deliver holiday provision. Pendle received £294K to plan and co-ordinate a summer and Christmas holiday programme.

Pendle's Summer programme, Fun Vibes, Active Lives, was a great success, engaging over 500 eligible children and young people in a range of enriching, creative activities. Free healthy lunches were also provided. Families were engaged to ensure we were able to meet the wider programme outcomes. We worked with 13 HAF providers to deliver the programme over the 6 week holiday period, engaging schools prior to the summer to reach out to eligible families.

PBC leads the HAF programme, with support from Pendle Leisure Trust.

Safeguarding

The Council works closely with the pan-Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP), which has three Tactical Groups covering East, West and South, with the three main statutory partners being Police, Health and Local Authorities. Local Safeguarding Adults Boards continue to remain. The Council also works closely with neighbouring authorities in undertaking the 'Prevent Duty' which is outlined in s26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

The Council as an organisation also has its own policies which include its 'Family Support and Safeguarding Children Policy' and 'Safeguarding Adults Policy'. Staff are able to report incidences of suspected safeguarding concerns when undertaking their duties and ordinarily such reports have generally been under ten each year. However, during the first 'lockdown', such reporting doubled. Reporting has since returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Health and Wellbeing

Pendle Place Partnership

The Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) continues to evolve, with partnerships made up of Local Authority, Public Sector, NHS and voluntary and community organisations working together to improve services and health outcomes for all those in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Within Lancashire and South Cumbria ICS, there are five local areas, including Pennine Lancashire, that provide a way in which all organisations and groups involved in health and care can join up locally, for the residents of their place. These are currently called Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs).

Pennine Lancashire ICP includes local councils and the voluntary, community and faith and social sector. It aims to connect health and care services across Pennine Lancashire and continue to join up services in the 13 Pennine Lancashire neighbourhoods, known as Primary Care Networks (PCN's). It's recognised, particularly over the last 18 months of the pandemic, the key role of local government in supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents and the need to connect these services closer with health and care delivery.

A key feature of the Pennine Lancashire ICP development work 2021-22 will be to develop closer working with district councils, adopting a place based model to address health and wellbeing needs.

The Pendle Place Partnership (PPP) was set up in Jan 2021, and it's intended that this will be the link into the Pennine Lancashire ICP structure. Group membership is PBC, Pendle East and Pendle West PCNs, CVS and Pendle Leisure Trust. A Community Reference group is to be established to support the PPP and enable wider engagement in identifying and responding to local health priorities and challenges.

Over 2020/21, the PPP has delivered the following:

- Coordinated the **Population Health Community Investment Fund** programme, which delivered a range of community interventions to support Covid-19 recovery (£60,000)
- Instigated the **Back on Track** mental health programme, with PBC providing £60,000 budget and commissioning 4 organisations to deliver enhanced mental health support
- Commissioned the **Pendle Community Framework** to provide key population health data to begin identifying, shaping and acting on important priorities for Pendle in the short, medium and long term. It sets out both what we know about Pendle as a community and the impact that Covid-19 has had on people of different ages, situations and backgrounds.

The next steps for the PPP is to engage with wider community stakeholders to collectively identify the right priorities for Pendle. We want to engage with partners and our community to reflect on what we are seeing from the data and evidence and understand what it all means for our area.

Arts & Culture

Pendle Council allocated £10,000 in 2020/21 to PLT to match fund the arts development programme. With additional funding secured from CCG and the Arts Council, an Arts Development Manager is now in post to drive arts development in Pendle.

Dementia Positive Pendle

The Council has continued to promote Dementia Positive Pendle where reasonably able but has been heavily restricted in its activities due to the pandemic. Dementia Positive Pendle still continued to meet throughout the pandemic, albeit virtually, commissioning activities for Dementia

Awareness Week 2021 and co-ordinating partner dementia friendly initiatives, such as dementia swimming sessions.

Together an Active Future (TaAF)

Pennine Lancashire's TaAF continues to work closely with Sport England as one of its 12 Local Delivery Pilot areas. Pennine Lancashire has been successful in securing a further £7m from Sport England to develop the Accelerator phase to continue roll out of TaAF for another 3 years. The 6 PL localities will receive the same proportions as the Pathfinder phase, currently in its final year. For Pendle, this equates to £360,000 over 3 years.

Pendle's programme, Together an Active Pendle, is managed by PLT. Work is now underway to develop a series of Tests and Learn projects to influence delivery of the next phase of TaAF, the Accelerator phase.

Healthy Place, Healthy Future (HPHF)

The Pennine Lancashire Childhood Obesity Trailblazer is now in its 3rd year and continues to deliver against the 4 key levers: System Leadership, Local Planning, Business Support and Social Movement for Health. Nelson is a target area for the Business Support lever and is working with Environmental Health to engage fast food outlets in Nelson in the Recipe for Health award scheme.

A Pennine Lancashire Elected Member Forum has been established, co-designing with Members extensive learning and development resources and creating opportunities for sharing good practice. Member engagement is key for system change and involvement of Pendle's Members would support local implementation of the programme. It is hoped Pendle Members will see the value of the programme and take the opportunities to engage, strengthening Pendle's involvement to date.

Through the Planning lever, a deep dive assessment to consider planning decisions from 2015 on A3 (restaurants and cafes) and A5 (hot food takeaways) food outlets has been undertaken to consider how well applications complied with specific health related policies from the National Planning Policy Framework. HPHF funding was secured to produce a film emphasising the role of planning in health to support the Local Plan consultation process and reach a wider audience engagement.

Equality and Diversity

There has been no significant legislative developments since the last update report in August 2020. The Council continues to undertake actions identified in the Equality Objectives Action Plan 2018-2022. Work is also underway to decide on equalities objectives for the period 2022 – 2026.

Climate Change

Over the last 12 months, Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee has received 2 progress reports on the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Although PBC exceeded its 2% carbon reduction target for 2020/21 for its building stock, reducing its overall energy consumption by 7%, carbon emissions from the fleet of vehicles increased over the year and the Council did not achieve its annual reduction target of 5%. (Fuel consumption increased by 4%).

The pandemic placed greater demand on Environmental Services with the lockdowns generating increased waste from prolonged periods at home. There was evidence of a huge increase in waste during the pandemic. For example, one week during lockdown in Zones 6 – 10, 461 tonnes of waste was collected, compared to typical pre-pandemic levels of 353 tonnes. Additionally, Pendle's green spaces became more popular as they were the only means of entertainment and

exercise for residents. This meant increased maintenance of the sites, resulting in additional visits to empty bins and complete litter picks.

P&R Committee will consider the 2021/22 Annual Emissions report in Nov 2021. One Carbon World is currently validating the Council's 2019/20 carbon footprint.

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 known direct implications from this report.

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

none

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Pendle Council Equality Objectives Action Plan 2018-22

https://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/8480/equality_objectives_2018-2022

Pendle Community Safety Strategy 2019-22

https://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/2859/pendle_community_safety_partnership_plan