

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
TO: COUNCIL
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COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline a new delivery model for community safety in Pendle, working with partners across the Pennine Lancashire footprint.

RECOMMENDATION

That Pendle joins the Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (CSP), whilst continuing to tackle community safety issues at a local level via Area Committees.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

All legal duties as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership will be absorbed into the Pennine CSP along with strategic requirements. This will create capacity in the Localities and Policy team and allow local issues to be tackled at a local level.

ISSUE

Background and Context

1. The current Pennine Lancashire CSP arrangements include: Hyndburn, Burnley, Rossendale and Blackburn with Darwen local authorities, the Constabulary, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Group (East and Blackburn) and Fire and Rescue Service (Terms of Reference at Appendix 1).
2. The community safety landscape across the whole of Lancashire is a complex one, developed over the years as priorities and risk changed. In looking to address the vast majority of task and finish groups taking place across the Pennine Lancashire landscape, there were a number of proposals made, some of which failed to gain momentum, with investment decisions still being routed through upper tier authorities. The issue with this was that no districts were being represented, while the statutory requirement to deliver on the agenda was technically held with those CSP's.

3. There was also a similar issue with investment in district CSP arrangements. The previous safer stronger funding allocation to CSP's was maintained by the PCC with a budget of £1.05m allocated to the three upper tier authorities. 70% LCC; 15% Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool. The districts then received £10k, Blackburn with Darwen by comparison £90k. Adding in wider investment around Domestic Abuse and Reducing Reoffending and the total OPCC investment for Blackburn with Darwen is circa £225k with a pro-rata investment to LCC areas in such services with little invested in district lead schemes. From there came a Pennine area CSP proposal, to have all authorities represented, and the OPCC were happy to consider the creation of a pooled budget governed by the board that indicatively would equate to £600k.

Current approach to Community Safety Collaboration

4. The Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Steering Group (PLCSSG) has been operating since 2015, following the formal merger of Blackburn with Darwen, Rossendale and Burnley, and in 2019, Hyndburn formalised their relationship within the partnership. The terms of reference agreed for the board gives strategic leads across the sub region the opportunity to better influence how to meet the challenges of austerity, enhance delivery on shared priorities, improve efficiency and minimise duplication.
5. A new Community Safety Plan for 2022-2025 has been developed and is currently in final draft form. This provides further focus to collaborative challenges and opportunities for all agencies subject to the formal combination arrangements. This will include Pendle should approval be granted, with an opportunity to tweak add or change any important areas of need for the borough not already covered.

Benefits for Pendle to join Pennine CSP

6. Bidding opportunities are also enhanced when undertaken collaboratively. For example, Blackburn with Darwen, on behalf of the current Pennine CSP partners, submitted a successful bid for £343k to the Home Office to deliver the Pause 4 Thought programme. This aims to develop an approach to prevention and early intervention with a minimum of 200 young people aged 10 – 14 years over the life span of the project, who are more likely to be at risk of causing harm to others, working across the Pennine Lancashire CSP region.
7. There is a legal mandate to work collaboratively on an all-encompassing Community Safety Strategy and hold partner agencies to account. This demands significant time and resources for PBC Localities and Policy team in developing the Community Safety Strategy and action plan/s, which requires consultation with the public and partners. The Strategy is due for review this year, which would add strain on the Localities and Policy team, who is already leading the engagement and development of the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-27 with a reduced team. If Pendle CSP joined with Pennine CSP, the Community Safety Strategy would be a shared one. The priorities are very similar (Appendix 2).
8. A CSP at a Pennine level allows local delivery structures to focus on Pendle-specific concerns and respond more flexibly – separating strategic engagement with partner organisations from the operational – while having opportunity to request agency and wider partnership support and investment to solve ongoing challenges. Local issues can be tackled through the Area Committee meetings, where there is already a Police presence.
9. The time and resources taken to organise the quarterly Pendle CSP meetings would be transferred to the Pennine CSP. The Pendle CSP mailing list could be updated and communications on national, regional and local community safety policy shared with partners, as is the case now. The Localities and Policy Manager already attends the

Pennine CSP meetings, and if PBC become a member of the Pennine CSP, Pennine data will be shared and there will be a role in decision-making to include a Pendle focus. PBC would contribute £2k to the Pennine CSP for the support function provided by Blackburn with Darwen (alongside the other local authorities).

10. The legal requirement and work involved in undertaking any Domestic Homicide Reviews is also significant, as has been the case recently. This would also be undertaken at this wider level.
11. Partner agencies working on larger footprints and their ability to engage at a senior level is improved with a strategic forum on a geographic footprint that fits their scale/area of operation of most public service agencies outside of local government (Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation).
12. There are improved opportunities for economies of scale, reduced duplication and consistent resource investment from larger partner organisations.
13. It presents opportunity to share responsibilities in developing policy and strategy with a pool of multi-agency resources increasing efficiency and speed at which practice is developed.
14. A consistent approach to service development mitigates postcode lottery scenarios for residents using resources across the sub region.
15. The influence the Pennine CSP has is enhanced through collaborative bargaining power both at a regional and national level.
16. It offers the opportunity for Elected Members to engage with and influence strategic partners, agencies and service providers as formal board members. The lead portfolio holder and/or Leader would be invited to every other meeting, so three per year.

Legal Duties

17. Those specific to community safety partnerships would be assimilated into the Pennine arrangements. These include:
 - DHR authorisations, report commissioning and action plan responses etc.
 - Production of a Community Safety Plan and Needs Assessment and delivery against them across the full area
 - Escalation of ASB triggers and reviews
 - Serious Violence Duties
 - Duties in relation to Criminal Justice and Offender/Offender management
 - Duties in relation to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel
18. Pendle, like all other local authority partners, would be a 'specified' partner and retain the lead role in localised responses to crime and ASB, but be able to call on the support of the full Pennine Partnership for key issues and challenges.

Next Steps

19. A combination agreement is an agreement for the functions under section 6 or section 7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to be carried out in relation to the combined area as if it was a single local authority area. This includes the requirement to produce a plan to address crime and disorder priorities within that area as has already been written and

agreed, and to undertake the required public consultation in relation to setting priorities, and to call a Domestic Homicide Review when required (Appendix 3).

20. The Leader, portfolio holder, Chair and Chief Executive would be required to sign an application for a Combination Agreement, which would go to the Police and Crime Commissioner for approval alongside the signatures from the other parties noted above. They would also be required to sign an Information Sharing agreement, which is signed by all current partners (Appendix 4).

21. All the responsible authorities in relation to the combined area must agree to the combination agreement which is then approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The other responsible authorities (Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation, Health and LCC) have been asked for their initial views and this proposal has been met with support (Appendix 5).

22. There is a requirement to appoint a joint scrutiny committee in relation to any or all functions exercisable under section 19 of the Crime and Justice Act 2006. i.e. local authority scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

23. As a further note, this arrangement can be annulled via the same process at any time.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: There are key community safety policy implications, as outlined in the report.

Financial: Joining Pennine CSP would be cost-effective in terms of officer time and also in the capacity to be part of wider funding opportunities.

Legal: The legal implications under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 are as outlined above.

Risk Management: Reduced burden for PBC staff and increased capacity for partnership working, support and funding at a wider footprint.

Health and Safety: None arising from this report.

Sustainability: None arising from this report.

Community Safety: As outlined in the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising from this report.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Pennine CSP Terms of Reference
- Appendix 2 – Pennine Community Safety Strategy
- Appendix 3 – Combination Agreement
- Appendix 4 – Information Sharing Agreement
- Appendix 5 – Views from other responsible authorities

(Appendices 2, 3 and 4 can be found on the Council's website www.pendle.gov.uk and by clicking on the following link: [Agendas, reports and minutes | Pendle Borough Council](#))

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership \(penninecsp.org.uk\)](http://penninecsp.org.uk)
[The Crime and Disorder \(Formulation and Implementation of Strategy\) Regulations 2007 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)