

**REPORT FROM:** Director of Resources

**TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 14 March 2024

**Report Author:** Tim Horsley  
**Tel. No:** 01282 661280  
**E-mail:** tim.horsley@pendle.gov.uk

## **Pendle Community Safety Partnership**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide background on the purpose of the Community Safety Partnership and an update on its current priorities and delivery.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To note the content of the report and recommend any consequent action.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the Council's designated crime and disorder committee, with a role to consider the work being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership

### **ISSUE**

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, now known as Community Safety Partnerships, were introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and bring together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. Responsible authorities that make up a Community Safety Partnership are the Police, Fire and Rescue Authority, Local Authorities, Health Partners, and Probation Services.

Section 17 of the 1998 Act, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires the responsible authorities to consider the likely impact on crime and disorder in all their day to day activities; the contribution that can be made to reducing crime, disorder and the fear of crime and improving the quality of life in the area.

The terms of reference of the Pendle CSP are included in the Appendices to this report and set out the responsibilities of the CSP:

To work together to build safer communities by:

- Promoting community safety
- Reducing people's fears about crime
- Reducing opportunities for crime
- Tackling the causes of crime

To gain a commitment to a partnership approach which adds value through a multi-agency approach to creating safer communities in Pendle.

To receive updates on developments and intelligence and pro-actively respond to existing and emerging community safety issues.

To develop a three-yearly Community Safety Partnership Plan, using the Strategic Assessment and local data, to help identify changing priorities. This will be monitored at Pendle Community Safety Partnership meetings.

The CSP has specific statutory roles around strategic assessment, partnership plans, the Serious Violence Duty and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

## **Community Safety Partnership Strategy**

The Police analysts produce a strategic needs assessment around community safety at least every three years. The priorities that emerge from this at a pan-Lancashire, Pennine and Pendle level are used to inform the review of the Partnership Strategy.

The CSP's Partnership Strategy is reviewed every three years and the current strategy is included in the Appendices and can be found here:

[Community Safety Partnership | Community Safety Partnership | Pendle Borough Council](#)

The Strategy is informed by a number of national, regional and local plans, strategies and data.

Pendle CSP's current priorities are:

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

## **Governance**

The current membership of the CSP is set out in the terms of reference below. The core of the Partnership are the six responsible authorities:

- Pendle Borough Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service
- Prison and Probation Service
- Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Participation by the responsible authorities is variable and often affected by staff changes with the most consistent attendance from the Borough and County Councils, Neighbourhood Police and local Fire and Rescue Service. The Prison and Probation Service and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board are less frequent attenders but are not based locally, have resourcing issues and are represented at Lancashire and Pennine level (see below).

Pendle CSP also has strong representation from the voluntary sector; Inspire, the drug and alcohol service; the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Pendle's principal housing provider, Together Housing.

Membership is updated annually however there are no requirements in the terms of reference regarding the selection or election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair is Councilor David Whipp and this has been the case since 2007. The Vice Chair is Jerry Stanford who represents the Colne Community Safety Working Group.

Pendle Borough Council's Policy team (primarily the Community Safety Officer) facilitates the CSP meetings and the associated work, for example supporting the theme groups and conducting the statutory requirements outlined above.

The Partnership meets quarterly and currently online.

## **Structure**

The Council represents itself and the CSP at the Lancashire Community Safety Board (Chief Executive) and the Pennine Community Safety Partnership. Although Pendle is not currently a member of the latter it is important to work with Pennine colleagues on common issues. The Pendle CSP has opted to work with the Pennine CSP on the Serious Violence Duty.

The Pennine CSP includes Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Rossendale. Although the other responsible authorities had no objection at the time, Pendle Borough Council at its Policy and Resources meeting in September 2022 did not approve the recommended merger. Given the significant resources required to facilitate a separate CSP, the potential implications of greater accountability to the Police and Crime Commissioner currently out for consultation and the ongoing need for collaboration around issues such as the Serious Violence Duty, serious organised crime and domestic abuse, single district CSPs may not be sustainable even in the short term.

Locally four theme groups are mandated by the Partnership Plan to investigate and deliver the CSP's priorities:

- Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum
- Pendle and Burnley Child Exploitation Awareness Group (not currently active)
- Pendle Youth Forum
- Pendle and Ribble Valley Genga Panel (tackling Serious Organised Crime)

Each of these is currently in a period of transition, in part due to changes in staff who facilitate and contribute to the groups and in part due to the need to refocus on a narrower, achievable set of priorities for each.

In addition, a Community Safety Working Group for Colne and District meets monthly and makes quarterly reports to the CSP. No other areas of Pendle have such groups in place.

## **Performance and Delivery**

The primary source of data on crime and ASB is the quarterly Crime and Anti social Behaviour report prepared by Police analysts and presented by the Neighbourhood Policing Team. This takes the Partnership through all areas of crime; highlights exceptions; identifies locations and wards of particular concern and draws out trends.

There is feedback at each meeting from each of the four theme groups referred to above on progress with their action plans, how these contribute to the Partnership Plan priorities and how the CSP can support their work.

The Partnership receives a quarterly report on progress with DHRs and in future will receive a quarterly update on the Serious Violence Delivery Plan to be agreed with Pennine CSP.

The DHR report includes updates on progress with funding of DHRs, which cost on average £10,000 and the funding of which was withdrawn by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in April 2023. An alternative, pan-Lancashire funding method based on the responsible authorities contributing is currently being negotiated however not with universal approval.

Other agencies are invited to make reports however the consistency is variable:

- Inspire (drug and alcohol service)
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue (in particular deliberate fires and ASB fires)
- Pendle Borough Council (Transforming Lives, Integrated Offender Management, the use of mediation and use of the community protection legislation)

Reports are not received from the Prison and Probation Service, Integrated Care Board or LCC on their individual contribution to the Partnership's priorities.

## **Current Crime and Disorder Overview**

There were 1,637 recorded crimes in Pendle from October to December 2023. This is in line with the 1,639 crimes recorded in the same period last year. These are broken down by the following crime types:

HOCR_GROUP	Count of Crimes	Percentage of Total
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	695	42.46%
THEFT	259	15.82%
ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	192	11.73%
BURGLARY	138	8.43%
VEHICLE OFFENCES	98	5.99%
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	74	4.52%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	62	3.79%
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	45	2.75%
DRUG OFFENCES	38	2.32%
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	22	1.34%
ROBBERY	14	0.86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Five crime groups recorded reductions in the number of offences compared to the same period last year (arson and criminal damage, drugs, miscellaneous crimes against society, public order, and violence against the person offences). Six crime groups recorded increases (burglary, possession of weapons, robbery, sexual offences, theft and vehicle offences).

From October to December 2023 there were 579 Anti Social Behaviour incidents recorded in the Pendle CSP area. This is a 20.8% reduction (down 152) from the previous quarter (July - September) where 715 ASB incidents were recorded. Compared to the same period last year this was a 17.6% decrease (down 124 incidents).

From October to December 2023, there were 80 ASB incidents that were youth related in Pendle (13.8% of all ASB in the area). This is a 53.5% reduction from the previous quarter where 172 youth related ASB incidents were recorded (23.5% of all ASB). Compared to the same period last year this is a 59.4% decrease (down 117 incidents).

## Current Trends

Areas of concern the Pendle CSP's recent meetings are reflected in its priorities:

- Serious organised crime and violence associated with organised crime groups operating in Nelson and Brierfield.
- Violence against the person both with and without injury and including domestic abuse and deaths associated with domestic abuse.
- Youth anti social behaviour.

In response Pendle CSP has supported and monitored the effect of initiatives such as:

- Operation Warrior aimed at disrupting organised drug groups which has resulted in arrest, charging, trial and conviction (some still pending) of several local dealers and associates.
- Scoping of the use of a Clear, Hold, Build approach to dealing with outcomes from Operation Warrior and other operations around drug gangs, the impact on communities and the underlying causes.
- Working with Pennine CSP towards a common delivery plan for the Strategic Violence Duty.

- Reviewing the work and action plan of the Domestic Abuse Forum to improve communication, knowledge sharing and develop a concise and targeted action plan.
- Establishing a case management Youth Panel to support young people and their families where the young person is showing evidence of involvement in persistent ASB or at risk of criminality.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's Operation Centurion targeting youth anti social behaviour in the retail areas of Colne.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:**

**Financial:**

**Legal:**

**Risk Management:**

**Health and Safety:**

**Sustainability:**

**Community Safety:**

**Equality and Diversity:**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Pendle Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference

Pendle Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022-2025