

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor C. Church (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*S. Ahmed  
D. Cockburn-Price  
D. Gallear  
K. McGladdery  
M. Stone  
M. Strickland  
Y. Tennant*

**Also in attendance**

<i>Councillor D. Lord</i>	<i>Executive Member for Community Safety</i>
<i>Councillor D. Whipp</i>	<i>Chair of the Pendle Community Safety Partnership (Executive Member)</i>
<i>Insp. James Hesketh</i>	<i>Lancashire Constabulary</i>

**Officers in attendance**

<i>Sarah Astin-Wood</i>	<i>Head of Policy and Commissioning</i>
<i>Tim Horsley</i>	<i>Community Safety Officer</i>
<i>Lynne Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>



**20. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the declaration of interests.

**21. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**22. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**23. PENDLE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

As the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed to carry out a review of the work being undertaken by the Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Representatives of the six responsible authorities on the Partnership had been invited to the meeting, along with the Chair and Vice-Chair, some of which were in attendance. In his absence, the Vice-Chair of the Partnership had submitted a statement for consideration.

Prior to the meeting, Members had received a report from the Director of Resources which provided background on the purpose of the Pendle CSP and gave an update on its current priorities and delivery. The report was presented to the meeting by the Council's Head of Policy and Commissioning.

It was explained that Community Safety Partnerships were introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and brought together local partners to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. The current membership of Pendle CSP was set out in the terms of reference, attached as an appendix to the report. This was updated annually and currently included representation from the voluntary sector; Inspire, the drug and alcohol service; the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; Pendle's principal housing provider, Together Housing, and the six responsible authorities as follows –

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

It was noted that the CSP had specific statutory roles around strategic assessment, partnership plans, the Serious Violence Duty and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

The Committee was provided with the CSP's current Partnership Strategy. The Strategy was reviewed every three years and was informed by the pan-Lancashire, Pennine and Pendle level priorities that had emerged from the strategic needs assessment produced by the Police. Locally four theme groups, as listed below, were mandated by the Partnership Plan to investigate and deliver the CSP's priorities. Each of these was currently in a period of transition.

- 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)

In addition, a Community Safety Working Group for Colne and District met monthly and area committees in Barrowford; Nelson, Brierfield and Reedley; and West Craven included community safety issues on the agenda for their monthly meetings.

The Pendle CSP meetings and associated work were facilitated by Pendle Council's Policy Team. The Group met quarterly and at each meeting received a report from the Police; feedback from each of the four theme groups; and a report on progress with DHRs. In future, a quarterly report would also be submitted on the Serious Violence Delivery Plan.

In the wider structure, the Council represented itself and Pendle CSP at the Lancashire Community Safety Board and the Pennine Community Safety Partnership. The Pennine CSP included Blackburn with Darwen; Hyndburn; Burnley and Rossendale. Although invited, at its Council meeting in September 2022, Pendle had decided not to join the Partnership.

However, Pendle did still work with Pennine colleagues on common issues and had opted to work with the Pennine CSP on the Serious Violence Duty.

Members were advised that, given the significant resources required to facilitate a separate CSP; the ongoing need for collaboration around issues such as the Serious Violence Duty, serious organised crime and domestic abuse; and the potential implications of greater accountability to the Police and Crime Commissioner (currently out for consultation), single district CSPs may not be sustainable, even in the short term.

Following consideration of the report, the Committee asked questions of those present. In response, further details were given on the following –

- **Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP)** – This body had been disbanded in its current form. Members looked for reassurance that there would be something to replace it.
- **Sharing of information** – how the information was shared between the various groups i.e. Pennine CSP, Pendle CSP, Area Committees/Working Groups.
- **Community Safety Partnership Strategy** – comparisons were made with the Pendle CSP Strategy and the Pennine Strategy and the absence of targets/deadlines in the former.
- **Pennine CSP** – the benefits or otherwise of joining the Pennine CSP.
- **Funding of Domestic Homicide Reviews** – the average cost of a Domestic Homicide Review was £10,000. Funding for this had been withdrawn by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in April 2023.
- **Consultation on accountability to the Police and Crime Commissioner** – the scope of the consultation, timeframe and implications.
- **Input/participation of responsible authorities** – this was variable.

On hearing all the evidence presented and information provided, the Committee discussed how to proceed with the review. Members felt that they would benefit from observing a meeting of the Pennine Community Safety Partnership and/or meeting separately with some of its members. It was noted that the next meeting of the Pennine CSP was the following Thursday (21<sup>st</sup> March).

## **AGREED**

- (1) That, if possible, the papers for the next Pennine Community Safety Partnership meeting be shared with members of this Committee and a request be made for Committee members to attend the meeting to observe the proceedings.
- (2) That, in addition to the above, a Teams call be arranged with some Pennine CSP members to find out more about the work of the Pennine CSP.
- (3) That the outcome of the consultation on accountability to the Police and Crime Commissioner be reported to this Committee when available. In the meantime, it be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- (4) That Lancashire County Council be asked to update the Committee on the future of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_