

Report Title	Pendle Community Safety Partnership
Meeting	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Meeting Date	10 March 2026
Report Author	Tim Horsley
Directorate	Resources
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr David Whipp
Wards Affected	All
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	Pendle Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2025-28

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and outlines its current priorities.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The terms of reference of the Pendle CSP, to be reviewed at its May meeting, 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 Strategy, using the Strategic Assessment and local data, to help identify changing priorities. This will be monitored at Pendle Community Safety Partnership meetings.

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

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report, consider and scrutinise the work of Pendle Community Safety Partnership and recommend any consequent action for Pendle CSP.

3. Information: the Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

Governance

The current membership of Pendle CSP is set out in the terms of reference . 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 has improved recently with consistent attendance from the Borough and County Councils, Neighbourhood Police, local Fire and Rescue Service and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

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 regularly, however there are no requirements in the terms of reference regarding the selection or election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair is Councillor David Whipp and this has been the case since 2007. There is currently no Vice Chair.

Previous reports to this Committee have referred to consultation undertaken by the last government which included the relationship between CSPs and the Police and Crime Commissioners. There was no progress under the previous

government and the current government has proposed the abolition of Police and Crime Commissioners which will mean transitioning to a new relationship between the Police and either elected mayors or local councils from 2028.

Previous reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committee also explored the option of merging the Pendle CSP with the Pennine Community Safety Partnership. During the discussions within Committee, the way the Pennine CSP operated began to change which made a merger less beneficial to Pendle and was ultimately declined. With Local Government Reorganisation now on the horizon and the structure not yet agreed, it is now a case of preparing for a new governance structure around combined and unitary authorities from 2028.

Pendle Borough Council's Policy team 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 (Community Safety Officer) which includes Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Rossendale local authority areas. Although Pendle is not a member of the latter it is important to work with Pennine colleagues on common issues.

Locally three theme groups are mandated by the Community Safety Strategy to investigate and deliver the CSP's priorities:

- Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum (facilitated by Positive Action in the Community)
- Pendle Youth Forum (facilitated by Positive Action in the Community)
- Pendle and Ribble Valley Genga Panel (tackling Serious Organised Crime and facilitated by Pendle Council)

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 a similar group in place.

Performance and Delivery

The priorities in Pendle CSP's Community Safety Strategy for 2022-25 were:

- Prevention and early intervention:
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Child Exploitation
 - Youth Anti-Social Behaviour

- Crime prevention
 - Serious Violence
 - Serious Organised Crime
 - Anti-Social Behaviour

As part of its review of the previous strategy the Partnership has identified these achievements against the priorities:

Prevention and early intervention progress

- Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum has a new action plan and has prioritised addressing recommendations raised in Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Waterside, Byron Road and Barnoldswick youth centres brought back into use with the activity of all three, part funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) has been formed around the Pendle Youth Forum.
- Youth related ASB was below 13% during July to September 2025 compared with results in the high teens and low twenties in recent years.
- An Early Intervention Youth Panel has been formed to case manage young people on the fringe of being involved with the criminal justice system.
- PAC has obtained funding to raise awareness among business that may act as potential third-party reporting points to signpost victims of domestic abuse to confidential support services.

Crime prevention

- A Clear Hold Build approach has been implemented in response to serious organised crime in Brierfield and Nelson.
- Operation Centurion together with Positive Action in the Community (PAC) and Colne Youth Action Group support has reduced the impact of ASB in the North Valley area of Colne.
- The Police and Partners meeting involving the Police, Pendle Council and housing providers on ASB case management and victim support is now well established.
- The Pendle Genga Panel and the Genga approach is being used for case management of complex serious organised crime cases.
- Operation Bin the Banger has taken over 350 untaxed or nuisance vehicles off the streets.
- Police incident reporting for 2022-25 was down 12% compared with 2019-2022 (includes the Covid period).
- Recorded crime was down 4.6% during the period.
- Anti-Social Behaviour was down nearly 32% compared with the previous period although the latter included a high level of Covid related incident reporting.

Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2025-28

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 Community Safety 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:

- Violence Against Women and Girls including:
 - Domestic Abuse by delivering on the Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum Action Plan set out below including any changes during the period.
 - Domestic Homicide Reviews by acting on lessons learned and implementing recommendations.
 - Improving perceptions of feeling safe in Pendle as described in the survey results below.

- Vulnerable young people including:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour and maintaining the reduction in youth related ASB by delivering on the actions in Pendle Youth Forum Action Plan set out below.
 - Road safety and safe driving awareness including working with the Road Safety Partnership, schools and colleges to raise awareness and using the tools and powers available to address vehicle nuisance.
 - Drug related issues including the risks associated with Ketamine by working with substance misuse support services and people with lived experience to raise awareness and reduce risk.

- Serious Violence and Serious Organised Crime including:
 - Violence Against the Person
 - Clear Hold Build and the Prosper Partnership
 - Genga responses to serious organised crime

Current Crime and Disorder Overview

There were 1,729 recorded crimes in Pendle between October and December 2025, which is a 3% increase (55) when compared to the 1,674 recorded crimes in the same period in the previous year. The table below shows the

breakdown by crime type and shows violence against the person is the main contributor.

HOCR_GROUP	Count of Crimes	Percentage of Total
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	784	45.34%
THEFT	270	15.62%
ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	177	10.24%
BURGLARY	115	6.65%
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	99	5.73%
VEHICLE OFFENCES	65	3.76%
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	63	3.64%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	61	3.53%
DRUG OFFENCES	59	3.41%
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	23	1.33%
ROBBERY	13	0.75%
Total	1,729	100.00%

There have been four key crime groups that have experienced increases compared to the same period in the previous year: violence against person, public order, drug offences and burglary. There have been five crime groups that have experienced decreases compared to the same period in the previous year: arson and criminal damage, vehicle crime, sexual offences, possession of weapons and robbery. Theft offences have remained the same.

Compared to the same period last year (October to December 2024), anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased by 24.3% (-156 incidents). Over the same period, youth related ASB in Pendle also decreased by 47.4% (-92).

Ward	October to December 2025		
	All ASB	Youth Related	Youth Related as a %
Barnoldswick	39	15	38.5%
Barrowford & Pendleside	39	4	10.3%
Boulsworth & Foulridge	26	4	15.4%
Bradley	88	9	10.2%
Brierfield East & Clover Hill	54	5	9.3%
Brierfield West & Reedley	44	9	20.5%
Earby & Coates	31	8	25.8%
Fence & Higham	3	0	0.0%
Marsden & Southfield	77	8	10.4%
Vivary Bridge	86	19	22.1%
Waterside & Horsfield	81	12	14.8%
Whitefield & Walverden	70	9	12.9%
Unknown	2	0	0.0%
Pendle Total	640	102	15.9%

Surveys

Recent surveys have not been positive about how safe people feel living and getting about in Pendle.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime and Policing Plan Survey 2024 showed 41% of residents feel unsafe or very unsafe, the highest level for any district in Lancashire. When asked why these were some of the responses:

- Lack of Police Presence: The absence of police patrols and the lack of visible policing in the area.

- Speeding and Dangerous Driving: Concerns about dangerous driving behaviours.
- Drug Activity: Drug dealing and drug use in the community.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: Vandalism, fireworks, loud noises, and groups of youths causing disturbances.
- Crime and Safety Concerns: Fears about burglaries and thefts
- Intimidation and Abuse: Intimidated by groups of people or experiencing verbal abuse.
- Community Issues: Fly-tipping, closed shops, and general neglect of the area.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's 2025 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Survey also shows 32% of Pendle respondents had frequently felt unsafe in public places over the past year compared with an average of 29% for the County. Respondents also related high levels of concern regarding sexual assault (72%), rape (69%) and spiking (66%).

Pendle residents' personal experience of VAWG includes:

- Intrusive staring – 59%
- Unwanted comments – 51%
- Unwanted sexual comments – 32%
- Catcalling – 23%
- Wolf whistling – 21%

Residents signed up to Lancashire Talking are regularly able to let their Neighbourhood Policing Team know what is affecting them locally and where the focus of the Team and partners needs to be. In Pendle, the top priorities are consistently road safety, drug dealing, parking, littering and ASB.

Current Trends

Each quarter the Lancashire Constabulary analysts provide a Multi-Agency Task and Coordination (MATAC) report with Violence against the person consistently the highest crime type including:

- Assault without injury 30%
- Assault with injury 25%
- Stalking and harassment 25%

Analysis of data carried out for the 2025-28 CSP Strategy shows:

- Road traffic collisions are down however that has had no effect on the number of deaths and serious injuries.
- Domestic violence and domestic abuse as an indicator are showing increases however repeat incidents are down.
- Hate incident and crime figures are down despite the more recent period being impacted by international and domestic issues, however there is also likely to be significant under reporting.
- Sexual offences were up and child sexual exploitation was up significantly.

- Burglary and theft were down however shoplifting was up and robbery was up significantly.
- Violence against the person showed a slight reduction however violence with injury was up and possession of a weapon was up significantly.
- Accidental dwelling fires were down however deliberate secondary fires were up.

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, now being addressed through a Clear Hold Build initiative and the Prosper Partnership.
- Illicit tobacco and counterfeit toys and a range of criminal, health and social issues around them which are being addressed through effective partnership working by the Police, Trading Standards, Immigration Service, HMRC and Pendle Council.
- Violence against the person both with and without injury and including domestic abuse and deaths associated with domestic abuse which is being addressed by the Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum and will feature in the Pendle CSP Serious Violence Duty Strategy.
- Road safety, road safety awareness among young people in particular, and vehicle nuisance.
- Retail crime which is being addressed successfully through intensive approaches such as Operation Robin which achieved a 100% detection rate during December 2025 and the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders to restrict access by known repeat offenders.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth and Housing and Healthy Communities)

- 4.1 The work of the Pendle Community Safety Partnership and its facilitation by the Council helps to deliver proud and connected communities.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications for the Council however there are resource implications in facilitating the CSP and resource and financial implications in supporting the groups responsible for delivery of the CSP Strategy; Pendle Domestic Abuse Forum Pendle Youth Forum and Pendle Genga Panel.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

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.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None relating to the recommendation

5.4 Human Resources Implications

None relating to the recommendation

5.5 Equality and Diversity Implications

None relating to the recommendation

6. Consultation

6.1 The six responsible authorities and other key partners were consulted as part of the review of the Pendle CSP Community Safety Strategy.

7. Alternative Options Considered

None relating to the recommendation

8. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	x
Monitoring Officer	x

9. Background Documents

1. Pendle Community Safety Partnership Terms of Reference
2. Pendle Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2025-28

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