

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 10TH MARCH 2026**

PRESENT –

Councillor C. Church (Chair)

Councillors

D. Cockburn-Price

D. Gallear

S. Land

M. Stone

Also in attendance

*Councillor D. Whipp
Inspector Rob Grey*

*Chair of the Pendle Community Safety Partnership (Executive Member)
Lancashire Constabulary*

Officers in attendance

Sarah Astin-Wood

Tim Horsley

Lynne Rowland

Head of Policy and Commissioning

Community Safety Officer

Committee Administrator

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Ammer, R. Anwar and Y. Tennant.)



26.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests and that whipping declarations were also required.

Members' attention was also drawn to the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct relating to the disclosure of Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests.

27.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

28.

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).

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Inspector Rob Grey and Councillor D. Whipp, the Chair of the Pendle CSP, attended the meeting as representatives of the Partnership.

Prior to the meeting, Members had received a report from the Director of Resources which provided an update on the CSP and outlined its current priorities. The report was presented to the meeting by the Council's Community Safety Officer, with contributions from the Head of Policy and Commissioning and the Partnership representatives. Members were invited to ask questions at any stage of the presentation.

It was explained that CSPs brought together local partners to formulate and deliver strategies to tackle crime and disorder in their communities. The current membership and responsibilities of Pendle CSP were set out in the terms of reference, attached as an appendix to the report. These were to be reviewed at its May meeting.

The core of the Partnership was 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

There was also a 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.

It was explained that the Partnership currently met quarterly, online. There was consistent attendance by almost all of the responsible authorities, with a recent improvement in participation.

In addition, a Community Safety Working Group for Colne and District met monthly and made quarterly reports to the CSP.

The option of merging the Pendle CSP with the wider Pennine CSP had been explored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in recent years but was ultimately declined as, due to changes to the operation of the Pennine CSP, a merger was less beneficial to Pendle.

Preparations for a new governance structure from 2028 as a result of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) were now taking place.

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

Although not a member of the wider Pennine CSP (which included Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley and Rossendale), it was recognised that it was important to work with Pennine colleagues on common issues, therefore the Council continued to represent itself and the Pendle CSP at the Pennine CSP, as well as the Lancashire Community Safety Board.

The Committee was provided with the CSP's current Community Safety Partnership Strategy. This reported on the achievements over the last three years and provided details on the following priorities for 2025-2028:

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- Violence against women and girls
- Vulnerable young people
- Serious violence and organised crime

The Strategy also provided a summary of survey responses, and data from the quarterly Lancashire Constabulary Multi-Agency Task and Coordination (MATAC) report. This set out the changes in reported incidents and crime between 2019/22 and 2022/25.

The figures showed that there had been an overall reduction in total police incidents and of victim-based crime. This percentage calculation was as a result of an increase in certain incident types, offset against a reduction in others. Specific data for each incident type was provided in the report.

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 around community safety, produced by the Police.

Locally, three theme groups, as listed below, were 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 (PAC))
- Pendle Youth Forum (facilitated by PAC)
- Pendle and Ribble Valley Genga Panel (tackling Serious Organised Crime and facilitated by Pendle Council)

In response to questions, further details were given on the following –

- The **Clear Hold Build** approach – This had been implemented in response to serious organised crime in areas of Brierfield and Nelson. A specific team of one sergeant and three officers, on top of staff already in place, had been put together to carry out the work.

The work involved a lot of partnership engagement. A strategic group of representatives from business, health, education and voluntary organisations had been formed and residents' surveys, engagement sessions and door-to-door work had taken place.

The police also worked closely with Trading Standards, Immigration, Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) and the Genga Panel.

Several statistics which demonstrated the success of the approach so far, were provided.

As part of the work, a film had been developed, which focussed on the exploitation of a 16 year old youth. It was planned to share this with schools and colleges. A request was made for this to also be shared with members of this Committee

A further film was planned, which would focus on young females that were vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

- **Bin the Bangers** – an initiative that removed untaxed, abandoned and unroadworthy vehicles off the streets. The work was carried out alongside the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

- **Domestic Homicide Reviews** – the Pennine CSP had stopped leading on DHRs and was therefore now the responsibility of the Pendle CSP to organise. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding was being used to deliver on the DHR recommendations.
- **Police visibility** – it had been noted that the perception of safety in Pendle was going down, and it was thought that this may be due to the lack of police visibility.

It was accepted that, due to a reduction in numbers, there was a lack of visible police presence. This was not just a local issue. However, the police were accessible at public resident sessions, and information was relayed through social media and Lancashire Talk. Things could also be reported online. It was accepted that this method did not suit everyone, particularly the older generation.

- **Promoting the work of the CSP** – Members recognised the valued work of the CSP and felt that maybe more could be done to relay this message to the wider public.

It was noted that the partners of the CSP celebrated and promoted the work of the CSP, which included through various forums, such as the Domestic Abuse Forum. The CSP was not intended to be a high profile partnership, however, it was accepted that the positive work could be publicised more.

- **Resources** – Pendle Borough Council's Policy Team facilitated the CSP meetings and the associated work. It was explained that there were a number of funding pots for targeted campaigns, but the funding was limited. The funding streams were narrowly based and any funding was usually prioritised for the PCCs priorities. Unfortunately, funding from a county level for diversionary activities was no longer available.

It was felt that the real strength of the Partnership came from the multi-agency working, valued participation and good will. The contribution and work of PAC was specifically acknowledged as a valued resource.

It was noted that a percentage of proceeds from crime could be claimed back, however this could not be used for staffing or vehicles.

Speaking from experience as a member on several community safety partnerships, Inspector Grey believed the Pendle CSP worked the best of those he had been involved with.

- **Reporting processes** – It was accepted that there may be a need to improve public knowledge of how things can be reported and referred. A general conversation was held about the value of services such as taxis, hairdressers etc. where they were often the eyes and ears of the local area. There had been some targeted work with the taxi trade around this topic.

Overall, the Committee was very satisfied with the work being carried out by the Pendle CSP as demonstrated in the report of the Director of Resources and in answer to questions of the Committee and felt that this could be publicised more.

Members thanked the representatives for their attendance and for their contribution to the meeting.

RESOLVED

That this Committee recognises the positive work and value of the Pendle CSP and recommends

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that the Partnership –

- (i) promotes its Strategy and achievements to the wider public;
- (ii) continues with its targeted work where appropriate;
- (iii) considers ways to promote the message around reporting processes and referral channels, such as wider cross sharing with the sub channels of the CSP.

CHAIR _____