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Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2025 - 2028

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1. Executive Summary

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement sets out how the responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder. It is a statutory requirement of the County Strategy Group, the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board.

It is informed by the Lancashire Strategic Assessment which provides an account of the key long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire and is the key evidence base supporting the Community Safety Agreement, the Police and Crime Plan and district community safety plans. The Strategic Assessment (along with 14 local district profiles) is the result of six months research, analysis, engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, community safety partner agencies and all 14 Local authorities in Lancashire.

The key risks and threats impacting across the county include:

- Domestic abuse
- Violence against Women and Girls
- Serious violence (includes gun and gang crime, and knife crime)
- Exploitation – criminal and sexual
- Organised Crime
- Road safety
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Cyber crime

Lancashire has mature partnership arrangements in place and partners are committed to addressing community safety issues. The responsible authorities, as defined in legislation, work in partnership through the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, district community safety partnerships and the complex and evolving structure of partnership arrangements in the County.

Membership of the Board comprises Lancashire County council, 12 district councils (Lancaster, Wyre, Fylde, Preston, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn, South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancs), Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board. Board meetings are also attended by representatives from Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council.

The Community Safety Agreement is anchored in the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, however the key issues are owned and delivered across a wide range of partnerships and agencies. The Community Safety Agreement is an overarching, strategic document, with the detail of operational and local delivery included in local community safety plans and other action plans owned by thematic groups reflected in the delivery framework.

In recent years there have been many changes, both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety including new legislation, guidance and funding around anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, safeguarding, serious violence and drugs and alcohol.

Addressing the key community safety issues and risks affecting our communities requires multi-agency engagement, and our approach to empowering our communities to feel safe includes taking a public health, trauma informed, strength-based approach.

Several cross cutting themes have been identified as intrinsically linked to addressing key community safety issues including:

- Reducing vulnerability and building resilience
- Prevention and early intervention
- Reducing reoffending
- Public Health approach
- Improving mental health
- Tackling drug and alcohol abuse
- Data, information sharing and community feedback.
- Drawing on community and lived experience to plan and develop our services

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains current. Lead strategic boards and partnerships for each of the key issues report on progress to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board on a regular basis. The Board also receives quarterly performance reports and an annual performance and priorities update produced by the Partnership Analyst.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board is accountable to the Scrutiny Committee of Lancashire County Council.

2. Introduction

The primary aim of this Community Safety Agreement (CSA) is to set out how the responsible authorities will work together to identify and address shared priorities in relation to reducing crime and disorder. The Community Safety Agreement is a statutory document that is a requirement for two tier local authority areas such as Lancashire, as is a County Strategy Group to bring together all relevant partners at district and county level responsible for community safety activity. In Lancashire the County Strategy Group is the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, established in 2019.

Community Safety responsibilities are primarily set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended), as well as the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011. Collectively this legislation specifies the requirement for responsible authorities and co-operating bodies to form partnerships at both a district and county level to address community safety issues. These partnerships are required to undertake an annual strategic assessment and formulate partnership plans at a district level, and a community safety agreement at a county level, to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and re-offending. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 placed an additional duty on community safety partnerships to work to reduce serious violence.

The specified responsible authorities are: all local authorities; police; fire and rescue service; probation service and integrated care board. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 saw the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners, and whilst not a responsible authority in legislation, there is a duty of mutual co-operation.

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement sets out how we will work together to address the key community safety issues for the communities of Lancashire. It is owned by the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, which brings together representatives from the responsible authorities to set the strategic direction and coordinate partnership activity to help people to feel safer by tackling crime and disorder. District partnership plans reflect the strategic direction whilst being tailored to local need and are developed and delivered by local community safety partnerships (CSPs). A number of related Lancashire partnerships and strategies are also integral to addressing our key community safety issues.

We have a strong history of partnership working in Lancashire and are committed to continuing to make it a safe place to live, work and visit. Key partners include:

Blackburn with Darwen Council
Blackpool Council
Burnley Borough Council
Chorley Borough Council
Fylde Borough Council

Hyndburn Borough Council
Lancashire Constabulary
Lancashire County Council
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated
Care Board
Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner
Lancaster City Council
Pendle Borough Council
Preston City Council

Probation Service
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Rossendale Borough Council
South Ribble Borough Council
West Lancashire Borough Council
Wyre Borough Council

An Information Sharing Protocol, signed up to by all partners, sets out a framework for partner organisations and their staff to process and share personal and sensitive personal information on a lawful, fair and transparent basis to support partnership working to address community safety issues.

[Information Sharing Protocol - Lancashire County Council](#)

3. Context

Several legislative and policy changes, both nationally and locally, impact on the community safety landscape and some of the key considerations are highlighted below.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Successive governments have introduced measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy to give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Updated statutory guidance from the Home Office released in December 2017 (further updated in 2021) has brought greater clarity around the use of the tools and powers introduced by the Act and strengthened the focus on victims and communities.

In March 2023 the Government published its Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan incorporating a mix of measures targeting anti-social behaviour and including additional funding via Police and Crime Commissioners for an increased police presence to target anti-social behaviour hotspots. Lancashire was a pilot area for hotspot policing and Operation Centurion has seen extra police patrols in anti-social behaviour hotspots in every district in the County.

In April 2025 the new Government announced details of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, as part of the Government's Safer Streets Mission, aimed at restoring confidence in local communities and taking visible action tackling anti-social behaviour and increasing the safety of town centres and high streets. Keeping Town Centres Safe this Summer, running from 30 June until the end September 2025, requires the development and delivery of local plans focused on driving down retail and street crime and anti-social behaviour in town centres across each police force area.

Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced greater and tighter legislation that is vital to the protection of victims of domestic abuse and their families. The Act affects both how professionals support survivors of domestic abuse and their children and how they respond to alleged perpetrators. This included a statutory definition of domestic abuse; children as victims in their own right; the introduction of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales; a statutory duty on all Local Authorities to provide support for survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing in safe accommodation; and improved responses in the criminal and civil courts. Implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act is primarily overseen by a Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. Other changes include new offences created, as well as changes to some current offences and processes, and revised domestic abuse protection notices and orders (which will be developed at a later date).

Due to Section 19 of the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024, there are some prospective changes regarding Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which will be referred to as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews. This is being changed to better reflect the wider range of domestic abuse related deaths, including those resulting from suicide, coercive control and economic abuse. The statutory guidance underpinning these reviews will be updated in due course.

Serious Violence

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 introduced the Serious Violence Duty (SVD), which came into effect in January 2023. It requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to collaborate and share information to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the issues associated with serious violence in a local area before producing and implementing a strategy detailing how they will respond to those issues. Prisons, youth custody agencies and educational authorities may also need to work with these core partners. A public health approach is key to violence prevention.

The work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, established in 2019, put Lancashire in a strong place to meet its commitments under the Serious Violence Duty, including the preparation of a serious violence strategic needs assessment and strategy, subsequently supported by district serious violence plans.

As part of the Government's new Young Futures Programme, Prevention Partnerships will be established in England and Wales to ensure that children and young people at risk of being drawn into crime are identified earlier and offered support in a more systematic way. Young Futures Prevention Partnerships will look to build on multi-agency working delivered through the Violence Reduction Units and SVD. In Lancashire, prevention panels will be piloted, specifically in Blackpool and Preston. The aim is to build on the good practice developed through the existing multi-agency support panels, which were set up in the districts of Burnley, Preston and Wyre.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Published in July 2021, the national Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy set out three ambitions: to increase access to quality support for victims and survivors; to increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice, including an increase in the number of crimes reported to the police and increased victim engagement with the police and wider public service response; and to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls overall. The Crime and Policing Bill 2025 supports the Government's Safer Streets Mission to halve violence against women and girls in a decade. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a new key risk and threat identified on the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2025 to 2028.

Safeguarding

A number of pieces of legislation have been introduced in recent years to provide authorities with additional tools, powers and statutory duties to tackle community safety and safeguard

vulnerable people particularly the Care Act 2014, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (and subsequent amendments in 2019), Serious Crime Act 2015, Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. More recently the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and subsequent statutory guidance has been introduced regarding inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 provides statutory guidance for inter-agency working for Local Authorities, Integrated Care Partnerships, Police and other organisations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) provides the partnership oversight. The Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board is ultimately responsible for all safeguarding/adult protection activities in the County.

Work has been undertaken at a local level to clarify governance arrangements between community safety and safeguarding boards and to facilitate effective joint working.

National Drugs Strategy – From Harm to Hope

There are significant implications associated with drugs and alcohol. Individually impacting on health, crime, healthy relationships and wider societal impacts about feeling safe, criminality around serious organised gangs and feeling safe in the community. In December 2021 the Government published a 10-year plan to cut crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. Drug and alcohol misuse is a major cause of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Lancashire has received significant funding through the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant. The Lancashire Alcohol and Drug Partnership, formed in 2022, aims to reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol by delivering activities in a collaborative approach to complement and supplement other strategic partnerships around the three strategic priorities: Breaking drug supply chains; Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system; Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs.

Prevent and Protect

The Prevent duty, established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, placed a duty on specified authorities to give due consideration to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The new guidance came into force in December 2023 and was updated to reflect several of the Independent Review of Prevent recommendations to ensure it was well-equipped to counter threats faced and underpinning ideologies.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (commonly referred to as Martyn's Law), will improve protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK by requiring those responsible for certain premises and events to consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack. Appropriate steps to reduce vulnerability to terrorist attacks must also be considered at certain larger premises and events. Qualifying premises and events should be better prepared, better protected and ready to respond in the event of a terrorist attack. There is an implementation period of at least 24 months (from April 2025) before the Act comes into force,

which will allow the Security Industry Authority's new function to be established, whilst ensuring those responsible for premises and events in scope have sufficient time to understand their new obligations, plan and prepare appropriately.

Extremism, Hate and Civil Unrest

In the aftermath of the Southport attack in July 2024, the UK faced civil unrest that led to violent disorder, vandalism, and a rise in hate crimes. Partners in Lancashire including the police, local authorities, Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance, and members of the voluntary, community and faith sectors worked alongside communities across Lancashire to minimise any escalation in community tension.

A public inquiry is underway looking into the circumstances surrounding and leading up to the tragic events in Southport. Inquiry Chair the Rt Hon Sir Adrian Fulford is expected to scrutinise how a range of public organisations carried out their roles. The remit of the inquiry involves reviewing the approaches, recommendations, and support of local public organisations who are committed to full co-operation with the enquiry.

The Pan Lancs Hate Crime Strategy 2022 - 2025 sets the strategic direction and coordinates a partnership response to address hate crime within the region. It is underpinned by a comprehensive delivery plan which will remain a live document and will be governed by the Strategic Hate Crime Group. [Pan Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2022 2025](#)

Joint Targeted Area Inspection

Conducted during February 2024 to evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to children aged 10 and over at risk of or affected by serious youth violence and criminal exploitation in Lancashire. The inspection found there was a strong commitment from local leaders to address serious youth violence through a unified public health and trauma-informed approach, with effective initiatives in schools and communities to educate and divert young people from violence, strong partnerships and new safeguarding arrangements, including the Empower teams. An action plan responding to areas for improvement has been developed and is being implemented overseen by the Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership.

Impact of Covid pandemic

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic started in March 2020 and ended in May 2023 and its impacts will be long lasting, although the link to community safety may not yet be realised. The ongoing UK inquiry is actively investigating several other aspects of COVID-19, including the impact on society. Research by Gray and Hansen (2025) indicates a significant rise in domestic abuse during the first lockdown, like the increase seen during Christmas holidays. The most violent domestic abuse-related crimes also saw the greatest increases during lockdown. After restrictions were eased, domestic abuse rates declined but remained slightly higher than pre-lockdown levels for up to three months. This study highlights the need for policymakers to consider unintended consequences of lockdown measures on domestic abuse and to ensure support for vulnerable groups during crises.

Cost of living increases

The cost-of-living crisis has the potential to impact on community safety. It can lead to increases in acquisitive crimes if individuals turn to theft or burglary to meet basic needs. It can also further compound other issues, such as domestic abuse, where financial strain can heighten existing abusive situations, making it harder for victims to leave. Organised crime groups may exploit vulnerable individuals who are facing financial hardship and they may be more vulnerable to scams and fraud as they seek financial solutions or assistance.

Future Considerations:

Crime and Policing Bill 2025

The aim of the bill is to support delivery of the Government's Safer Streets Mission to halve knife crime and violence against women and girls in a decade, and increase public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system. The bill will implement key commitments, such as introducing respect orders (relating to ASB) and a standalone offence of assaulting a retail worker. It will help to rebuild the public's confidence in policing, by equipping the police with more powers to respond quickly to criminal activity.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

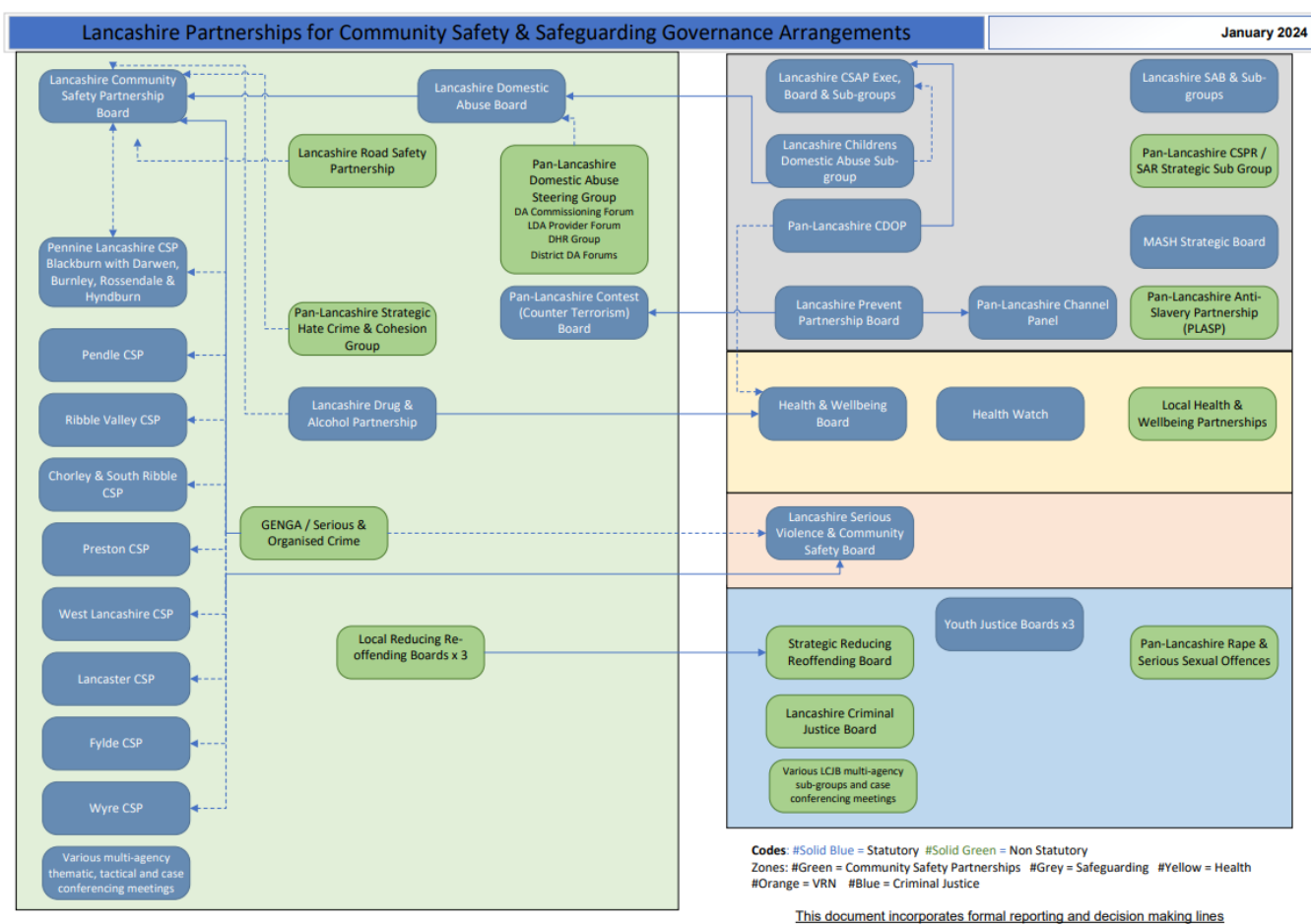
Devolution provides local councils with greater freedom and flexibility to improve public services, leading to better-targeted services, growth and stronger partnerships. Lancashire started its devolution journey early in 2024, when it was agreed to create a Combined County Authority. This agreement brings together the efforts and resources of the County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Council to enhance regional collaboration and governance. Under new proposals, combined authorities will be replaced by strategic authorities. Published in December 2024, the English Devolution White Paper outlines the plan for devolution, local government reorganisation and changes to local audits. Local government reorganisation involves changing the structure and responsibilities of local councils. According to the English Devolution White Paper, the Government plans to replace the current two-tier system of district and county councils with new councils, typically serving populations of 500,000 or more. However, there may be exceptions to ensure new structures are suitable for each area and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. This is a forthcoming change that is likely to impact on the community safety landscape across Lancashire.

4. Governance and Partnership Structure

In Lancashire the County Council works in partnership with the 12 district councils (Lancaster, Wyre, Fylde, Preston, Ribble Valley, Pendle, Burnley, Rossendale, Hyndburn, South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancs), Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, and Integrated Care Partnerships through the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board. Board meetings are also attended by representatives from Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Councils.

Lancashire has mature partnership arrangements in place and partners are committed to addressing community safety issues. However, the landscape in which partners operate is complex and continually evolving in response to changes in legislation, service and organisational changes.

The diagram below illustrates the current Lancashire community safety partnership arrangements



In 2021, following a review of governance and partnership arrangements, the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board looked at establishing a more geographically based model. Work was undertaken to map the current and developing partnership structure identifying statutory and non statutory partnerships and lines of accountability, and to identify common issues / priorities across districts that offer the opportunity to work together in a geographical cluster. In the East of the County partners already work together in the combined Pennine Lancashire Community Safety Partnership.

Work continues to revise and clarify governance arrangements. A Tactical Community Safety Group linking into the Board has been established, focussed on joint priorities identified as part of the development of the community safety agreement and district community safety plans. A partnership or board with lead / strategic responsibility for each key issue has been identified together with the delivery mechanism, as detailed in section 8.

Lancashire Constabulary have developed a performance framework which includes Tactical Tasking and Coordinating meetings in each Business Command Unit (West, East and South) into which district community safety partnerships link, with a specific CSP agenda and local priority tasking meetings. Tactical Tasking Analysts within Lancashire Constabulary are aligned to the above and the performance framework. Partnership Analysts support pan-Lancashire work identifying specific themes/topics. CSP meetings receive a police report delivered by the local policing lead. CSPs also link into to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, providing updates on how their priorities are agreed and addressed.

Lancashire County Council has developed a Stronger and Safer Communities Framework which pulls together details of the work that county council services do to help tackle key community safety issues, including serious violence. This supports links between county wide services and district community safety plans, and in particular will feed into local serious violence plans.

5. Evidence from the Lancashire Strategic Assessment

The Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for community safety partnerships as outlined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The aim of the Strategic Assessment is to provide an account of long-term issues and threats from crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire. It is the key evidence base that supports the community safety agreement, local partnership plans and the police and crime plan.

The Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2025 – 2028 highlights the key community safety issues and risks across Lancashire which affect the local communities. They require multi-agency engagement to improve safeguarding, reduce vulnerability, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve the well-being of communities. The highlighted risks and threats and the key themes in the Strategic Assessment form the basis of this Community Safety Agreement and inform local community safety and other partnership plans. The key risks and threats across Lancashire are:

- Domestic abuse
- Violence against women and girls
- Serious violence (includes gun and gang crime, and knife crime)
- Exploitation – criminal and sexual
- Organised crime
- Road safety
- Anti-social behaviour
- Cyber crime

It is recognised that the key issues interlink and cannot be looked at in isolation, for example organised crime linked to exploitation of the vulnerable, both sexual and criminal through county lines which can also then lead to increased levels of violence. Cyber crime is often linked to organised crime and anti-social behaviour can escalate to violence. Young people involved in anti- social behaviour are often vulnerable to exploitation.

A public health and trauma informed approach is required to tackle issues, by looking at the wider determinants of crime and understanding root causes to enable an early intervention and preventative approach. These include: childhood experiences, education, unemployment, health care, housing, income.

[Strategic assessments and partnership plans - Lancashire County Council](#)

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board endorsed the recommendations in the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2025 – 2028 in January 2025. Lancashire County Council Community, Cultural and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee received the draft and also supported the recommendations in February 2025.

Links to other plans

Our approach continues to build on the strong history of partnership working at the county and district level and collaboration with other key organisations. In December 2024 the Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2024 – 2029 was launched by the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police and Crime Plan strongly aligns with the Strategic Assessment priorities at both the county and local level, and the Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes the approach adopted by community safety partners to deliver activity that supports the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan.

[The Police And Crime Plan - Lancashire Police Crime Commissioner \(lancashire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)

Key issue / risk / threat in Strategic Assessment / Community Safety Agreement	PCC priority / Police and Crime Plan
Domestic abuse	Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Domestic Abuse
Violence against Women and Girls	Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls: Rape and Sexual Offences Stalking Night time economy Supporting and preventing victimisation
Serious violence (includes gun and gang crime, and knife crime)	Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime: Knife crime
Exploitation – criminal and sexual	Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime: Abuse and exploitation Modern slavery
Organised Crime	Get Tough on Serious Violent Crime: Serious and organised crime
Road safety	Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour: Road Safety
Anti-Social Behaviour	Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour: Anti-social behaviour Retail Crime Rural Crime
Cyber crime	Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour: Fraud and cyber crime
	Rebuild Public Trust and Confidence: Neighbourhood policing Citizens in Policing

	Raise standards Improve public contact Proceeds of crime Victim focussed service
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Strategic Assessment Local Profiles and Serious Violence & Serious Organised Crime Profiles for each district provide further detail on local priorities and the impact of key risks and threats at the local level.

[Strategic assessments and partnership plans - Lancashire County Council](#)

6. Key Achievements

Partnerships across Lancashire continue to work together to address key community safety issues through their respective action plans, delivering a huge range of projects and initiatives.

Partnership working has developed and governance arrangements have improved, including the establishment of the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board in 2019 to provide strategic direction and ensure co-ordination of community safety activities across partners.

Below are some examples of recent achievements and successes.

Launch of Domestic Abuse Support Services Lancashire in February 2025, through an eight year contract providing support in safe accommodation and in the community for domestic abuse victims and children of all risk levels.

In 23/24 Lancashire were one of ten areas to receive £1m funding through the Home Office ASB Hotspot Policing Pilot. This was followed by further funding in 24/25 of nearly £2m to support the work of Operation Centurion and tackle ASB across the county.

Secondary schools from across Wyre came together to highlight the impact of anti-social behaviour at a special evening of performance at the Marine Hall in Fleetwood.

Innovative project at Burnley Market Hall to address ASB which won national Community Alcohol Partnership Award

Closure order secured on a waste site in Hyndburn which had been the cause of thousands of complaints over many years about anti-social burning blighting the community.

In 24/25 the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Fund supported 63 organisations totalling £312,520. The 63 funded projects are set to engage with 123,725 individuals, including over 50,000 young people.

In 23/24 the OPCC secured £840k through Round Five of the Home Office Safer Streets Fund to support target hardening measures across Blackpool, Lancaster, West Lancashire and Pennine Lancashire.

In 24/25 the OPCC funded the launch of an innovative new education scheme, Pol-Ed, designed to proactively educate young people about the law and help prevent offending.

Award winning Clear Hold Build project undertaken in Wyre, tackling serious and organised crime, currently being implemented in Pendle.

Funding for rural outreach in Ribble Valley led by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service offering information from a range of services including fire safety, rural police task force, family services, foodbank, Age UK and health and wellbeing.

Successful multi agency action in Preston town centre to tackle ASB and damage to empty buildings, including enforcement, awareness raising and diversionary activities for the young people involved.

7. Priorities and Key Issues

Working together to protect the vulnerable

Domestic Abuse	<p>The legal definition of domestic abuse in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides clarity that domestic abuse can be a singular or range of abusive actions - economic, verbal, emotional, physical, sexual including coercive and controlling behaviours. The scale and prevalence of domestic abuse is significant.</p> <p>Domestic abuse and the impact it has on residents of Lancashire is an issue for all districts. It accounts for approximately 16% of all crime, however, this is likely to be an underestimation. Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime, not necessarily reported to the police. It has a lasting impact on physical and mental health resulting in a significant concern and an increasing problem for health and social care services., as well as resulting in financial and housing insecurity.</p> <p>In Lancashire, each Tier 1 area has established Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards, under the statutory requirements of Part 4 (safe accommodation) of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. However, all 3 areas have widened the statutory response to ensure all aspects around domestic abuse are being considered concurrently.</p> <p>The introduction of a statutory duty for local authorities has enabled the domestic abuse partnerships to focus on the needs of the victim in a wider context to sustain longer term recovery from the abuse.</p>
Violence Against Women and Girls	<p>Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) refers to acts of violence or abuse that disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, 'honour'-based abuse (including female genital mutilation forced marriage, and 'honour' killings), as well as many others, including offences committed online. There has been an upward trend of VAWG in Lancashire over the past few years with the most common investigations being for stalking and harassment and violence with injury.</p> <p>VAWG is a priority in the Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire 2024 – 2029, and there is a Lancashire Police VAWG Improvement Plan. LCC has an internal VAWG group looking to co-ordinate services which address VAWG, in particular those that work with young people around healthy relationships and misogyny. The annual White Ribbon</p>

	<p>campaign is supported by the OPCC and LCC and local CSPs and aims to prevent violence against women and girls by engaging men and boys.</p> <p>THE OPCC have arranged a Senior Partners Round Table Event on VAWG in September 2025 and are aiming to co-ordinate a pan Lancs VAWG group.</p>
Exploitation - criminal and sexual	<p>The Child and Social Work Act 2017 requires the Local Authority, Integrated Care Board and the police to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>The Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) was launched on 1st September 2023, moving from Pan-Lancashire arrangements to a place-based approach. CSAP ensures that the services that partners deliver or commission all work well together and that they are effective in keeping children and young people safe. CSAP focusses on 3 safeguarding priorities – contextual safeguarding, neglect and domestic abuse.</p> <p>There are dedicated contextual safeguarding – exploitation teams working across Lancashire from many different organisations including Children's Social Care, Police, Health and Schools who assess and support victims and help them escape the cycle of abuse. Exploitation of children and young people is addressed through the Contextual Safeguarding Service within Lancashire County Council, taking a multi-agency approach and working with partners across the County.</p> <p>Modern slavery relates to exploitation of children and adults in slavery, servitude, or forced or compulsory labour. Human trafficking is the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children and adults through force, coercion, or deception for the purposes of exploitation. The Pan Lancs Anti Slavery Partnership (PLASP) works to raise awareness and co-ordinate activity around modern slavery.</p>
Cyber Crime	<p>Cybercrime is the term used to describe crimes committed online – through computers, laptops, game consoles, tablets, and smartphones. In recent years the progress in digital technology has seen rapid growth in many different sectors accelerated by the increase of working from home and having a greater reliance in digital technology to carry out work. Greater reliance on technology presents</p>

	<p>more opportunities for cybercrime, an ever-growing and diversifying threat.</p> <p>The Lancashire Constabulary Cyber Crime Strategy includes a delivery approach to cyber-dependent crime by way of a '4 P' delivery plan developed in line with North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU) and other partner agencies. – pursue, prevent, protect and prepare. Cyber Crime is also addressed through the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.</p> <p>Lancashire Trading Standards Scambuster Stan works to raise awareness of online scams, as well as undertaking investigations.</p> <p>Further work is planned to ensure CSPs are fully engaged in work to address cyber crime.</p>
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Working together to protect our communities from harm

Serious Violence	<p>Violence Reduction Network:</p> <p>The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network, set up in 2019 and funded by the Home Office, has led work to reduce serious violence across the County. Nationally, violent offences typically make up just 1% of all crime recorded by the police. However, they cause some of the most serious harms to individuals, communities and societies.</p> <p>Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (VRN), one of the original 18 Violence Reduction Units, pioneered a new approach bringing together local partners in policing, education, health, and local government to deepen understanding of the root causes of violence and put interventions in place. The VRN is currently funded until 31 March 2026.</p> <p>The VRN produces a county wide needs assessment and local serious violence district profiles and work plans which incorporate both violent and knife crime pilot work streams. These include Champions Adult and Youth Projects, Emergency Department Navigators, Prisoners and Prisoners Family Support, Trauma Informed Lancashire.</p> <p>Tackle Violence Together Lancashire Violence Reduction Network</p> <p>The work of the VRN is supported at district level through the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty, which requires local</p>
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	<p>authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those particular issues. District Community Safety Partnerships have developed serious violence plans, in line with the Duty, supported by the Violence Reduction Network and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>The new Young Futures Programme is part of a broader government mission to create “Safer Streets” by reducing violent crime through early intervention and coordinated support for young people.</p> <p>Prevention Partnership Panels will bring together partner agencies (local authorities, ICB, Police, Youth Justice, Education and third sector agencies) at a local level to identify children and young people vulnerable to being drawn into crime and put appropriate support packages in place to prevent children and young people becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The Home Office have asked Violence Reduction Unit areas to pilot panels in 25/26 ahead of a national roll out in 26/27. In Lancashire plans for Prevention Partnership Panel are being developed in Preston and Blackpool.</p> <p>Further work is also being undertaken to develop more effective strategic governance around serious youth violence through a Serious Violence Duty task and finish group, led by the Lancashire Child and Youth Justice Service. The OPCC has also arranged a Serious Violence & Community Safety Senior Partners Roundtable event to look at challenges and collaborative solutions.</p>
Organised Crime	<p>The Lancashire Constabulary Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2022 – 2025 is built on a fully engaged partnership approach, involving stakeholders and partners from the public sector, statutory community safety partners, other government and law enforcement agencies as well as the third and private sectors to ensure that all available information, resources, and powers are utilised to tackle serious and organised crime.</p> <p>Although published by the Police, it is a joint strategy involving the Police, local authorities, third sector organisations, and communities affected by serious organised crime and other high-risk criminality and</p>

	<p>was approved by the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board. The Lancashire Constabulary Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2022 – 2025 reflects the 2018 national strategy of a 4P Framework to tackle serious and organised crime – Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare. The current strategy is being reviewed although the basis of the strategy will remain the same. The revised strategy will seek to reflect the National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (2025).</p> <p>Delivery of the strategy is via multi-agency Genga groups in each area of the County, co-ordinated by the Police Serious Crime Tasking Group and linked to district community safety partnerships. The delivery of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy also supports key interdependencies across contextual safeguarding and serious violence. Genga is embedded within the VRN to enable links to Serious and Organised Crime and prevention pathways to be explored.</p> <p>Lancashire Constabulary's Operation Warrior, which commenced in November 2022, continues to crack down on organised crime across the County. It involves a dedicated team of officers working with other agencies including HMRC, immigration, local authorities and organisations like the Regional Crime Unit and National Crime Agency, to bring offenders to justice and seize their criminal assets.</p> <p>Lancashire has also adopted 'Clear, Hold, Build', a multi-agency framework developed by the Home Office to tackle serious and organized crime in specific geographic areas. The framework involves three phases: Clear (targeted police action to disrupt criminal activity), Hold (stabilizing the area to prevent criminals from returning), and Build (community-led initiatives to address the root causes of crime and prevent its recurrence). This approach aims to reclaim and rebuild communities affected by organized crime, and has been implemented successfully in Wyre and most recently in Pendle.</p>
Road Safety	<p>Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) is made up of individual organisations who work together to support effective coordination, and delivery of safer roads activity across Lancashire to reduce road casualties. This is done through the promotion of: Safer People, Safer Speeds, Safer Vehicles, Safer Roads, and Post Collision Response.</p>

	<p>The LRSP has two groups: The Delivery Group, and The Challenge Board and is committed to working together to reduce casualties on Lancashire's roads and make people feel safer.</p> <p><u>Lancashire Road Safety Partnership – Making Lancashire's Roads Safer</u></p> <p>There are many organisations that can contribute towards the delivery of improved road safety beyond those with a statutory duty, the Lancashire partners who work very closely together include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancashire Constabulary • Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council • Blackpool Council • Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service • Northwest Ambulance Service • National Highways <p>Collectively they deliver a programme of road safety initiatives for Lancashire.</p> <p>Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to promote road safety under the 1988 Road Traffic Act. Working in partnership through the LRSP, this is done through investigating road casualties, introducing engineering solutions, providing education and engagement, and seeking to reduce killed and serious injuries on the roads.</p> <p>Lancashire County Council's Road safety Strategy focuses the council's road safety work to mitigate the road risk to disproportionately affected groups who are more likely to be involved in collisions in Lancashire, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Pedestrians • Younger Drivers (17-24 years of age) • Older Road Users (65+) • Motorcyclists • Cyclists • Drivers who Speed • Drink and Drug Drivers <p>Lancashire Police play a key role in providing road safety and are responsible for the enforcement of many traffic offences including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of speed limits • Dangerous driving • Drug/drink driving • Failure to wear a seat belt. • Mobile phone usage whilst driving
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Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is the common term used to describe incidents or actions that cause damage or affect the quality of life of people. It can be any behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not living in the same household and can include things such as noise, neighbour nuisances, abandoned vehicles, litter and vehicle nuisance, vandalism, graffiti and fly posting, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour, harassment and intimidation.</p> <p>Targeting of nuisance hotspots, issues and people along with the use of ASB legislation, tools and powers, including Community Protection Notices/Warnings (CPN/CPW) and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) play a key role in reducing reported ASB.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour in Lancashire is addressed at the neighbourhood and district level, particularly through local Community Safety Partnerships. Local Authorities, the Police and other partners work together to address ASB using tools and powers where appropriate, as well as diversionary activities and safeguarding measures. In Lancashire there has been great use of the new powers to the advantage of our most vulnerable. Particularly, using Community Protection Warnings and Notices and Public Space Protection Orders.</p> <p>Lancashire has received additional funding since 2023 for hot spot policing in areas that are experiencing high levels of anti-social behaviour. Operation Centurion has seen extra policing patrols throughout Lancashire, particularly in town centres.</p>
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Cross Cutting Themes

A number of key cross cutting themes are intrinsically linked to addressing community safety issues. Our approach to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and addressing the key issues identified, incorporates the cross cutting themes below.



8. Our Activity – Partnership Delivery

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement is anchored in the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board, however the key issues are owned and delivered across a wide range of partnerships and agencies. It is in the specialist boards and local district partnerships where the oversight and delivery of the focussed work will take place through their local community safety plans and other strategies such as the Lancashire Violence Reduction Strategy.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board took the decision to keep the Community Safety Agreement as an overarching, strategic document, with the detail of operational and local delivery included in local community safety plans and other action plans owned by thematic groups reflected in the delivery framework. The table below goes some way to show where the key issues detailed in this agreement are owned and actions delivered.

Delivery Framework

Key issue / risk / threat in Strategic Assessment	Strategic Groups	Strategy / Plans in place	Delivery mechanism
Domestic abuse	Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	Lancashire Domestic Abuse Strategy	Commissioned services, District CSPs, Local DA Partnerships, MARAC / MARRAC
Violence	Violence Reduction Network	Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy, Other VRN strategies, Child and Youth Justice Plan	VRN, District CSPs, Youth Justice Board
Exploitation (criminal and sexual)	Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership, Adult Safeguarding Board, Pan Lancashire Anti Slavery Partnership	Contextual Safeguarding Strategy	District CSPs, Local safeguarding arrangements,
Serious organised crime	Genga groups	SOC strategy	Genga groups

Road Safety	Lancashire Road Safety Partnership Challenge Board	LCC Road Safety Strategy 2025 – 2027	Lancashire Road Safety Partnership Delivery Group
Anti-social behaviour	Community Safety Partnerships	District Community Safety Plans Child and Youth Justice Plan 2022-23	District CSPs
VAWG	Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	Lancashire Police VAWG Improvement Plan	Statutory services, Commissioned Services e.g. Paladin Stalking Service
Cyber Crime	Lancashire Constabulary Cybercrime Unit	Lancashire Constabulary Cyber Crime Strategy	Cyber Crime Unit Trading Standards Scambuster Sam

Violence Against Women and Girls and Cyber Crime are included as key issues for the first time and partnership arrangements in place to address these issues are developing.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Lancashire Community Safety Agreement is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains

current. The Agreement is intended to be flexible and to reflect changes in policy and legislation. The priorities will be frequently reviewed; looking at the available data and feedback from our communities ensuring we remain focussed on what is important.

Lead strategic boards and partnerships for each of the key issues report on progress to the Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board on a regular basis, as do the district community safety partnerships. A Forward Plan details when the key partnerships will provide updates to the Board.

The Board also receives Quarterly Performance and Priorities Reports from the Partnership Analyst including updates on work to tackle the current issues across the county, per district through the Tactical Tasking and Coordinating meetings and district CSPs. In addition, a performance dashboard has been developed to give an up-to-date picture of trends, Lancashire's relative position, costs and other headline indicators for each of the themes identified in the Community Safety Agreement. This is available to Board members and community safety partnerships through the Multi Agency Data Exchange (MADE) platform.

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board is accountable to the Scrutiny Committee of the County Council. A Community Safety Working Group set up by the Scrutiny Committee met in 2023 and made recommendations for improving communication and links with elected members on community safety issues which have been implemented.