

## **Annual Community Safety Report – 2020**

### **SCOPE**

Research and analysis for this document has been focused on the local priority areas and significant threats. Multi-agency data has been used to provide an objective understanding of key issues. This information has been obtained on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, unless stated otherwise. Analysis is focused upon the Wyre CSP Priorities for 2020 based on the Strategic assessment completed in 2018 which are:

- Road Safety
- Victimisation
- Domestic Abuse
- Exploitation
- Substance Misuse – Alcohol & Drugs
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Vulnerability

### **FINDINGS/SUMMARY**

- A reduction has been shown for all crime.
- Violence against the person crimes have decreased by 7%.
- Domestic abuse has increased by 11% and increases were shown across Lancashire.
- Alcohol related crime has increased by +6%, most likely due to covid-19.
- ASB has shown a 53% increase, with a proportion of these covid-19 related incidents

#### **Performance Update**

In terms of overall crime levels they have reduced by 9%, seeing a significant reduction in violence against the person, this could in part be explained, by the reduction in the activities of the hospitality trade, resulting in fewer social interactions and therefore less opportunities for trouble to arise in these venues.

Unfortunately because individuals are staying at home more, there has been an increase domestic abuse crimes being reported. The fact that there has been an increase in alcohol related crime does suggest that the majority of this crime is also occurring within the home as well.

There has also been a significant increase in anti-social behaviour reported. A proportion of these are covid-19 related- reports of neighbours breaking rules, parties etc. Moreover, increases were reported across the whole of Lancashire.

The response to the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted on all partner agencies involved in crime prevention, all of whom have had to adapt their systems and the table below provides an up to date picture of crime in Wyre.

Category	Actuals Dec 18- Nov 19	Actuals Dec 19- Nov 20	Percentage change- Wyre	Percentage change- Lancashire
<i>All Crime</i>	7392	6540	-12%	-15%
<i>Domestic Incidents</i>	1109	1124	+1%	+11%
<i>Domestic Abuse Crimes</i>	1118	1236	+11%	+11%
<i>Domestic Assault Crimes (DV)</i>	597	640	+7%	+8%
<i>Violence against the person</i>	2992	2786	-7%	-6%
<i>Alcohol related crime</i>	556	587	+6%	+7%
<i>Anti-social behaviour</i>	3072	4704	+53%	+55%

\*Sourced from MADE, Lancashire Insight Website, data is based on the period December 2019-November 2020.

## **Wyre Council - Community Safety Partnership Work 2020**

- 1. Anti-Social Behaviour** – As reported in 2020 Wyre holds regular ASB meetings where partners from across the community safety sector meet to discuss individuals and locations involved in anti-social behaviour.

The Pandemic initially prevented those meetings taking place because most agencies were working from home. However the work of the partners continued initially by utilising the relationships built up over a last few years and using email and phone communication.

Since the summer the ASB group have been meeting virtually ensuring that this important work has continued throughout the Pandemic.

On top of the normal work described in last year's report during the first lockdown Wyre - Environmental Protection Team assisted the police in serving Anti-Social Behaviour - Community Protection Notices on several households who were ignoring the government advice on social distancing and holding parties in their houses. This provides an example of the type of Covid 19 work being undertaken.

2. **Domestic Homicide Review** – During the course of 2020 the Community Safety partnership identified a domestic homicide case in our area. As a consequence the Community Safety Partnership must undertake a domestic homicide review of the case in order to look at the roles of all agencies, who had contact with the deceased and produce a report which will eventually be signed off by the Home office. The aim is to review the work and learn from any mistakes to see if we can improve the workings of agencies in our area.

An independent chair was appointed to oversee this work, and is being supported by the Health & Early action partnership officer.

The report is due to be completed before summer 2021.

3. **Wyre & Fylde Integrated Team** - During 2019 The Wyre and Fylde Integrated team had been set up and implemented to deal with vulnerable individuals which is also a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. The Integrated team is co-ordinated by Wyre Council Health & Early Action partnership officer.

During the first lockdown the Health & Early Action partnership officer was redeployed to assist with the delivery of the social hubs resulting in a suspension of meetings.

The social hub was about ensuring vulnerable people as far as possible could shield and the individuals being discussed in the Wyre & Fylde integrated hub were often part of that co-hort.

Following the easing of the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown whilst still maintaining strong links with the social hub, virtual integrated team meetings were once again resumed and remains an important community safety tool.

4. **Develop Mobile Camera Evidence Collection capability** – I reported last year that a review will be undertaken during the course of the financial year 2020. Unfortunately this has not been completed, however I can report that the cameras are being well used and have provided useful evidence in a few cases.
5. **CCTV** – Last year I reported that the team had experienced some picture quality issues. The Information Technology team at Wyre carried out some preliminary improvements to the broadband coming into the building and this has temporarily resolved the picture quality issues the team was experiencing.

The information Technology team are working on a scheme to improve broadband significantly, which will allow the analogue cameras (technologically being phased out and already difficult to replace.) currently employed to be replaced with digital cameras. This project will be started once the broadband has been improved sufficiently to enable digital cameras to be employed. The speed of the change will be based on budget availability.

6. **PSPO** – Every 3 years current PSPO's require reviewing and during the last 12 months the PSPO covering the drinking of alcohol in Public spaces has been reviewed. Initially the existing PSPO was extended to allow the Environmental Protection and Community safety manager to undertake a consultation on the current areas covered by the PSPO. After consultation it was agreed that the entire urban area would be covered by the PSPO and the area covering Garstang would be

increased. It should be noted that PSPO allows police officers to intervene where drinking alcohol is resulting in anti-social behaviour. If the people approached fail to take notice of that intervention, then the Police can take appropriate action to resolve the behaviour of concern. A report on the issue has recently been submitted and approved by Cabinet.

- 7. Violence Reduction / Domestic Violence** – As reported last year a priority for the Police and Crime commissioner's office is to reduce violence. As a consequence this year funding has been made available to community safety partnerships to address this issue. It has however been recognised that this year has been challenging and therefore the funding is available into next year.

In Wyre Domestic violence has increased over the last 12 months and therefore we are in the process of developing a project utilising the no excuse for abuse campaign, which will involve raising awareness of the issue utilising all available communication channels, including advertising on bin lorries, phone cubicles and social media.

- 8. New Statutory duties** – It is likely that 2 new statutory duties will be introduced during the course of the Parliament, one with an explicit duty on Public Bodies to Protect the public from Terrorist attack and another to Reduce Serious Violence. Work on both these areas has started across the County of Lancashire. However these are important functions that will need to be addressed in the coming years. The duty to Protect is about identifying high risk sites and mitigating the risk as far as possible. The duty to reduce the risk of serious violence has always been a priority for the partnership but there is likely to be a need to have a specific plan covering the issue in the future.