

Annual Community Safety Report – 2021

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 31st January 2022, unless stated otherwise. Analysis is focused on the Wyre CSP Priorities, which are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violence against the person
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse – Alcohol
- Road Safety

FINDINGS/SUMMARY

- An increase has been shown for all crime of 10%.
- Violence against the person crimes have increased by 17%.
- Domestic abuse has increased by 9%.
- Alcohol related crime has increased by 19%, possibly due to restrictions being eased.
- ASB has shown an -8% decrease, due to covid-19 restrictions easing as of July 2021.

Lancashire Constabulary installed a new IT system on 27th November 2018. Please note that crime data obtained from police crime intelligence system is subject to change. From dip sampling it is believed there is an **underestimation** due to issues with quality assurance, geocoding and additional coding problems. The collection and extraction of incidents and anti-social behaviour data has remained unchanged.

Performance update

**Data has been obtained from Lancashire Constabulary's investigation and incident recording systems Connect and Sleuth.*

Categories	Jan 20-Dec 20	Jan 21-Dec 21	Difference	
	Actuals	Actuals	Numeric	Percent
All crime	6,675	7,340	665	10%
Violence against the person	2,829	3,318	489	17%
Theft	966	1,158	192	20%
Arson and Criminal Damage	959	921	-38	-4%
Public order offences	403	516	113	28%
Vehicle offences	457	377	-80	-18%
Burglary	471	374	-97	-21%
Sexual offences	199	259	60	30%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	171	184	13	8%
Drug offences	141	140	-1	-1%
Possession of weapons	49	61	12	24%
Robbery	29	32	3	10%
Domestic abuse	1,285	1,399	114	9%
Alcohol related crime	589	701	112	19%
Hate crime	91	95	4	4%
ASB	4,838	4,472	-366	-8%

In terms of overall crime levels they have increased by 10%, indicating that the reduction in crime reported last year has returned to pre pandemic levels as the economy has started to open again and there has been more opportunity for social interactions.

In terms of violence against the person there has been 17% increase, of these offences 3% were serious violence against the person, 37% were domestic abuse related and 30% were malicious communications. In Wyre 16% of Violence against the person crimes across Wyre were alcohol related, but in Pharos ward this increased 20% indicating that alcohol played a significant part of the problem in Pharos ward. Finally when looking at offences of assault, rather than all violent crime, 23% (467/1989) of assaults were alcohol related.

Unfortunately domestic abuse and alcohol related crimes has increased on the previous year indicating that there is an upward trend in these types of crimes being reported. This could be a symptom of increasing pressure on household budgets but equally this is an area where as a partnership we have been encouraging people affected to report

abuse, because it is widely understood that domestic abuse crimes are underreported for a variety of reasons.

There has been an 8% reduction in anti-social behaviour reported over the course of 2021 than the previous year. This may be because there was a reduction in covid 19 related ASB being reported. This year ASB appears to be returning to pre pandemic levels

Wyre Council - Community Safety Partnership Work 2021

Anti Social Behaviour

1. As reported in 2021 Wyre Council holds regular ASB meetings where partners from across the community safety sector meet to discuss individuals and locations involved in anti-social behaviour.
 - Youth ASB –
 - Location Based ASB –
 - Adult ASB

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide realm of behaviours and a number of different agencies have an input into this area of work. The multi-agency meetings allow partners to discuss cases causing issues in our community which an individual agency is struggling to resolve. Often the individuals concerned are already being dealt with by other agencies. The meetings allow for a joined up approach to resolving the issue making use of all the public sectors resources.

The youth and adult meetings tend to be individual related, we have separated them because different agencies are involved with the different cohorts referred into each group. The referral process relies on all agencies working together to identify the right intervention at the right time.

In the case of Youth ASB the CSP looks to provide access to diversional activities of interest to a wide range of young people within the community and works with partners such as Our Lancashire to identify and promote these activities to the wider community. The CSP also supports its partners in providing more bespoke activities for children identified as actively engaging in, or a risk of engaging in ASB, with recent examples being the Your Choice Programme offered by Child Youth Justice which provided a 6 week programme of physical activity combined with education around key topics in a secondary school setting. A further example is the current boxing programme being piloted by the Council's Community Safety Team and the Children and Family Wellbeing Service, which has provided weekly boxing tuition to a handful of children identified as being of most concern within the Fleetwood area.

More routine tools for tackling ASB include the likes of mediation which is used by the partnership wherever possible to bring about early and effective resolution to cases of ASB particularly in the case of neighbour disputes, empowering people to work together to resolve their own problems. Solutions offered by the parties themselves enable them to remain in control of any outcomes and we know from experience that solutions derived via mediation are often more successful in the long term. By working together the CSP ensures that where informal intervention fails, the full range of legislative powers are considered when identifying the most appropriate and effective means to resolve the most serious cases of ASB. This involves the use of both the ASB tools

and powers made available by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014, in addition to more traditional powers available in wider legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Statutory Nuisance). By working together to share evidence and agree actions the partnership seeks to bring about swift relief to those impacted by ASB and to ensure that any solutions identified are effective and long term. Partners support one another in taking action and achieving desirable outcomes, ensuring that any available evidence is shared. A good example of this is the sharing of noise evidence collected by the Council's Environmental Protection Team with Social Housing Providers to enable them to secure Civil Injunctions or evictions against problematic tenants whose continued behaviour impacts adversely on those living within close proximity.

Location based ASB is usually about a location which is being targeted and it is about trying to design out the anti-social behaviour and gathering evidence to determine who is responsible so they can be referred into either the youth or adult ASB group as appropriate. In seeking solutions to address ASB the partnership works to ensure that the needs of the community as a whole are considered as well as the needs of the individual victims affected. This is particularly the case in respects to location-based ASB in which many of the identified solutions can restrict access and use of the land not only to the perpetrators but also to the wider community. The partnership always seeks to identify and consider the wider implications of any solutions identified, ensuring that wherever possible the opinions of the local community are sought and a graduated plan of action put in place, with any low cost, easy to implement, and least impacting options on the local community trialled and tested first, with more costly and restrictive options reserved for use where absolutely necessary. Tools such as social media and Lancashire talking are critical in assisting in this process.

Wyre very much sees the Youth ASB group as a crucial part of the long term aim of reducing violence in Wyre. Some of the children presenting in this group have suffered a number of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experience) in their very short life. What we want to do is get them support, but recognise that they are also doing harm in the community. This means we provide a graduated approach to enforcement starting at antisocial behaviour contracts, use of civil powers all the way to criminal alongside appropriate support to try and change behaviour away from its current trajectory.

In addition the Pan Lancashire violence reduction network have recognised that this is a particular problem in Fleetwood and are in the process of undertaking a year long pilot specific to Fleetwood working with schools in the area to identify children displaying behaviours likely to escalate into anti-social behaviour if left unchecked, before they do, and put in place a support package to try and change those behaviours and consequently reduce anti-social behaviour.

There will be some overlap between the two groups and the aim is for the two groups is to work side by side, with the youth ASB group only becoming involved once a child is causing harm in the community.

2. Domestic Violence –

As reported last year a domestic homicide review was undertaken during the course of last year and a report has been produced and submitted to the Home office. Once the report has satisfied quality assurance checks the report will be published in full. Once agreed the Community Safety Partnership will seek to implement the

recommendations made within the report and raise awareness of the recommendations throughout Lancashire.

In Wyre Domestic violence has increased over the last 12 months and therefore we are in the process of developing and running 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. As part of this project no excuse for abuse posters were distributed around our licensed premises before Christmas and we In addition we also supported the 16 days of action for white ribbon which again is about making it socially unacceptable to be abusive. Prior to Christmas In addition action was taken to raise awareness of spiking within our licenced establishments.

Wyre Council along with other local authorities has made an annual financial contribution towards Victim Support and receives from them quarterly reports as to the number of Wyre residents receiving support and the extent of such support. This information is then passed on to the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is available for the CSP.

In December 2021 before a full council meeting a representative of Lancashire County Council provided a briefing on the services commissioned by the County Council, Neil Greenwood from Wyre Council outlined the role of a District Authority and a representative from Victim serviced commissioned provided a briefing on the role they provide to victims of domestic abuse, raising awareness of the issues associated with this work.

In addition we also supported the 16 days of action for white ribbon which again is about making it socially unacceptable to be abusive.

During the last Community Safety quarterly meeting Lancashire County Council advised that they are planning to deliver appropriate relationship presentations within secondary school students. It is hoped that by doing this work we can start to make domestic abuse just as socially unacceptable as drink driving.

3. Violence Reduction / Alcohol related crime

In Wyre Domestic violence is a significant element of violent crime and so item 2 is also relevant for violent crime.

During the course of this year a strategic assessment and a District profile has been undertaken and this has high-lighted that Pharos ward in Fleetwood has a higher proportion of violent crime than other wards within the Borough.

As reported within item 1, the serious violence reduction network has already recognised this issue and are in the process of setting up a year long pilot to identify behaviours in young people which are likely to escalate to anti-social behaviour and beyond and putting in place support packages to try and prevent the escalation of their behaviour.

The impact of the pilot will be reviewed at the end of the project but if successful this is seen as key strategy in reducing crime long term.

As stated alcohol appears to play a significant part in violence and so the CSP is currently looking to implement a Community Alcohol Partnership within the Town of

Fleetwood as a means of tackling increasing concerns about the number of young people (particularly those under the age of 18yrs) consuming alcohol on a regular basis, often in public places, which significantly increases their risk of harm and exploitation and increases the impact of their behaviour on the local community. It is intended that the CAP will enhance the existing multi-agency work of the CSP and will enable the partnership to focus on one of the main route causes of harm contributing directly to a wide range of community safety concerns including ASB, domestic violence and physical and verbal assaults. It is intended that the CAP will seek to make positive change via a combination of education, enforcement of Challenge 25, engagement of the community and local businesses, and provision of appropriate diversional activities for young people. It is therefore considered that the CAP will complement and build on the existing good work of the partnership including the recent renewal and extension of the Public Space Protection Order for Alcohol Related ASB.

It is hoped that the Lancashire County Council commissioned services, We are with you (Children Substance Misuse service) & CGL (Adult Substance misuse service) will be key partners within CAP going forward, building on the really good work they do to help individuals recover from addiction.

4 Road Safety

The pan Lancashire reduction partnership is in the process of being reviewed and consequently there have not been any recent meetings of the group attended by Wyre CSP representatives. However this is a priority of the new Police and crime commissioner and we welcome that the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner will be chairing the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

The Community safety partnership here at Wyre will endeavour to support this process during 2022.

- 5. CCTV** –During the course of the year the information technology team improved 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. During the course of the year we will produce a business case to develop a capital scheme to convert the cameras to digital.

Town centre CCTV remains an extremely valuable tool and the annual report on Wyre Council Web site provide a valuable insight into the work of the team, providing a number of case studies where CCTV has assisted the police and will be a key tool in seeking to reduce violence.

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/file/1309/2020-2021-wyre-cctv-report>

- 6. 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.

Other Community Safety Work awareness raising Communication campaigns

7. In the run up to Christmas the team engaged with the Councils Communications team to develop a social media campaign around, "Have you forgotten something." Which was aimed at reminding people to lock up their belongings, with the aim of discouraging opportunistic burglaries. At the same time Wyre and police communication teams provided advice to parents on the legalities of E-Scooter use on the run up to Christmas. The aim was to point out that E scooters are currently banned on public roads and pathways and can only be used on private roads thereby limiting their use.