

Annual Community Safety Report – 2022 – (January to December)

SCOPE

Research and analysis for this document has been focused on the local priority areas and significant threats. Data has been obtained from Lancashire Constabulary systems from the period 00:00 hrs 1st January 2022 through 23:59 hrs 31st December 2022. Data is as at 10th January 2023.

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

- Overall crime volumes have been stable, increasing by 0.3%.
- Violence against the person volumes have been stable, decreased by 0.7%.
- Domestic abuse has fallen by 5%.
- Alcohol related crime has increased by 11%.
- ASB has fallen by 25%, likely driven by the removal of Covid 19 restrictions in 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.*

	Jan - Dec 2021	Jan - Dec 2022	Difference	
Categories	Actuals	Actuals	Numeric	Percentage
All Crimes	7,319	7,338	19	0.3%
Violence Against The Person	3,307	3,283	-24	-0.7%
Theft	1,155	1,354	199	17.2%
Arson And Criminal Damage	916	807	-109	-11.9%
Public Order Offences	517	490	-27	-5.2%
Vehicle Offences	376	292	-84	-22.3%
Burglary	372	367	-5	-1.3%
Sexual Offences	258	281	23	8.9%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	184	185	1	0.5%
Drug Offences	140	168	28	20.0%
Possession Of Weapons	61	86	25	41.0%
Robbery	33	25	-8	-24.2%
Domestic Abuse	1,397	1,322	-75	-5.4%
Alcohol Related Crime	701	777	76	10.8%
Hate Crime	95	88	-7	-7.4%
ASB	4,472	2,945	-1527	-34.1%

In terms of overall crime levels they have increased by 0.3%, indicating that the crime levels have stabilised at pre pandemic levels as reported last year.

In terms of violence against the person there has been 0.7% decrease, of these offences, within this category there has been 10% reduction in serious violence against the person, there has been a 7% reduction in Domestic Assaults, but there has been a 45% increase in stalking related crime. In Wyre 17% of Violence against the person crimes across Wyre were alcohol related representing a 1% increase from last year, but in Pharos ward this increased 22% 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, 12% (230/1927) of assaults were alcohol related.

Unfortunately there has been a 20% increase in drug offences and a 40% increase in the possession of weapons reported as compared to last year, however this is in part due to focused work being undertaken by the constabulary aimed at disrupting organised crime. This has meant there has been an increase

in warrants to search properties of interest within the Borough, which has revealed an increase in the possession of weapons offenses being detected. This ongoing focus is seen as an important aspect of reducing violence within the Borough by taking these weapons out of the system. It is also worth highlighting that these weapons can be handed in anomalously by placing in the knife bin located on London Street in Fleetwood.

Domestic abuse is 2% less than last year but still represents 22% of all crime reported and remains a priority for the partnership. Alcohol related crimes has also increased by 10.8% on the previous year indicating that the consumption of alcohol remains a significant causal factor. In respects to Domestic abuse 21% of Domestic abuse assaults with injury were alcohol related.

There has been an overall 34% reduction in anti-social behaviour reported over the course of 2022 representing a reduction of 1527 reported incidents. This has been repeated across all of Lancashire with a reduction in the region of a quarter to a third which has been attributed to all covid 19 restrictions coming to an end in August 2021.

Wyre Council - Community Safety Partnership Work 2022

Anti Social Behaviour

1. As reported in 2022 Wyre Council continues to hold and co-ordinate 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 operation of the various multi agency groups remains as reported in the previous year and is still seen as important control mechanism.

In the case of Youth ASB, during 2022 the Councils Overview and Scrutiny committee undertook a deep delve into how the community safety partnership works together to address Youth Anti-Social behaviour. A report has subsequently been produced by the committee and the recommendations of the report will be reported at the next Community Safety meeting with a view to implementing the recommendations made.

In last year's report the Pan Lancashire violence reduction network had recognised Fleetwood as a hot spot area where children were being exploited for criminal purposes. Part of the network's response was to undertake a year long pilot 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. To achieve this a Multi-Agency Support Partnership (MASP) was set up in Fleetwood and although early days it is already seen as a model that could be adopted in other areas.

Practically one of the major findings of the pilot here in Fleetwood was the value of youth champions program which had been commissioned by the Violence reduction network. These Youth Champions program provide ongoing mentoring to children identified by the MASP. The work of the MASP partnership has also identified a gap in the system in that the parents of the children identified often need support and mentoring themselves. Whilst there is no funding available at present to extend the youth champions program in this way it remains an ambition when funding allows.

When considering anti-social behaviour there is always a tendency to focus on youth related anti-social behaviour, but of the 2945 anti-social behaviour incidents reported only 309 were youth related representing only 22% of the total reports. Therefore the vast majority of anti-social behaviour is committed by adults and a significant proportion of those will be the result of inter neighbour disputes. Where an inter neighbour dispute occurs they tend to be long running lasting a long periods of time, and are often never fully resolved. They often result in both parties complaining about the behaviour of the other and therefore each dispute can result in numerous reports. As a result inter neighbour disputes are very time consuming for both the police and Wyre Council and they can easily escalate into more serious offences.

These disputes are also very damaging to the mental health of the individuals involved as they often spend significant periods of time obsessing about their dispute. During the pandemic there appeared to be an increase in the impact of these disputes, possibly because opportunities for respite were reduced during this period. Therefore during the summer of 2022 Wyre Council utilised COMF (Covid 19 funding) to procure and appoint an independent mediation firm to undertake mediation in ten of the most challenging inter-neighbour disputes within Wyre. In addition this firm will be used to train and upskill our own workforce to continue to offer mediation to resolve issues in the community. It is hoped that by offering mediation we will be able to reduce demand on both Wyre Council and the Police by bringing about early and effective resolution to the cases of ASB.

2. Domestic Violence –

In last year report overview and scrutiny were informed that a domestic homicide review had been undertaken during the course of the previous year and a report had been produced and submitted to the Home office. The report eventually satisfied quality assurance checks but was not published in full, due to the wishes of the family. Nevertheless the action from the report have been actioned by all the agencies involved. There has since been a further domestic homicide which the Community Safety Partnership have agreed to review. In this case the review has been paused whilst criminal proceedings are investigated.

In Wyre Domestic violence has reduced over the last 12 months by 2% however there was still 1322 offences representing 22% of all crime, therefore we will continue utilising the no excuse for abuse campaign material to raise awareness of the crime.

Wyre Council along with other local authorities continue to make 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.

Lancashire County Council during the course of 2022 commissioned the delivery relationship presentations within secondary school students which is now being implemented. It is hoped that by doing this work we can start to make domestic abuse even more socially unacceptable as drink driving.

3. Violence Reduction / Alcohol related crime

I reported last year that during 2022 it was likely that the government would introduce a new statutory duty to reduce serious violence. This has now been introduced and in the last quarter guidance has been received on how the duty will be implemented providing a timescale for action and puts prevention of violence on an equal footing. It supports the view that violence and its reduction needs to be treated as a public health function.

Lancashire has been fortunate in that the Home Office has supported a violence reduction network in this area for several years. As a result a pan Lancashire violence reduction strategy and needs assessment has already been completed for the area. However the guidance also requires community safety partnerships to address this issue.

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

During the course of 2023 Wyre Community Safety partnership will need to produce an action plan on how they intend to contribute to this new statutory

duty. It is however fair to say that many of the actions already being undertaken by the partnership will formulate that action plan and work has already started on this task.

It has been reported that alcohol continues to play a significant part in violent crime and therefore the Community Safety Partnership introduced a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) 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. The co-ordination of the CAP will be identified as an action within the Violence Reduction Action Plan but will in itself generate its own specific action plan.

4 Road Safety

During the course of 2022 Wyre Council started to formulate a project working with partners specifically the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service to initially identify a co-hort of individuals involved in vehicle related anti-social behaviour. Fire and Rescue Service would then deliver the wasted lives program to this co-hort. It is hoped that the hard hitting wasted lives program will impact on the behaviour of the identified co-hort and subsequently improve road safety for other users.

- 5. CCTV –** During the course of 2022 a business case was developed to replace the ageing analogue CCTV cameras to digital CCTV cameras. As a result we were able to procure an independent Consultant to consider the entire CCTV system and produce a bronze, silver and gold option for the replacement of the cameras. This report has been produced and a decision will be made on the future of the CCTV system.

In preparation the project has been included in the UK SPF fund which should provide significant funding to enable the project to go ahead.

It is hoped that the project will be agreed and implemented within the calendar year of 2023 but is reliant on sufficient funding being available to complete the entire project.

- 6. New Statutory duties –** It is likely that a new statutory duty will be introduced during the course of the Parliament placing an explicit duty on Public Bodies to protect the public from Terrorist attack known as Martins Law following the Manchester Arena attack.

This duty is heavily linked to the Prevent duty that was introduced in 2015 which places a duty on Local Authorities and other agencies to identify

individuals at risk of being radicalised and intervening before they have undertaken terrorist activity.

The Protect duty is about identifying high risk sites and mitigating the risk as far as possible. Whilst Lancashire Local authorities have been working with police colleagues for some time, it is likely that the way we currently undertake this role may be amended 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 Council Licensing team paid for a trained drug detector dog to visit with the assistance of police colleagues all licensed premises in Poulton and Fleetwood. This action received support from the licensing trade and members of the public alike and is something that the partnership will endeavour to repeat.