

NOTE OF THE STRATEGIC SCRUTINY MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 2 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE

Attendance

Mr C Grunshaw – Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr A Rhodes – Chief Constable

Mr T Woods – Deputy Chief Constable

Mr I Dawson – Chief Superintendent

Mr I Cosh – Director of Resources

Mrs A Harrison – Director, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr S Freeman – Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr D Rogers – Head of Finance

Mr I Dickinson – Governance and Policing Lead, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr A Brown – Research and Policy Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Note of the meeting held on 3 September 2020.

The notes from meeting held on the 3 September were confirmed as a correct record.

Performance Report

The Police and Crime Commissioner received a report setting out the Constabulary's in year performance for the financial year 2020/21.

With regards recorded crime the Chief Constable advised the Commissioner that the Constabulary was tracking the impact of Covid on crime and crime types. It was noted that there was a significant reduction in crime during the first lockdown particularly in relation to acquisitive crime.

It was noted that the recording of Covid-19 breaches had had a significant impact on ASB figures with around 15,000 ASB markers applied including environmental, nuisance or 'personal' including in retail premises.

The Commissioner raised the issue of reporting of shopworker abuse citing figures from the shop workers' trade union, USDAW around the under reporting of abuse and of a disconnect between the severity of incidents and police response.

Action - It was agreed that the Chief Constable would take the USDAW report, look at what has been raised and find from Lancashire Constabulary Data what reports are coming through from shops about abuse of staff.

Homicide

It was noted that homicide levels were reported as being down in comparison with 2019.

Road Policing

With regards to road traffic incidents, the Commissioner noted that the number of killed and seriously injured was down significantly, mainly due to there being less traffic on roads due to travel restrictions during the first lockdown.

Stop and Search

The Commissioner was updated on stop and search figures. Statistics showed that a greater proportion of searches in the East of the county were conducted on individuals from an Asian ethnicity. This also correlated with the proportionality of Covid FPN's issued.

Domestic Abuse

The Commissioner was advised that in relation to domestic abuse that there was no indication of a suppression of numbers with incidents being dealt with.

RASSO

On RASSO, it was noted that the introduction of a RASSO coordinator was having a positive impact on progressing cases and that reporting at LCJB level showed positive relationships with the CPS.

Modern Slavery

The Commissioner received an update on modern day slavery cases. It was noted that these cases were often complex and taking them through to completion took time. The Commissioner heard how the different types of modern slavery cases were presenting across the county including labour exploitation, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.

The Commissioner queried what impact Covid-19 had on these areas, it was suggested that organised criminal gangs had adapted to the circumstances and had moved activity to other areas where there was demand including cannabis cultivation and agricultural work.

Hate Crime

The Commissioner received an update on hate crime, and it was noted that there had been an increase of 49 offences when comparing the same quarter in 2019. It was suggested that this was in part attributable to community tensions around covid-19 and the perception of some communities not following rules.

HMICFRS

It was noted that the timeframes for the next PEEL inspection from HMICFRS were discussed with May 2022 being the expected date at which HMICFRS were expected to conduct the on-site inspection the Constabulary. The fieldwork and data requirements would be undertaken throughout 2020.

Contact Management

The Commissioner received a report on the development and performance of the Contact Management Department of Lancashire Constabulary for the period July to September 2020.

It was noted that engagement had taken place between Constabulary and Police Staff Networks around changes to workplace arrangements in response to Covid and that there had been no negative feedback over Covid safety.

It was noted that 999 demand had increased in Q2 whilst 101 demand had decreased in the same time period.

The Commissioner heard how there had been an increase in digital demand and that there were opportunities in the refreshed digital engagement strategy.

The Commissioner heard how the switch to ESN remained the primary risk to contact management capability.

It was noted that the move to pod working had been impacted by Covid and it would be some time before full benefits are realised however there had been positive improvements.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place at 10am on the 17 February 2021 via teleconference.

PART II – PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

The following matter were discussed in private as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Police Enforcement

The Commissioner received an update from the Chief Constable in relation to the Constabulary's Enforcement Plan.

It was noted that Lancashire Constabulary had submitted a costed Covid Enforcement Plan in response to the letter sent to forces by Director General Patricia Hayes on the 16th October and had been allocated £763,000 from a total fund of £40 million provided for Policing for dedicated enforcement and engagement with specific areas of funding allocation identified.

The approach in Lancashire had been to follow the four Es: Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce. The focus is now on enforcement and flagrant breaches of the regulations will attract fines.

Lancashire moved to Tier 3 on Friday 16th October and an increased response to the level of enforcement and engagement which was required was implemented at that time. The areas covered for this additional resourcing are outlined below and weekly updates on this enforcement and engagement response are provided to the Chief Officer Team.

- Force Control Room – Management of self-isolation enforcement, data sharing and protocols for test and trace
- Response and Local policing dedicated resourcing for engagement and enforcement
- Criminal Justice support for delivery of enforcement activity
- Media and Engagement - Development and strengthening of Communications plans
- Legal Support to delivery of enforcement activity
- Multi agency enforcement activity, targeted action to ensure compliance with new licensing restrictions, engagement with Local Authority enforcement and information officers

The Commissioner was advised that, as at the 3rd November 2020, Lancashire Constabulary was in the top 10 forces for issuing fixed penalty notices (FPN). However, in order to provide assurance, a random sample of COVID FPNs was scrutinised at the Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel on the 26 October, the findings were positive overall with the FPN's being assessed as being issued appropriately in the circumstances.

FPN data was discussed and it was noted that 872 fines were issued under the Covid-19 regulations. The majority of these were issued in April and May. The payment rate for fines stood at 44%. A qualitative analysis of fines removed around 200 fines issued as it was thought that they would not meet the evidential test.

It was noted that a greater number of fines had been issued to males aged 18-30 years and in the East of the county.

Angela Harrison
Director