

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021 AT 1.00PM IN CABINET ROOM B, COUNTY HALL,
PRESTON**

NOTE

PRESENT

Andrew Snowden - Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Rowley - Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary

IN ATTENDANCE

Angela Harrison - Ian Cosh – Director of Resources
Terry Wood – Deputy Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Ian Dawson – Chief Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary
Steve Freeman – Chief Finance Officer
Dan Rogers – Head of Finance, Lancashire Constabulary
Ian Dickinson - Standards and Governance Officer, Office of Police and Crime
Commissioner

NOTE AND ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

The Police and Crime Commissioner was pleased to note that all the actions identified at the last meeting had either been completed or ongoing and no actions were outstanding.

PERFORMANCE

The Commissioner was advised that in the year to the end of March 2021, recorded crime levels were substantially lower than for the same period in 2019/20 (-16%; from 142,374 – 2019/20 to 119,515 – 2020/21). It was noted that the Chief Constable would usually expect crime to fluctuate by 1-3% in a normal year however the latest performance levels were in line with national trends which have followed since the pandemic and associated restrictions began.

It was noted that this trend continued when comparing the latest quarter's figures, with the quarter 4 last year (2019/20) across almost all crime types. Three crime categories buck this trend, but to a lesser degree than at the last update - drugs offences (17% increase; +117), possession of weapons (+7%; +18) and miscellaneous crimes against society (+6%; +44).

National and regional figures to end of March 2021 show that annual change to all recorded crime in Lancashire (-16%) is tracking slightly above figures for all England and Wales (-13%), for the North West region (-12%) and for our Most Similar Group (-14%).

The Chief Constable advised the Commissioner that Anti-Social behaviour was tracking above 2019/20 levels which was largely driven by breaches in COVID-19

restrictions.

The Commissioner noted that there had been 195,562 calls presented to the FCR (January to March inclusive) compared to 232,605 in the same period of 2020, a reduction of 16%. Further, in this period, the number of average calls received per day had however increased from 2,005 January 2021 to 2,364 March 2021.

It was noted that the service level for 999s at the end of March was 90.5% and for 101s was 63.1%, compared to 87.8% and 51.3% respectively for the same period last year. Abandonment rates for the period were 0.6% for 999s (static vs. prior year) and 10.4% for 101s (21.8% prior year).

It was agreed that whilst the current performance target for 999 calls and the call abandonment rate was relevant it was agreed to discuss the performance target for answering 101 call at a future meeting.

A discussion ensued in relation to the introduction of the National Performance Measures which were seen as social issues impacting across a number of Departments rather than simply police targets. Mindful of the measures it was agreed that it was important to focus on victims through both outcomes and problem solving by officers. In conclusion, the Commissioner stressed that it was important that police officers should be used for their intended purpose as part of a more visible policing plan.

The Chief Constable advised that Domestic Abuse (DA) crime increased by 11% for the 12 months (+2149 crimes) to the end of March 2021. In the last quarter of 2020/21, levels of DA crime continued to track slightly above levels for the previous year and since March, a clear increase was evident. This was in line with both national DA trends and wider recorded crime trends since lockdown restrictions started to ease.

In response the Commissioner was keen to explore different approaches to towards breaking the cycle of domestic abuse and helping those caught up in domestic abuse at future meetings.

(A copy of the report is set out on the Commissioner's website.)

COVID-19 DEMAND AND RESPONSE

The Commissioner received an update in relation to the Constabulary's response to the Covid-19 demand.

It was noted that the Constabulary had consistently deployed to 45-50% of all COVID-related incidents and implemented COVID response cars in each BCU, in line with the enforcement plan and supported by government funding.

(A copy of the report is set out on the Commissioner's website.)

HMICFRS

The Commissioner received an update in relation to the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspections activity, publication of reports, Causes of Concern, Recommendations and Areas for Improvement (AFIs) for Lancashire Constabulary.

In noting the report, the Commissioner welcomed the reduction in the number of AFIs.

(A copy of the report is set out on the Commissioner's website.)

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Update

The Commissioner received an update in relation to activity and the progress being made by Lancashire Constabulary in relation to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI).

(A copy of the report is set out on the Commissioner's website.)

Mrs A Harrison

Director