

LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 – 2023





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FOREWORD

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

My second year in Office has gone by as quickly as the first, and what a twelve months it's been, as I deliver on my Police and Crime Plan, take the fight to criminals and work to make Lancashire a safer place.



“It has been a busy year with progress being made across the county, delivering on what I set out to achieve when I became Commissioner back in 2021.”

Andrew Snowden



I'm grateful for the support I receive from the Chief Constable, his senior leadership team, and police officers and staff throughout Lancashire Constabulary, who continue to impress me with their drive and dedication to protect the public and put criminals behind bars. I am also delighted at the strengthening relationships with other partners, as we work together to keep our communities safe.

It has been a busy year with progress being made across the county, delivering on what I set out to achieve when I became Commissioner back in 2021.

In Lancashire, we surpassed our target for officer recruitment through the Government's Police Uplift Programme and, when combined with officers recruited with support from the Council Tax Precept, this means we have 612 additional officers, either about to start training, already in training, or out on our streets.

These officers have been crucial in our ability to deliver the police service that you deserve and keep the promises I made when elected.

One of my commitments was to ensure every area had its own

dedicated neighbourhood policing team. The previous 'hybrid' model that existed in some areas meant that officers had to do two jobs at once, acting as instant response for incidents, whilst also being expected to provide the proactive, community focused policing that neighbourhood officers need to carry out.

I was delighted in March 2023, after years of work and progress, the final piece in the jigsaw was completed as the Ribble Valley received a new, proactive and dedicated neighbourhood team. This was one of five areas in total to see this investment, alongside a return to 24/7 response policing based at Clitheroe Police Station.

This has helped the Constabulary to get tough on anti-social behaviour, with these neighbourhood officers best placed to act on local issues and the unique challenges faced in different areas. I'm pleased that from Summer 2023, officers will also be supported by the new proactive Anti-social Behaviour, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command. This ensures the Constabulary and partners are involved at the earliest possible point, which was a key feature

of my ASB summits which brought together over 150 people from across local government, education, housing, and other sectors to discuss next steps and best practice.

All this work will be enhanced and supported with an extra £2m from Government over the next two years after Lancashire was selected as a trailblazing hotspot policing pilot through the ASB Action Plan.

Another key priority we have made great strides forward in, is disrupting and dismantling organised crime. The launch of Operation Warrior is driving increased activity to bring offenders to justice and encourage the public to provide vital intelligence, through the anonymous reporting organisation Crimestoppers.

Organised crime gangs are a threat to communities and blight our neighbourhoods through drug dealing, violence and anti-social behaviour. Our dedicated teams are using every tactic at our disposal to hunt down offenders, putting them behind bars and taking their ill-gotten gains.

We have used cash seized through the proceeds of crime to invest back into Lancashire, with almost £500k being put into community projects and innovative ways of working to deter crime and address local concerns. I have visited a wide range of different projects in areas across the county, all making a difference to the people who live there.

During the last twelve months there has been much work and results tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence with the newly formed Rape and Serious Sexual Assault (RASSO) teams, bolstered with 45 officers funded through my Office, putting offenders behind bars and delivering better results for victims. I also brought together senior leaders working across the domestic abuse and sexual violence space as part of delivering a joined-up approach across the county.

I have been pleased to see progress in cracking down on burglary and robbery, with residential burglary down 4% and Operation Defender focusing particularly on hot spot areas and repeat offenders. I have also engaged with businesses on crime affecting them, from shoplifting through to online cyber fraud.

It has been another year of addressing concerns on our roads and targeting those who drive dangerously, putting themselves and others at risk. The response to Operation Snap in particular, with members of the public submitting dashcam video footage, continues to be a huge success and is playing an important part in capturing incidents that may otherwise be missed.



All this work is backed by huge investment into policing infrastructure, which is starting to take shape, with a new base in Chorley, utilising the former base for Runshaw College in the area, plans submitted for the overhaul of Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters in South Ribble, revised plans for a new Pendle Police Station and other infrastructure investments ongoing or soon to come.

It continues to be a privilege to serve as your Police and Crime Commissioner, and I will continue to work hard to deliver value for money, state-of-the-art, proactive policing that the people of Lancashire expect and deserve.

Andrew Snowden

Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

2022/2023 has been a year of significant operational challenges, but the commitment, hard work and professionalism of the police officers and police staff in Lancashire Constabulary has continued.



“ Whilst there is a clear focus on serious criminality, in the last twelve months Lancashire has been one of a small number of forces nationally who have seen a reduction in all crime reported. Year to date this equates to 1,800 less victims of crime. ”



I am extremely proud that Lancashire Constabulary has supported local and national policing operations including London Bridge following the death of her Majesty the Queen, the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the return of the Conservative Party Conference to Blackpool.

Officer numbers have continued to increase and representation during recruitment this year has been amongst the highest in the country, with 50 per cent of the new entrants female and over 10 per cent BAME. The success of the campaign has resulted in the Home Office highlighting Lancashire’s approach to recruitment during the Police Uplift Programme as best practice.

His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (HMICFRS PEEL) Inspection was undertaken in 2022. To ensure that the Constabulary delivered the required standards across all areas, an intense programme of development activity was put in place. Under pressure staff and officers within the Force delivered to tight timescales, and made

significant improvements resulting in one of the best PEEL reports in the country.

The whole organisation continues to be dedicated and committed to victim focussed solutions and outcomes. We continue to deliver against our joint ambition to lead the fight against crime and protect the safety of our communities. This has included a 20% reduction in ASB, a 4% reduction in residential burglaries, an 18% reduction in Personal Robbery. Following the introduction of the dedicated Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Teams, 96% of all rapes are now allocated to specialist RASSO or Child Protection team, an increase of over 40%. We have seen an increase in Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA) referrals ensuring victims get the right support from our partner agencies and victim contact records are completed in a timely and effective manner, ensuring victims are kept up to date. The teams have provided a significant improvement in the time taken to submit a file to Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and have halved the time it was taking prior to the dedicated teams.

To tackle established criminality, we have Launched Operation Warrior, a force-wide approach to tackling Serious and Organised Criminality. This sees designated lead officers responsible for driving tasking internally, and a media campaign to raise awareness linked to Crimestoppers for the public to report relevant intelligence. Intelligence based tasking ensures that criminal behaviour is targeted consistently and in a co-ordinated way to reduce harm in our communities and ensure offenders are brought to justice. Whilst there is a clear focus on serious criminality, in the last twelve months Lancashire has been one of a small number of forces nationally who have seen a reduction in all crime reported. Year to date this equates to 1,800 less victims of crime.

To ensure that officers and staff can focus on these key priority areas, I committed to reducing demand on our services. Lancashire Constabulary adopted Right Care Right Person (RCRP) which is now seen as national best practice and is being supported by the College of Policing who are overseeing its roll out across England and Wales. The benefits

of RCRP are wide ranging both for the Constabulary and service users. A question set allows the call taker to identify callers who would be better served by contacting partner agencies direct. This process removes the unnecessary deployment of officers, creating additional capacity so that officers can spend more time improving the quality of their interactions with victims, and enhancing investigation standards. It is estimated 4278 hours of officer time has already been released by signposting service users to lead agencies and not deploying police officers unnecessarily. The Constabulary is also seeing a reduction in calls for service as partners and the public become more comfortable with calling the appropriate lead agency in the first instance instead of defaulting to call the Police.

Finally, I want to highlight the excellent ongoing work by staff to the communities of Lancashire. They can be proud that this has resulted in the Crime Survey for England and Wales showing a confidence rating in Lancashire Constabulary of 71%, I am very pleased that this is above the National Average of 69%. We will continue to strive to develop the confidence of our communities, and this will remain a priority.

Chris Rowley

Chief Constable



YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS



APRIL 2022

- Operation Snap’s success continues with action taken against over half of submitted dangerous driving cases, with the public helping to tackle dangerous driving.

JUNE 2022

- The new Lancashire Police Museum, housed in a former prison wing of the historic Lancaster Castle, officially opens to the public.
- Operation Propulsion launched to tackle motor-nuisance in Lancashire

AUGUST 2022

- Waterfoot front counter reopens to the public
- Return to traditional police headwear announced

OCTOBER 2022

- His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (HMICFRS) report shows Lancashire Constabulary is one of the best in the country

DECEMBER 2022

- Lancashire leaders united to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG)
- New £75million overhaul of Lancashire Police’s main base announced for Chorley, alongside plans for

FEBRUARY 2023

- Commissioner sets out budget proposals to prioritise frontline policing.
- Commissioning independent review of Nicola Bulley missing from home investigation

MAY 2022

- Deputy PCC visits Westminster to lobby for quicker justice for victims of crime

JULY 2022

- 24/7 response policing returned to Leyland
- Welcomed £900K Safer Streets Funding

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Op Defender launched, to crack down on residential burglary, target prolific offenders and support those most vulnerable.

NOVEMBER 2022

- Op Warrior launched to fight organised crime across Lancashire

JANUARY 2023

- ASB summits across Lancashire bringing together partners to strengthen the response to ASB in local communities

MARCH 2023

- Dedicated NHP team for Ribble Valley



YEAR IN NUMBERS

612 more police officers fighting crime day in and day out.

Over £200K given out in the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods fund to help equip communities to take a stand against crime.

Police front counters open to the public at the heart of every borough area.

Dedicated neighbourhood policing teams for every inch of Lancashire, backed up by task forces, to ensure law and order is maintained on our streets.

Investment in Op Warrior to relentlessly disrupt and dismantle criminal gangs – **17 gang suspects arrested every single week**

Three dedicated rape and serious sexual assault teams





POLICE & CRIME PLAN PROGRESS

GETTING TOUGH ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

There has been significant progress in getting tough on anti-social behaviour (ASB) with a focus on Neighbourhood Policing (NHP) improving engagement; partnership-working; and targeting those issues and people who cause the most harm in our communities.



I have also focused on strengthening partnerships between the broad number of organisations who have different but vital roles in addressing ASB concerns and ensuring the public feel safe.

I continue to support Lancashire Constabulary in doing whatever we can to address what is all too often a blight on our communities.

2022/23 Highlights Anti-Social Behaviour Survey

In July 2022 I launched my Lancashire-wide anti-social behaviour survey to get a full picture of the scale and types of anti-social behaviour (ASB), to identify hotspots and to look at how the police and local partners can work better together to get tough on ASB and to keep local communities safe.

Results from the survey were independently evaluated and shared with partners through Lancashire's Community Safety Partnerships to form a joined-up response to tackling anti-social behaviour across the county.

Survey results showed that 27 per cent of residents have witnessed ASB in the past 12 months, while 39 per cent have been directly affected by anti-social behaviour.

Most incidents of ASB occur close to residents' own homes with 42 per cent occurring at people's home address or on their street and 23 per cent within a 15-minute walk of where they live.

Intimidating behaviour, verbal abuse and drug dealing were reported as some of the top concerns for residents across the county.

The full survey insights formed a key part of a series of ASB summits I held to tackle the issue across Lancashire in a joint-up partnership approach.

Anti-Social Behaviour Summits

Throughout January 2023, I held three anti-social behaviour (ASB) summits across the county, strengthening the partnership response that is needed to deter and prevent the type of behaviour we too often see on our streets and communities.

175 delegates from agencies including Police, Local Authorities, Education, Housing Associations and local MPs attended to discuss the different ways individual partners help tackle the blight of ASB.

Alongside supporting the policing response, increases in partnership working are needed to feel the benefit from the hundreds of additional officers being put on our streets. We heard about some great examples of proactive, partnership working that has made communities safer.

These events are helping us build a clearer picture of how I can continue getting tough on anti-social behaviour and ensure that we all play our part in making Lancashire safer and our residents feel safer.

Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan Pilot

In March 2023 I welcomed the Government's ASB Action Plan announcement which saw Lancashire benefit from £2m to pilot new ways of addressing anti-social behaviour and tackle hot spots.

Lancashire was one of only 10 forces chosen for extra funding following my extensive talks with MPs, Ministers and national bodies on ideas to address ASB and help me deliver my fighting crime plan priority to get tough on anti-social behaviour and stop the blight on our communities, ruining lives and risking escalation.

20%

Reduction in ASB incidents compared with last year

220%

Increase in problem oriented policing plans – leading to increased and effective partnership-based problem-solving initiatives.

16%

Of all eligible Lancashire residents subscribed to our neighbourhood alerts and messaging system, Lancashire Talking – almost 106,000 users

71%

Of those asked reported having confidence in Lancashire Police according to the latest Crime Service England & Wales results; 2% higher than the overall figure for England and Wales

271

Civil orders issued to target ASB hotspot locations and persistent individuals; 11% more than were issued in the previous 12 months

The boost means increased, visible police patrols, dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour and the issues that matter most to people.

It is vital for community confidence that these crimes will be quickly and visibly addressed. Wherever in Lancashire people live, they should be able to feel proud of their community.

Operation Propulsion

Lancashire Constabulary launched a new operation to deal with motor-nuisance related incidents in the county following my call to get tough on anti-social behaviour.

This included the use of motorbikes, mopeds, scrambler bikes and quad bikes causing general anti-social behaviour, noise issues, damage to land and roads, and danger to other road users and pedestrians.

Operation Propulsion ran in conjunction with several partners across Lancashire, including Local Authorities and saw an increased amount of officers patrolling locations where residents had highlighted motor-nuisance as an area of concern – this includes housing estates, private land, industrial areas, and cycle tracks.

This operation is about taking action to address the concerns of Lancashire's residents and making our communities safer for everyone.

Riders engaging in this sort of behaviour pose a danger to other road users, pedestrians and themselves. We are cracking down on these issues, removing illegal and nuisance bikes off the streets and bringing those responsible for these criminal offences to court.

Officers utilise a range of powers to seize any vehicles that are being used illegally and causing anti-social behaviour.

ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving (POP) Command

I have funded the establishment of an ASB, Prevention and Problem-Solving Command to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and the prevention of crime through problem solving.

Launching Summer 2023, the Problem Orientated Policing team continues to be recruited and trained to be experts in problem solving and prevention.

This includes specialists in problem solving, civil enforcement, designing out crime, rural and business crime.

They will support strengthened neighbourhood teams in working with partners and engaging the public to implement sustainable solutions to address recurring issues, ASB, repeat victims and locations, issues which are community priorities and issues which result in a continuously high demand for police services.

During 2022, members of the team supported and advised on over 150 problem solving operations to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, burglary, drug dealing and motorcycle nuisance.

Three Civil Enforcement Officers are due to join this team in the near future. Their focus will be to develop and secure Civil Orders against the most prolific anti-social individuals or gangs involved in ASB and crime.

Existing specialist staff such as the Designing out crime officers (DOCOs), the Business Crime Coordinator and the Rural Crime Coordinator are also being incorporated within the new Command structure to provide specialist tactical advice and support where appropriate.

DISRUPTING AND DISMANTLING ORGANISED CRIME

Targeting gang members and disrupting the criminal gangs that operate in Lancashire has continued to be a key focus throughout the last year.

Organised crime takes many forms and threatens both national security and local communities. Our specialist resources work tirelessly to target threat, harm and vulnerability.

I have joined officers on countless operations as we make life difficult for organised crime gangs (OCGs) and show that we are stepping up the fight to break up criminal networks, put doors through and seize the proceeds of crime.

I continue to support Lancashire Constabulary to utilise the full range of legislation and powers available.

Alongside strong enforcement that dismantles criminal gangs and puts members behind bars, I have continued to build up relationships between other enforcement bodies such as the National Crime Agency and North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, and partners through the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.

2022/23 Highlights

Op Warrior

Op Warrior is the Constabulary's response to my Police and Crime Plan priority of disrupting and dismantling organised crime.

The operation is dedicated to bringing more offenders to justice as well as stripping them of their cash, cars and other assets. Not only are drug raids and arrests taking place on a weekly basis, but a high-profile advertising campaign has led to more information coming in from members of the public, leaving no place for offenders to hide.

On average, officers make 17 organised crime related arrests every single week, seize £55k in cash every single month and take 2 kilograms of class A and B drugs off our streets on a weekly basis.

Op Warrior targets both individuals and gangs involved in crime, as well as associated issues such as violence and intimidation, large scale drug supply, exploitation and fraud, all of which can cause serious harm to local communities.

As a result of our media campaign, drug trafficking and supply related intelligence submitted to Crimestoppers increased by 29% from November 2022 to January 2022 and overall calls to Crimestoppers related to issues targeted by Op Warrior increased by 8%.

A regular In the Know survey has shown a 6% increase in public confidence in Lancashire Constabulary compared to the previous 3-month period.

New Regional Organised Crime Unit Office

I have continued to strengthen relationships with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU), the team covering serious crime across the North West and supporting the work of individual forces including here in Lancashire.

In September 2022, a new satellite for the ROCU opened in Lancaster, to provide a home for one of the new serious and organised crime task forces which have been created as part of the national police uplift programme.

Their new regional base strengthens our relationships and capacity to tackle high level crime and supports the delivery of my Fighting Crime Plan.



21%

Decrease in serious violence in targeted hotspot areas

21%

Reduction in presentations to emergency departments with knife/ sharp object assault injuries vs 2019/20

279

Organised Crime Group disruptions

10k

Stop and searches carried out, with 70% targeting illegal substances or offensive weapons

290k

Members of the public reached by Operation Warrior Social Media Posts

897

SOC-related arrests resulting in sentences totaling 425 year for convicted offenders

Modern Slavery

The Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP), which I contribute to, has continued to grow and bring together key stakeholders, as we tackle modern slavery across Lancashire and ensure businesses and local authorities play their part in spotting the signs and supporting police enforcement.

PLASP have run several roadshows featuring the Freedom Bus aimed at raising public awareness around the many issues of human trafficking and modern-day slavery, alongside bespoke training for including police new recruits, PCSOs, contact centre staff, NHS Staff, National Farmers Union, Street Pastors, Colleges and Universities.

My Office funded and hosted a tabletop exercise attended by over 50 partners. The feedback was extremely positive and has led to further collaboration and training

PLASP are also developing a new Hope for Justice Hub in Lancashire which will house two full time outreach workers and a part time trainer. This facility has increased services across Lancashire for victims.

Alongside the work of the PLASP, Operation Aident has also been targeting exploitation and modern-day slavery, resulting

in multiple arrests and charges and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals.

Fraud

A significant amount of work continues to take place around the county to tackle fraud. This has included a networking event, hosted by my Office, with more than 40 partner organisations sharing best practice. A North West Fraud conference has also taken place, attended by more than 100 delegates from across the north west police forces, focussed on victim support and safeguarding.

A campaign has also run with the support of Lancashire Victim Support and Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC) to tackle Romance Fraud.

Victim data - Reporting date 21/02/2022 to 19/02/2023

6222 - total victim reports received

5794 of those reports related to individual victims (428 relate to businesses, no action is taken)

£20 million - total loss, average loss £4.5k

2764 victims requested victim support

3176 reported some kind of vulnerability as a result of the fraud

County Lines

I have continued to support Lancashire Constabulary, the North West ROCU and the National Crime Agency as they work to tackle county lines related crime in Lancashire.

In February 2023 Lancashire Constabulary took part in a dedicated national County Lines Intensification Week. As a result, 15 arrests were made across East Lancashire alone, as well as over £33,000 worth of Class A and B drugs being seized, including cannabis plants, cocaine and crack cocaine.

Multi-Agency Support Panels

Significant preventative work has been underway in schools, with Multi-Agency Support Panels (MASPs) highlighted young people at risk of criminal exploitation and gang-related culture for intervention. Our Violence Reduction Network (VRN) has financially supported the development of MASPs across the County.



TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Domestic abuse and sexual offences are some of the most heinous crimes that Lancashire Constabulary deals with. I made it absolutely clear that my Fighting Crime Plan would recognise this and also commit to driving up conviction rates in Lancashire.



In the last year, the Constabulary has engaged in a number of national and local initiatives with partners and academics to ensure that our strategy, policies and practice are underpinned by the latest knowledge and research evidence.

Victims remain at the heart of all we do. As we continue going after offenders and protecting people, Lancashire Victim Services provides dedicated support, whenever and however victims need it.

The Constabulary continue to improve support for victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence or abuse; are committed to conducting robust risk assessments and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable through timely, rigorous investigation and utilisation of the full range of tools available.

2022/23 Highlights

Dedicated RASSO team increasing prosecutions

Last year I invested in the establishment of a dedicated rape and serious sexual offences team, meaning 45 extra officers joined existing colleagues to form three Rape and Serious Sexual Assault Offences (RASSO) teams, one in each of our policing divisions with the purpose of specialising in and investigating offences of Rape.

The past twelve months has seen these teams hit the ground running in Lancashire, with the most qualified and experienced investigators managing complex cases, maximising opportunities to bring offenders to justice and ensuring victims receive the specialist support they deserve.

I have visited officers within the teams, talking about how the investment we have provided and the restructuring of how rape and serious sexual offences are policed is providing positive results.

Operation Soteria Bluestone

In December 2022, Lancashire Constabulary was one of 14 forces to join a nationwide expansion programme which aims to transform the way rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) are investigated.

The programme - Operation Soteria Bluestone - is led by National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) and Home Office funded research and will result in a national operating model which will be rolled out to all 43 Home Office forces.

This evidence-based, academic-led project aims to ensure consistency and quality in the investigation of Rape and Serious Sexual offences.

It is a great opportunity to strengthen the policing response to rape and serious sexual assault here in Lancashire and build in long-term, lasting improvements to how these horrific and traumatic crimes are dealt with to ensure we put offenders behind bars, secure justice for victims and protect the public.

£7m Government Funding to support Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

In August 2022 I was delighted to announce that my Office had secured over £7m to enhance domestic and sexual violence support across Lancashire.

The funding, awarded by the Ministry of Justice, will benefit a wide range of local organisations and services over three years and deliver support for victims and deliver enhanced specialist support to help them move forward and recover.

The money will also see additional support workers joining services across the county which will ensure that anyone affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence can access support that's right for them, whenever and wherever they need it.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) will now be based in Southport and Ormskirk, Preston and Morecambe Bay hospitals, meaning that every hospital trust in Lancashire now has at least one specialist support worker on site.

Placing support in health setting and ensuring that hospitals and GP practices are aware of the support available has proven hugely successful. Health settings are a place of safety meaning that victims may feel more confident to talk about what has happened to them. The Office has invested over £650,000 in Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to implement IRISi in Lancashire - a specialist domestic violence and abuse training, support, and referral programme for GPs. The support that is already in place has seen more victims referred into support services at the earliest opportunity so it's fantastic to be able to build on this success and to make sure support of this kind is rolled out across Lancashire.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Summit

Violence against women and girls is unacceptable.

In December 2022 I brought together senior leaders from across Lancashire to coordinate how violence against women and girls (VAWG) is tackled across the county.

The leadership summit gave Lancashire organisations including the police, local, the NHS and other community safety partners the rare opportunity to come together to discuss the vital role they play in tackling VAWG.

The event provided an opportunity to shared best practice, to identify any gaps in service provision and to discuss how we can better work together to develop a consistent and proactive approach to combat VAWG and, importantly, create wrap-around support for victims across the county.

I was encouraged to see leaders declare their organisations' commitment to tackling VAWG as part of the summit and I will continue to work closely with partners to help shape strategic plans to ensure that national VAWG priorities translate into local action to keep women and girls safe across Lancashire.

I am making significant investments in co-ordinating VAWG activity across Lancashire, and I have established a new post within my Office, Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager (Victims and Vulnerable People), to work across key-issues and stay up to date on related policies.

Op Provide

My office continues to support Operation Provide, which sees police officers responding to domestic abuse reports alongside a trained NHS domestic abuse specialist. It has already been highlighted as National Best Practice by the Home Office, and forms part of the Homicide Prevention Tool Kit.

An independent evaluation of this approach by Liverpool John Moores University has shown that the number of victims engaging with safeguarding advice was increased by 45.7 per cent – from 21.5 per cent to 67.2 per cent – as a result of the operation. It has also seen the number of victims engaging with prosecution increase by 26.9 per cent.

Op Night Guardian

I continue to back Operation Night Guardian to tackle violence against women and girls in the night time economy. This operation involves proactive work including the deployment of uniform and plain clothes officers in key areas to ensure that Lancashire residents and particularly women and girls can enjoy a safe night out in our county.

Consent Campaign

The issue of consent was highlighted as part of Sexual Violence Awareness Week. A digital campaign was launched by my Office across social media to dispel common myths around consent. Campaign materials were shared with partners across the county to ensure that the campaign messages reach as many people as possible.

Scrutiny and Advisory Group

Following on from the VAWG Summit in December, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Lancashire Constabulary have established a VAWG Scrutiny and Advisory Group. This group will be involved in the development of a pan-Lancashire VAWG strategy and advise on the views of the community to help shape better delivery of VAWG related services.



CASE STUDY

Support for victims -

Melinda* disclosed to LVS she had suffered from historic rape and sexual assaults by her husband. An IDSVA (Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advisor) helped her develop coping strategies and attended interviews with her, as well as her having continual support from a RASSO officer.

‘I would have not done this without my IDSVA the support is priceless. Couldn’t have done it without your belief in me and constant reassurance.’

Sidra* made a report to the police and disclosed that her husband had tried to strangle her a few days ago. This was not the first time, she had endured many years of coercive and controlling behaviour, psychological, financial abuse and she longer wanted to be in the relationship but would not support prosecution. She had tried to leave him before but returned due to family pressure and the lack of support she had access to.

Sidra did not speak English, so was assigned an IDVA who was able to speak with her in Punjabi who could provide her with ongoing support and reassurance. The IDVA helped her apply for grant funding from the Home Office, something she felt was not possible after being denied four years earlier. The IDVA then helped Sidra plan her move to refuge.

“I am really happy I had an IDVA that spoke Urdu and Punjabi and I was able to convey what was going on and had a clear line of communication. It’s emotionally draining when an interpreter is used, and I was thankful I am able to speak to you openly and freely and be able to portray what my wishes and wants where.”

LANCASHIRE VICTIM SERVICES CLIENT TESTIMONIAL



95%

Of domestic abuse victims surveyed felt that officers treated them with respect.

>3x

More protective and preventative orders issued and monitored for breaches in the last 6 months (176 VAWG Related).

3%

Reduction in violence with injury offences.

>90

Detectives dedicated to the investigation of rape offences.

14%

Of violence Against Women and Girls Investigations resulted positively An increase of 5% compared with last year.

>1100

Submissions from the public via the StreetSafe portal shared with our partners to identify areas where people feel unsafe.

CRACKING DOWN ON BURGLARY AND ROBBERY

Anyone who is a victim of burglary and robbery knows the long term financial and emotional impacts it can have.



Whether you have your home broken into, your business targeted or are robbed in the street, it has a lasting impact on you. It impacts on how safe you feel, your financial and mental well-being and your ability to run your business.

The initial policing response to reports is important both in terms of any investigation, but also the confidence that the public has in policing generally. Here in Lancashire, we didn't need to be told about the need that every victim needs to be visited by a police officer, this is already something that is extremely important to us.

We have made real progress in relation to burglary and robbery, both residential and businesses. I have seen the proactive approaches being taken in hotspots and against frequent reoffenders and I'll continue to back the Chief Constable with the resources he needs to prevent victims and protect the public.

2022/23 Highlights

Op Defender

In September 2022 I joined Lancashire Constabulary in launching Op Defender, a campaign I have funded that is cracking down on residential burglary.

This supports the Constabulary's efforts to proactively target prolific offenders and ensure they have their day in court and are put behind bars. As well as strengthening our response to

residential burglary and arresting those who selfishly ruin lives by committing these offences, the campaign also strengthens relationships with communities and partners to help residents better protect themselves.

As well as robustly targeting repeat and opportunistic offenders, analytics and information from the public are used to study burglary patterns to ensure we target hotspots and prevent further victims.

The latest figures show a four per cent decrease in residential burglaries in the area, with 203 fewer victims compared with 2021/2022 and 1,800 fewer victims than in 2019/2020.

Officers arrested 1,000 people for burglary and robbery offences in the last 12 months, with 69 per cent of burglary victims satisfied with the service provided.

The campaign particularly focusses on tackling repeat offenders and stopping them in their tracks, whilst also offering advice and resources to those who have been a victim of burglary in the past or are most at risk.

Through increased engagement with people across Lancashire and intelligence that officers can act on, alongside utilising the newest technology to track offenders down, all whilst protecting the most vulnerable, we are cracking down on burglary and sending a

clear message to offenders that they will be stopped.

£900k Safer Streets Funding

During Summer 2022, I welcomed news that two bids I supported received almost £900k from the Government's Safer Streets Fund.

These projects support the delivery of my Fighting Crime Plan, with Blackburn with Darwen Council awarded £750k aimed at making the Queens Park and Highercroft areas safer, including investment into home security packages. Preston Council were also successful and seeing over £146k, including CCTV used to target crime and anti-social behaviour in the centre of the city, with a particular focus on the night-time economy.

The funding came through round four of the Government's Safer Streets Fund, that sees grants given to projects that will reduce neighbourhood crime such as burglary and robbery, anti-social behaviour and violence against women and girls (VAWG). It's a great example of how by working together, identifying issues and committing to a proactive, solutions-based approach we can invest into communities and fight crime.

“We know that burglary is an incredibly personal, and invasive crime which can shatter confidence and feelings of safety. Everyone has a right to feel safe and be safe in their homes and nobody should ever have to experience being burgled. This campaign will tackle residential burglary and target both prolific and opportunistic offenders using data and intelligence from our communities, as well as using new technologies to support forensic opportunities.”

Forcewide Burglary Lead, Chief Inspector Chris Abbott

Business Crime

Burglary and robbery have been key issues raised at meetings with Business Investment Districts (BIDs), Chambers of Commerce and during visits into the community on the beat with police officers.

Protecting businesses and the people who work in them is crucial and something that I support the Constabulary in, with responding to burglary and robbery a key part of the overall response by policing in relation to crimes that impact businesses up and down the county.

This year the Business Crime Co-Ordinator's main priority has been

supporting neighbourhood teams with high demand businesses on their local areas across the county that are causing many calls for service from Shoplifting incidents to ASB incidents.

They arrange to visit these stores with neighbourhood officers for the area and their store manager. At the visit a business crime reduction survey is completed on the premises looking at crime prevention / security solutions that will assist the stores in reducing crime and deterring/disrupting offenders away from their store.

They look to build a relationship with their crime prevention team to work in partnership going forward to reduce crime and

disorder and produce a report of recommendations from the visit which is distributed to the neighbourhood teams, correct business employees and any other relevant parties. The aim of this is to reduce demand on our policing service and to support the businesses.



CASE STUDY

Man jailed for burglaries in Blackpool

A man has been sentenced after stealing jewellery and other high value items from people's homes.

Ferenc Horvath, 31, of Grosvenor Street in Blackpool, has been sentenced to 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to three residential burglaries, one attempted burglary and four counts of fraud.

The offences were committed in Blackpool, St Annes and Bispham.

Detective Sergeant Stuart Reid, of Blackpool Targeted Crime Team, said: "These residential

burglaries were committed by Horvath climbing into people's homes through upstairs insecure windows.

"He would ransack homes to steal jewellery and other high value items. Some of the jewellery was of high sentimental value to the victims, who now have to come to terms that they may never see their precious items again.

"I am grateful for the court in passing a custodial sentence in this case and hope this gives his victims some measure of comfort."

TARGETING DANGEROUS DRIVERS



Since being elected as Police and Crime Commissioner I have made it clear we won't tolerate dangerous driving in Lancashire, whatever form it takes. The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, chaired by my Deputy, Andy Pratt MBE, continues to bring all partners together all with different roles in ultimately, trying to prevent people being killed or seriously injured on Lancashire's Roads.

Lancashire Road Safety Partnership

The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership is the coordinating body for Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool which aims to reduce road casualties through the management of speed, enforcement, engineering, emergency response, driver education and training and through developing collaborative approaches to education, awareness, engagement and other measures.

During 2021/22 the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership held four meetings, two chaired by Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Pratt MBE. The Partnership has made progress, building on the work we quickly began to review the functions of the partnership and start work towards a new partnership agreement which is near completion.

Project EDWARD

The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership hosted an engagement event in Preston Bus Station, with my Deputy bringing together its members and wider stakeholders to showcase the best practice work

happening in Lancashire around road safety.

The event formed part of the national Project EDWARD week of action, which highlights how areas and regions are taking action to stop deaths on our road networks. There were demonstrations from our emergency services, workshops with young people on how to stay safe and a chance to talk to those involved in delivering safer roads everywhere across Lancashire.

Operation Vanquish

As a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan, tackling dangerous driving has been a focus for Operation Vanquish as Lancashire Constabulary proactively take the fight to criminals.

This has seen some great results, with October's Op Vanquish activity resulting in almost 450 people either arrested, summonsed to court, or handed a traffic offence report.

From no insurance or MOT to drink and drug driving and a range of other offences, the increased activity that builds on the work done every day of the year, sends

a clear message around the need to drive safely and that if you don't, officers will stop you.

Average Speed Cameras

As Chair of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership, my Deputy, Andy Pratt MBE, together with Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary, announced investment into new average speed cameras on some of the county's historically most dangerous A-roads.

This investment is a result of significant analysis and follows close work with local MPs, Councillors and Parish Councillors, who have expressed their concerns on behalf of local residents and communities in terms of speeding in the five areas the cameras are set to be installed in.

These routes include A581 from Rufford to Euxton and A588 from Lancaster to Skippool, through to the A683 in Lancaster from junction 34 of the M6 motorway to Kirkby Lonsdale, and the A6 in Lancaster between the city centre and J33 of the M6 motorway towards the end of February.



“Lancashire Police have worked very hard to set up Operation Snap to allow people to report offences of anti-social driving.. This is an innovative approach to keeping our roads safe. This is utilising the eyes and ears of the public and we have seen a significant increase in reports from the public via Operation Snap.”

Superintendent Mark Morley of Lancashire Police's Tactical Operations Division

All of this and the work highlights the difference we can make to tackle dangerous driving, target areas we know there is increased risks and make them safer.

Op Snap

Whilst we are putting more officers on the streets and proactively taking the fight to criminals, we know that our officers can't be everywhere and can't see everything.

That's a key part of why we launched Operation Snap towards the end of 2021 and continued to support and promote initiative, that sees members of the public helping in the fight against dangerous driving, with an online portal for digital footage of suspected offences.

During 2022/23

- Received 3,143 submissions
- 1,898 of these were actionable, over 60%, leading to drivers receiving a sanction, whether warning, fixed penalty, training course or prosecution.

Drink and Drug Driving

Anyone who puts themselves or others at risk by recklessly driving under the influence of drink or drugs needs to be taken off our roads and feel the full force of the law.

Whilst a key focus around the clock for Lancashire Constabulary we continue to see intensive activity take the fight to offenders, such as around Christmas and the wider festive period.

There were almost 350 arrested during a clampdown between 21st November 2022 and 31st January 2023, addressing key concerns on our roads during that time of year and sending a clear message to anyone thinking about driving whilst drunk or after using drugs – don't do it.

STATISTICS

Sadly, there were **1,072** people killed or seriously injured on Lancashire's roads last year, an **increase of 37 from 2021/22, up 3.6%**

Police enforcement activity for each of the fatal five (careless driving, driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, failing

to wear a seat belt, speeding, and using a mobile phone whilst driving) significantly increased:

Arrests for impaired driving = **2,683 (+5; +0.2%)**

Seat belt enforcement = **788 forms (+352; +80%)**

Mobile phone enforcement = **621 forms (+261; +72.5%)**

There was also an increase in the number of prosecutions, vehicle seizures and focused activity to reduce anti-social behaviour of motorists and riders.

Section 59 warnings issued (vehicles being used in manner which causes alarm, distress or annoyance) = **2,067 (+484; + 30.6%)**

S165 enforcement (power to seize e-scooters without a licence or insurance) = **2966 (+249; +9%)**

Number of camera van deployments = **4,417 (+12.6%)**

Number of speeding tickets issued = **66,878 (+0.5%)**

Number of diversionary courses delivered = **41,385 (+16%)**

SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Rural crime can destroy lives and livelihoods and as Commissioner, I continue to support the Constabulary’s dedicated rural policing teams to take an increasingly proactive approach that takes the fight to the criminals and protects the people of Lancashire.

The strategic mission focuses on engaging, problem solving and coordinating targeted local policing to disrupt criminal activity within our rural areas in order to provide a better service to residents in those communities.

Rural Task Forces

Following my £700k investment into our rural taskforces in Spring 2021, we have seen them continuing to keep our rural communities safe and supporting the work of the wider Constabulary through targeted operations and engagement within these areas.

The rural taskforces are addressing the risks and threats unique to these parts of Lancashire, with successes around wildlife crime and theft of farming equipment, but this almost always links back to the priorities I have for all areas of Lancashire – for example, these offences are more often than not carried out by Organised Crime Gangs.

Notable operations and activity in 2022/23:

- Hare coursing prosecutions
- Joint operation with neighbouring forces addressing heritage crime
- 86 Animals used in offences or being cruelly treated rehomed
- Hare coursing
- Targeting illegal off roading in moorland
- The task force teams have also issued Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs), Community Protection Notices (CPNs) and Criminal Warning Notices (CWMs) and launched a number of cross border operations.

2022/23 stats:

- 101 Arrests
- £1.9 plant machinery and vehicles seized
- 226 stop and searches
- 186 traffic offence reports



Heritage Crime Conference 2022

I supported the county’s first ever heritage crime conference, with Deputy Commissioner Andy Pratt MBE speaking at the event to a range of partners about the need to work together to tackle heritage crime, which often hits more rural areas hardest.

The rural taskforce teams attended to talk with delegates about the work they are doing, strengthen relationships with organisations and provide practical advice to those affected by these types of offences.

Rural shows

As I continue to support the rural taskforces and engage with the rural community, I joined a number of officers at the Garstang Show in August 2022.

It was an opportunity to discuss with the public my investment into rural teams since becoming Commissioner and how we have strengthened the taskforces into one of the largest dedicated rural units in the country.

I also heard about the unique challenges faced by policing and the community in more rural areas and encouraged conversation that strengthened relationships.

“ We will not stand for our rural communities being targeted, leaving innocent people suffering financially and mentally. ”

PC Neil Goodison, of Lancashire Police



SUPPORTING VICTIMS

Supporting victims of crime is at the heart of everything we do and cutting crime, means fewer victims. In my role as Police and Crime Commissioner I hold responsibility for the commissioning of services for victims of crime.



LANCASHIRE VICTIM SERVICES

43k

Referrals for support

8.8k

victims receiving support

20k

victims supported

1.5k

young victims of crime supported

15k

needs assessment

Lancashire Victim Services (LVS)

In December 2021 I awarded a £13m contract to Victim Support to continue to deliver this under the Lancashire Victim Services brand from 2022 to 2027.

Lancashire Victim Services (LVS) offer support following any type of crime, but the overall contract value includes an additional £2.5m investment from my budget to ensure that specialist, face to face services are available for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence as well as young victims of crime under the age of 18.

Over the past year, Lancashire Victim Services, commissioned by my Office, received over 43,000 referrals, with thousands of cases related to the most serious crimes such as domestic abuse and sexual violence.

My Deputy PCC Andy Pratt MBE reviews the service's performance on a quarterly basis to ensure that victims of crime can access high quality, expert support in a way that works best for them.

We know the impact crime can have on people's lives and I am confident that the experts within the LVS team have the knowledge and skills to make a real difference and to help anyone affected by crime to move forward and recover from what has happened to them.

Claire Powell, Area Manager for Lancashire Victim Services added: "We really appreciate the positive feedback and support we get from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

"The funding we receive allows us to help a great number of people across the county, with many of them having been through really traumatic experiences.

"Being able to provide the support they need and seeing the positive impact it has on people's lives is a real privilege and it is what drives our team to provide the best support we possibly can to anyone who needs us."

iMatter

This year LVS have delivered six courses of iMatter, a 10-week group programme for victims of domestic abuse, from offices in Accrington, Blackpool and Preston to 34 victims of domestic abuse.

The programme is designed for working with general challenges and conflicts that may lead to patterns of behaviour that are negative and ultimately abusive. It is aimed at those wishing to gain a better understanding of healthy relationships following the experience or experiences of an unhealthy/abusive relationship/s, and those who have recently realised that they are experiencing abuse where the risk is assessed to be at a standard or medium level.

CASE STUDY

Sam

Sam* had been living independently for a number of years. In the last year, however, a known drug abuser and supplier had taken over her property under the pretence of looking after her by providing various substances.

Also known as cuckooing, the perpetrator had taken over the home of this vulnerable person and used the property to store, deal and take drugs from, eventually isolating her and taking all of her money.

One day she returned home to find that the perpetrator had locked her out of her home but after reporting to the police she feared she would be tortured or killed. At this point she fled to another area and the case came to LVS.

The priority for LVS was to establish a secure home regardless of the fact that she didn't have any local connections or ties to the new area and to ensure she had a strong support network in place to assist her substance misuse recovery. Sam was able to stop taking drugs without outside intervention as she felt stronger and more able to

cope now that she was away from the perpetrator. LVS's case worker advocated with the local council and housing associations to facilitate a move.

She is ticking off each passing week as a week in active recovery. She has access to her own finances and is in regular contact with her case worker who is providing ongoing emotional support, signposting and information.

LVS have also made referrals for therapy, provided information on local support groups and made referrals for food parcels when needed. The client's next goal is to return to education and employment and will be supported through court where appropriate.

"You have made my life so much better and something great has come out of the bad situation that happened and I don't know where I would be if I didn't have your help so thank you so very much"

*Anon service user.

Nest – Children and Young People's Service

Nest Lancashire has been set up to support young people aged 8 to 18 who have been affected by crime or subjected to bullying, threats or harassment.



- 4,314 referrals received
- 3,496 new clients
- 3,118 needs assessments completed
- 1,417 children and young people supported

**Schools Domestic Abuse
Intervention Programme**

The Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit Programme continues to be utilised to deliver topics covering: What domestic abuse is; rights and responsibilities in relationships; what happens and who can help when rights are denied; how to keep safe from an abusive person; how an abusive person might damage self-esteem; how to improve self-esteem following Domestic Abuse; what positive relationships should look like and how to handle difficult feelings and manage challenging emotions.

In the last 12 months, a team of five qualified Recovery Toolkit Practitioners have been delivering the programme, which has successfully been delivered to 60 Lancashire schools with 469 pupils attending 101 groups.



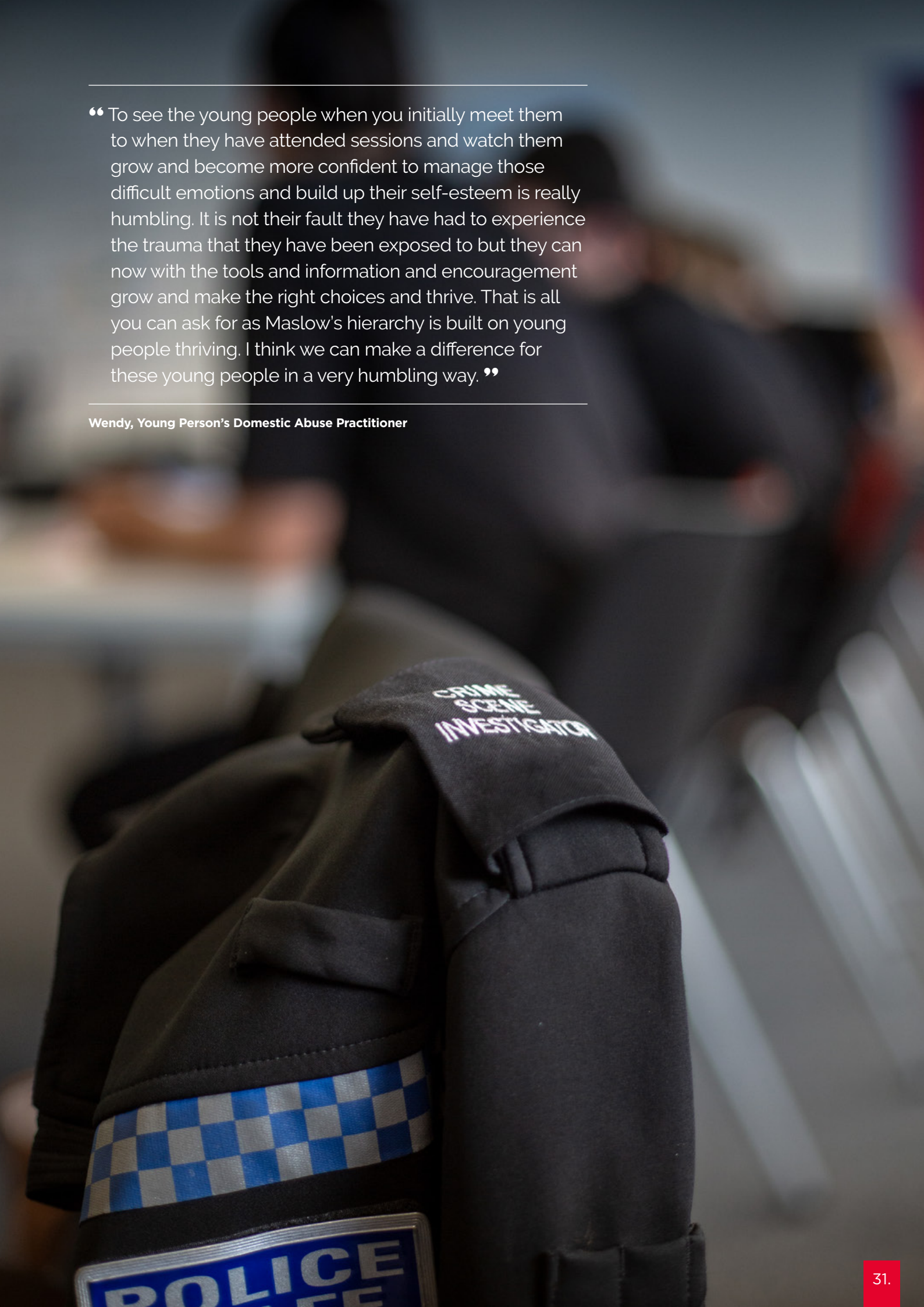
“It is truly inspiring to hear of the work that is carried out by the team and the impact it has on being able to make a difference to so many young people who have experienced domestic abuse within their own homes and also their own relationships.”

Claire Powell, Area Manager for Lancashire Victim Services



“To see the young people when you initially meet them to when they have attended sessions and watch them grow and become more confident to manage those difficult emotions and build up their self-esteem is really humbling. It is not their fault they have had to experience the trauma that they have been exposed to but they can now with the tools and information and encouragement grow and make the right choices and thrive. That is all you can ask for as Maslow’s hierarchy is built on young people thriving. I think we can make a difference for these young people in a very humbling way.”

Wendy, Young Person’s Domestic Abuse Practitioner



COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

As the public’s voice in policing, I am committed to enabling local communities to influence policing, victims and community safety matters. I am here to ensure that the community needs are met as effectively as possible, and to improve local relationships by building confidence and restoring trust.

Community engagement is one of the central responsibilities of my role and one I take very seriously. During the last year I have worked hard to be visible and accessible to the communities I serve, spending time out in communities, meeting with residents, councils, partners, officers and engaged with hundreds of people through my consultations.



I have also had a focus on reaching more residents through social media, increasing my following and joining NextDoor, a hyper local social networking platform.

Social Media



Facebook
15,714 followers (+614)
Reach 358,353 (+73,725)



Twitter
7,321 followers (+221)



Instagram
1,199 followers (109)
Reach 24,729 (+18,039)

Website page view
89,235 (+2,589)

In the Know
83,557 registered with community messaging system (+16,257)

Joined NextDoor
196,789 members



Stakeholders

26 newsletters were issued to MPs, council leaders, county councillors and key partners to update them on the work of my Office and the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

- Over 1K pieces of correspondence dealt with through my Office
- Attended almost 100 public engagement meetings and events

Consultations

Over 5,000 people completed my Summer survey, sharing their views on anti-social behaviour in Lancashire and how local agencies should tackle the issue. This survey informed the ASB summits I held with partners in January 2023 and plans are being put in place to take action on feedback.

I have continued to work constructively with Government to secure the best possible outcomes for Lancashire and deliver what the public want to see, more investment and support for

policing services that take the fight to criminals.

In 2023, my council tax budget proposals gained cross-party backing at a meeting with Lancashire’s Police and Crime Panel.

This followed extensive public consultation in December 2022 of more than 2,800 residents, with 86% citing they would like to see Lancashire Constabulary receive more funding, and subsequently my budget decision will allow Lancashire Constabulary to continue to deliver on the public’s priorities.

Events

I regularly attend community group meetings, conferences and events across the county, including a monthly ‘Ask the Commissioner’ phone-in on BBC Radio Lancashire to give residents the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the work of my Office.

In summer 2022 I opened Blackpool Pride, having sponsored the event through Lancashire Victim Services in support of our LGBTQ+ community.

Following an accessibility review, changes are underway to ensure more individuals can learn about and have their say on policing in Lancashire.



GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

I have an important role in holding the Chief Constable to account and I continue to provide scrutiny and transparency over a broad range of police functions and decisions.

It's equally important that members of the public can access and scrutinise the work my Office is doing to lead the fight against crime.

- Attended five Police and Crime Panel meetings where members scrutinised and supported my work
- Made 48 formal decisions and published them
- Had nine weekly one-to-one meetings with the Chief Constable
- Held five formal Strategic Scrutiny and Accountability Board meetings where I questioned and challenged the Chief Constable and his Chief Officer Team.
- My Office held four Joint Audit and Ethics Committee (JAEC) meetings focusing on governance and risk management
- My Office held four Stop & Search/Use of Force continuous improvement Panels
- My Office responded to 49 Freedom of Information requests

- My Office responded to 11 Subject Access Requests
- My Office Administered one Police Appeal Tribunal
- My Office Completed 60 reviews in relation to police complaints
- My Office entered into five Section 22 collaboration agreements
- My Office appointed four Legally Qualified Chairs to preside over Police Misconduct Hearings.

Independent Custody Visitors

My Office manages the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme where volunteers visit police stations to check on the welfare of people detained in custody by the police to see the conditions in which they are being held and to ensure their rights are being observed.

Between 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, 181 ICV visits were made to the four operating custody suites within Lancashire – Blackpool, Blackburn, Preston and Lancaster. During this period 675 detainees received a visit from ICVs

who were able to check on the welfare of the detainee during their detention.

Complaints against the Chief Constable

I am responsible for dealing with Complaints, Conduct Matters, Death and Serious Injury Matters and Non-Police Reform Act Misconduct or Gross Misconduct matters that involve the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary. Through my Office I take steps to resolve and where appropriate, investigate the complaint. When concluded, the complainant is informed of the outcome, along with a clear rationale as to how and why that decision's been reached. To ensure openness and transparency the complainant is also advised of a right of appeal to the IOPC if they disagree with the outcome.

In 2022/23 my Office dealt with 10 complaints against the Chief Constable – none of which were upheld or met the criteria to be investigated.

Stop and Search and Use of Force Continuous Improvement Panel

Over the past 12 months, four panels have been run by my Office to provide independent scrutiny of the use of Stop and Search and the use of Force across Lancashire.

These provide feedback on Stop and Search and Use of Force practices, including policy, training and tactical considerations and allows a voice for community concerns to influence police actions.

These help to achieve greater transparency and community involvement in the use of Stop and Search powers and the Use of Force across Lancashire, helping to improve public confidence and trust in the way Stop and Search and the use of force is conducted.

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE POLICING

I am proud to say that Lancashire continues to be recognised as an efficient and effective force, backed up by the largest capital investment programme in living memory to ensure Lancashire has all the right tools and infrastructure needed to be a cutting edge, pro-active, victims focussed, crime busting, fit for the future police force.

HMICFRS Report

I had the opportunity to thank everyone at Lancashire Constabulary from the Chief Constable and his team to all front-line officers for their dedication, hard work and commitment, which was recognised in the HMICFRS report released in October 2022.

The report highlighted that the Constabulary is graded 'good' in six areas – engaging and treating the public with fairness and respect, preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, protecting vulnerable people, managing offenders and suspects, building and supporting the workforce, and strategic planning, organisational management and value for money.

Whilst the inspectorate highlights there is still much work to be done, it is a positive report that continues to put Lancashire as one of the top performing forces in the country. Constabulary is already making significant progress on the items raised and also continuing to make progress against my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

This report has fed into my regular Accountability Board meetings with the Chief Constable, and I will continue to scrutinise and hold the force to account to deliver improvements in performance.

Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR sets out

seven identified national threats. These are as follows: Serious and Organised Crime (SOC); Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies. These remain from the 2015 version with the addition in 2023 of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.

Given this annual report is for the year April 2022 to March 2023, it will not respond in detail to the revised SPR due to the timing of its publication. However, as Police and Crime Commissioner, I am confident I have given due regard to the six threat areas identified in the previous SPR in my Police and Crime Plan and in my role holding my Chief Constable to account. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key and pressing issue on which I update in this report and will be prioritised in future iterations.



Lobbying - Degree Entry Recruitment

In November 2022, I was delighted when Home Secretary Suella Braverman MP announced that policing degrees will no longer be required for trainee officers, after my six-month campaign calling for a rethink on the policy.

Instead, she has asked the College of Policing to look at options for a new, non-degree, entry route, to complement the existing framework – and in the meantime the previous non-degree programme, the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) that was phased out, will remain open.

Whilst higher education will still have a huge role to play in policing as a career, I have lobbied that recruitment needs to be around the calibre of those who apply, not just whether they have, or want to study for, a degree.

I will continue to work constructive with Government, other Commissioners and partners

such as the College of Policing to ensure that we have a recruitment programme that delivers outstanding police officers in Lancashire and across the country.

Reopening of Waterfoot Front Counter

I was delighted to see Waterfoot front counter reopen in Summer 2022 and complete the delivery of a promise I made both before and after my election as Commissioner, to ensure each borough area has at the very least, one accessible front counter where the public can report concerns and talk face to face with someone.

This followed the reopening of front counters in Clitheroe, Kirkham and Leyland, delivering on a key election pledge. Community intelligence is really important in taking the fight to criminals and each and every borough of Lancashire now has access to at least one open front counter making it easier for residents to speak to local officers, to raise concerns and to report crime.





Return to 24/7 response policing from Leyland

In July 2022, I joined officers at Leyland Police Station as 24/7 emergency response policing, serving the communities of South Ribble, returned to the police base.

It increases visibility, aids in response to incidents and enhances public confidence. The people of South Ribble, and indeed everyone across Lancashire, can have confidence that Lancashire Constabulary is committed to taking the fight to criminals, getting offenders off our streets and delivering on the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan.

The moving response officers back to Leyland by the Chief Constable is a positive move and is testament to the investment and commitment the force is making in this area. It also builds on the reopening of the front counter in 2021.

Return to traditional police headwear

In August 2022, the Chief Constable and I announced the scrapping of baseball caps and a return to traditional police hats for all officers and PCSOs.

The change was about reinforcing the figures of authority police officers should be in our communities and the uniform and appearance of police officers is an important part of that.

Police Officers are expected to behave and conduct themselves in a professional way that inspires public confidence, so ensuring the uniforms they wear also uphold those standards is important, which is why we took this decision to embrace the long-standing proud heritage of British policing and return to the smarter, traditional headwear – a clear symbol that we expect our county to be policed with pride.

Plans submitted for £75m Lancashire Constabulary HQ overhaul

At the end of 2022, I announced proposed plans for the investment into critical police infrastructure which supports dogs and mounted branch, specialist and technical training, fleet maintenance, cyber and crime teams, contact management and other enabling services, with plans drawn up to modernise the existing headquarters site, located in South Ribble.

They are part of my ten-year plan to improve policing to our communities, with the last investment in the Hutton site back in the 1990s and some buildings nearly 75 years old and at the end of useable lifespan.

This would be a landmark moment for policing and crime prevention in the county, as part of my decade-long plan to ensure Lancashire Constabulary can meet the future needs of operational policing.

Following this, in early 2023, following consultation with members of the public, local businesses and elected representatives, I submitted plans to South Ribble Borough Council for the redevelopment of the site at Saunders Lane and Lindle Lane in Hutton.

New police station for Chorley

In December 2022 I was delighted to announce that I was purchasing Runshaw College's former Chorley campus, to be developed into a new policing base.

This will serve communities across Chorley and replace the existing dated and not fit for purpose station in town centre.

The new base will be used to host Chorley's response and neighbourhood policing teams, the area's Criminal investigation Department (CID) and other specialist teams including one of the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences teams (RASSO).

This is a key part of the overall investment in infrastructure across the Constabulary that I am delivering to ensure we can deliver the policing service the public need and deserve both now and into the future.

That's what the ten-year plan I announced in my Police and Crime Plan is all about, investment into frontline policing with the resources and infrastructure they need to best serve the public.

Ending of the hybrid model and 24/7 response policing

I have made clear my intention to phase out the 'Hybrid' model of policing that was operating in several areas of the county – this saw officers in dual roles that encompassed both neighbourhood policing and response. This isn't right, every area needs dedicated neighbourhood police teams that proactively work within communities and address concerns.

I was delighted to announce that the Ribble Valley was benefiting from new neighbourhood officers.

The change, rolled out by the Chief Constable, delivered on my promise to change the 'Hybrid' model and ensure we strengthen local policing across the county.

The additional neighbourhood officers in the Ribble Valley and elsewhere, will provide extra capacity for proactive police work, including public engagement, problem solving and targeting of local offenders.

At the same time, I also announced the return of 24/7 response policing based out of Clitheroe Police Station. This change by Chief Constable further increasing police resources in the area and putting these response officers at the heart of the area they serve which, wherever possible, is the right thing to do

Both these announcements are great news for Ribble Valley residents and a signal that I am committed to working alongside the Constabulary to direct resources where they are needed and to tackle crime in our communities' head on.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

An important part of my role is to ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible. Improving local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust have been essential to this. My Office has been working in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.



Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (LVRN)

I have continued to work closely with the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (LVRN) which I secured ongoing funding for last year to enable its work to continue until 2025, aiming to prevent and reduce violent crime across Lancashire.

The LVRN brings together partners across policing, local government, education, health and a range of other organisations ensuring we have a joined-up approach to addressing violent crime, engage in preventative work and also support Lancashire Constabulary in operational enforcement to address hot spots and put offenders behind bars.

Hotspot policing

Areas identified through recorded incidents of crime have seen a target hardening approach, with increased uniform presence and disruption activity.

Between October 2022 and December 2022 all areas showed an overall decrease in all crime and specifically serious violence.

Other notable activity:

- In November 2022 LVRN hosted a national conference for all partners and similar partnerships tackling violent crime
- Divert programme, rebranded as Champions Lancashire, is building on the success of the innovative programme supporting young people across the county.
- Lancashire Champions Adult Project reached 414 young people aged 18-25 between April and December 2022

Operation GRIP

Targeted patrols have been conducted of 20 serious violence hotspots under Operation GRIP, a combination of knife crime education, community engagement and enforcement activity led by our LVRN. A 13% reduction of all crime and 21% reduction of serious violence was observed in hotspots compared with the same period in the previous year.

Op Sceptre

Grip funding awarded to me and utilised by the LVRN has helped deliver Operation Sceptre, the twice-yearly intensified activity to tackle knife crime and keep people safe. In November 2022 alone 1390 dangerous weapons were removed from the streets.

By increasing enforcement whilst also focusing on prevention and educating young people on the dangers carrying knives, we will make Lancashire's streets safer and ultimately, save lives.

CASE STUDY

Jack's Story

The LVRN worked with survivors and perpetrators all with lived experience of domestic abuse and violence, as members co-created a picture story book to use with individuals/groups to understand the impact of DAV.

Lancashire Criminal Justice Board

In 2021 Deputy Andy Pratt MBE took on the role of Chair of the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board, bringing together criminal justice organisations at police force area level to support joint working and improve services. The purpose and vision of the LCJB is to reduce crime, harm and risk by increasing the efficiency and credibility of the Criminal Justice System and therefore ensuring better outcomes for victims.

Serious Violence Duty

The Serious Violence Duty (the Duty) came into force on 31st January 2023 through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022.

The duty ensures serious violence is a priority for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and requires Specified Authorities to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Specified Authorities:

- Police
- Probation
- Youth Justice
- Fire and Rescue
- Health
- Local Authorities

Prison and Education Authorities are known as Relevant Authorities who are able to co-operate with Specified Authorities as necessary.

Whilst I am not a duty holder, the PCC has an important role to play as lead convener. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner intends to convene all specified and relevant authorities to commit to a Lancashire Serious Violence definition and the Lancashire Serious Violence and Community Safety Board.

Community Safety Partnerships

My Office attends Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Lancashire to share intelligence and look at better ways of working together across a range of agencies to tackle local issues.

Crimestoppers

I have strengthened relationships with Crimestoppers, and I'm committed to increasing anonymous reports through the national organisation to help in our fight against crime.

I'm pleased to report that 2022/23 saw a record number of year-on-year reports of 7,387 and March 2023 seeing the most reports through Crimestoppers in Lancashire ever.

This follows placing Crimestoppers as a key call to action in my Operation Warrior campaign, aimed at disrupting and dismantling organised crime gangs.

“It’s absolutely right that criminals are punished appropriately and suffer the consequences for their crimes, however we also need to work together to ensure those sent to prison have the support they need when they are released to be fully productive and good members of society.”

Andrew Snowden

Lancashire Police Museum

Lancashire Police Museum officially opened to the public in June 2022.

The new museum, housed in a former prison wing at the historic Lancaster Castle, is a partnership between my Office, Lancashire Constabulary and the Duchy of Lancaster.

The museum features 16 fascinating exhibits each housed within a prison cell. Displays detail the history of Lancashire Constabulary, Police training, forensic development – including how some very famous local cases were solved – and an overview of some of the different police departments including the mounted branch, dog unit, underwater search unit and firearms.

The Museum has been in development for a number of years and is now an excellent resource for the county and provides the opportunity to educate people on how policing has changed, to learn more about their local police force and the challenges of policing today, as well as discovering more about its rich and proud history.

Lancashire Prisons

Throughout the year I have visited every prison across Lancashire to build up those partnerships that are integral to a successful justice system and also make progress on my priorities, such as tackling reoffending.

During visits to prisons including HMP Wymott, Lancaster Farms, Kirkham and Preston, I have held discussions with Governors and others working within the prison system on how we work together to address reoffending and breaking that cycle to make Lancashire safer.

It’s absolutely right that criminals are punished appropriately and suffer the consequences for their crimes, however we also need to work together to ensure those sent to prison have the support they need when they are released to be fully productive and good members of society.

This includes support for addiction, engagement to reintegrate back into our communities and targeted work to encourage ex-offenders to not return into the criminal justice system again.



Building these relationships is an important part of our wider work around criminal justice, including my Deputy Commissioner Andy Pratt MBE’s role as Chair of the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board and the work of the Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.

National Portfolios

In 2022/23 I became the national Lead Commissioner for Technology and Digital, working with the Home Office, National Police Chief’s Council and others to improve policing through better use of technology, digital capabilities and data. I have also taken up Chair of Council at the North West Cyber Resilience Centre, became Director of the Police Digital Service and sit on key national bodies such as the Public Safety Commissioning Board and the Strategic Change and Investment Board at the Home Office.



FINANCES AND RESOURCES

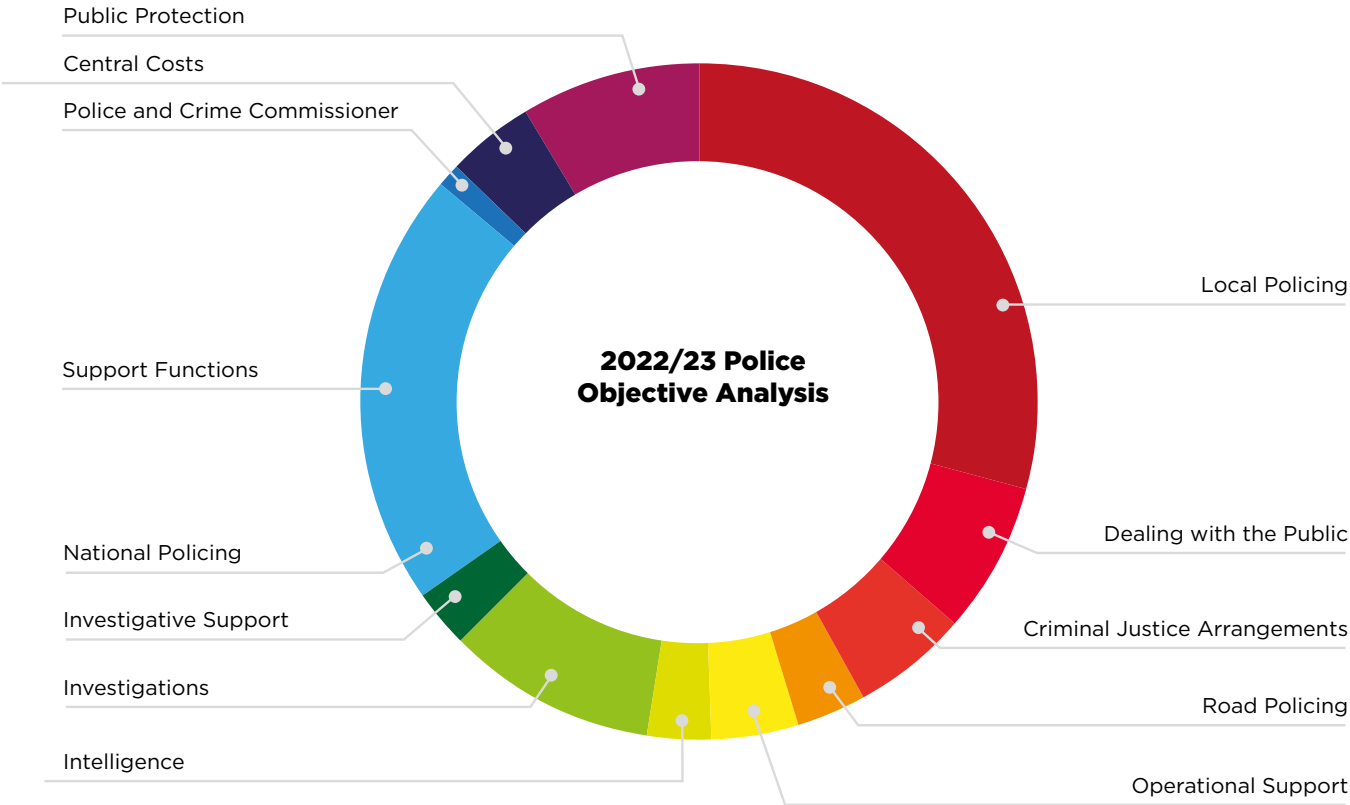
I worked closely with the Chief Constable and his senior leadership team to understand the operational needs of Lancashire Constabulary for the year ahead and the financial pressures on the Constabulary.

Revenue Budget

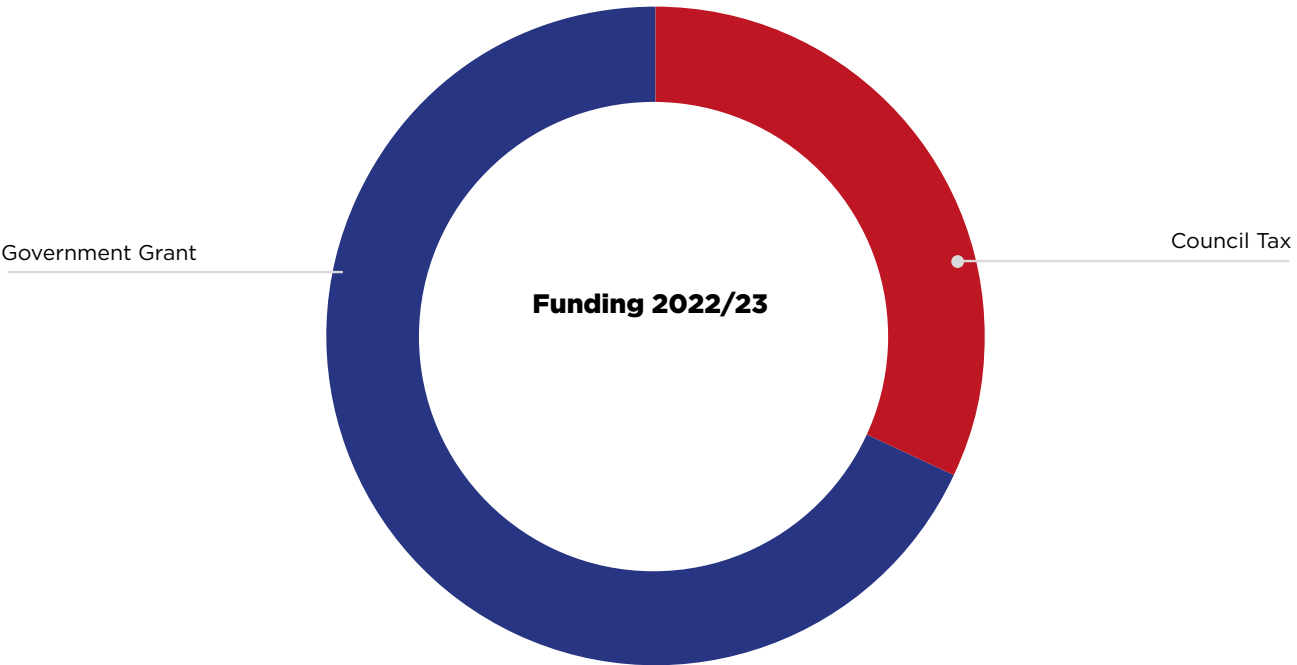
The 2022/23 revenue budget for was set at £338.243m in February 2022. The position at 31 March 2023 is set out here:

	Budget	Spend	Variance	
	£m	£m	£m	%
Chief Constable:				
Pay costs	266.551	264.155	2.396	-0.90%
ACC Territorial Operations	7.294	9.171	1.877	25.73%
ACC Crime	3.416	3.947	0.531	15.54%
ACC People and Specialist Uniform Operations	5.168	5.084	0.084	-1.62%
Director of Resources	29.412	29.057	0.355	-1.21%
Deputy Chief Constable	3.500	4.517	1.017	6.0
Sub total	313.227	312.833	0.393	-0.13%
Non-DFM budget	15.174	12.836	2.338	15.41%
Total Constabulary Budget	328.401	325.669	2.731	0.83%
PCC:				
Office of the PCC	1.489	1.544	0.055	3.71%
Communications	0.138	0.162	0.024	17.15%
Fighting Crime	0.740	0.596	0.144	19.46%
Victim and Domestic Abuse services	0.573	0.510	0.063	10.96%
Sub total	2.940	2.812	0.128	-4.35%
Non-DFM	6.902	5.672	1.230	17.82%
Total PCC	8.203	6.903	-1.300	-15.8
TOTAL BUDGET	319.391	319.391	0.000	0

What the money is spent on		
	£	%
Local Policing	98.584	29.15%
Dealing with the public	24.353	7.20%
Criminal Justice arrangements	18.989	5.61%
Road Policing	10.583	3.13%
Operational Support	14.090	4.17%
Intelligence	10.203	3.02%
Investigations	33.970	10.04%
Investigative Support	9.400	2.78%
National Policing	1.868	0.55%
Support Functions	70.199	20.75%
PCC	3.061	0.91%
Corporate Costs	14.818	4.38%
Public Protection	28.125	8.32%
Total:	338.243	



Funding 2022/23		
	£	%
Government Grant	230.767m	68%
Council Tax	107.476m	32%
Income	338.242m	



Capital investment	
A total of £15.079m has been spent on capital projects in this year:	
IT Strategy	6.973
Estate	4.343
Vehicle Replacement Programme	3.093
Other schemes	0.670
Total:	15.079

The main elements of this spend are:	
	£
I.T. Strategy	
Network Access and Security	£0.697m
Device upgrade and replacement	£3.681m
System replacement	£2.595m
Estate	
Critical Policing Infrastructure Programme	£1.501m
Skelmersdale Station refurbishment	£0.210m
Solar Panel installation	£0.303m
Bamber Bridge - ISO accreditation requirement	£1.268m
Minor works programme	£0.917m
Other Schemes	
Replacement of specialist equipment	£0.396m
Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment and infrastructure	£0.162m
Average speed cameras	£0.183m
Regional collaborations	£0.119m

CASE STUDY

Lancaster BID – Tackling ASB in Lancaster City Centre

Lancaster Business Improvement District (BID) were given £10,000 to extend the hours of the City’s BID Warden, who patrols the streets, liaises with local business in the City Centre and helps address local concerns such as business crime and anti-social behaviour.

By extending the hours coverage from 37.5 to 52.5 hours a week, the Warden is now able to address the issues that had been identified by talking to businesses and the public, during later hours between 6pm and 9pm.

This has supported local police in providing a way for escalation of issues to be avoided, intelligence gathering and identifying of concerns.

Tony Johnson, Lancaster BID Manager:

“We are extremely grateful to him for picking our project through the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund as it has enabled us to have our BID Warden 52.5 hours a week instead of the 37.5 hours.

“We identified last year that a lot of the ASB going on across the city was happening between 1800-2100, this was usually when our warden had finished for the day.

“The extra hours for our warden not only gives our businesses peace of mind, it also acts as a security blanket for the general public as well.”

Uplift Programme

More than 600 additional police officers joined Lancashire Constabulary within the last four years, exceeding the Police Uplift recruitment to recruit 509 additional officers set by the government.

These new recruits take our police officer headcount to 3,587, as at 31st March 2023, who serve the 1.5 million people living in the diverse communities of Lancashire. I am particularly proud that we are the only force to have recruited more female officers and have also increased representation from black and minority ethnicities.

It represents an exciting time for policing in Lancashire as more and more officers gain the knowledge and experience to make a real difference in the fight against crime across the county, with visible, community focused policing making people and the communities they live and work in safer.

Precept

The backdrop of inflation, pay, utilities and fuel costs all rising has been challenging for budget setting. 2022/23 has been a difficult time for Lancashire residents and this is also reflected in financing our police service. However, in setting the budget a multimillion-pound programme of efficiency savings will be delivered to protect front line policing and reduce the potential burden on taxpayers.

86% of residents who responded to my budget proposals survey wanted to see Lancashire Constabulary receive more funding. Every penny of the 6.34% rise in council tax precept for 2023/24 – equivalent to 29p a week for a Band D property (19p per week for a Band A property) – will be spent

to ensure that frontline policing is protected to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

My budget decision will allow Lancashire Constabulary to continue to deliver on your priorities, increase visible policing and invest in critical infrastructure to take the fight to criminals and keep Lancashire safe.

Grant Funding

Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund

Announced as part of my Fighting Crime Plan and officially launched to applicants Spring 2021, the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund (SLNF) has been investing into projects that deter and tackle crime, supporting community organisations and partners in making Lancashire safer and allowing Lancashire Constabulary to deliver innovative, new ways of taking the fight to criminals.

The three strands that make up the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhoods Fund are:

- Community Fund
- Police Innovation Fund
- ‘Fighting Crime’ Grants

Community Fund

In 2022/23 the Safer Lancashire Neighbourhood Community Fund received 92 applications with 31 organisations being successful totalling £206,862.25.

The aim of the Community Fund is to support smaller organisations and community groups in delivering projects and improvements within their communities, using money that has in part been seized from criminals.

It is estimated the 31 projects funded will directly work with over 13,582 individuals across Lancashire

including over 3080 young people and 130 Adults. However, many more people across Lancashire will have been positively impacted both directly and indirectly for example projects that made communities feel safer, improving public confidence.

Police Innovation Fund

Between April 2022 and March 2023, the Police Innovation Fund received 36 applications.

The Commissioner supported 11 initiatives totalling £283,035.69.

Fighting Crime Grant

£141K was provided to Lancashire Constabulary to support five policing operations: Easter Bank Holiday, Jubilee Weekend, August Bank Holiday, Bonfire Weekend and the festive season.

Funding supported an enhanced police presence in the Night Time Economy and enhanced community engagement in neighbourhoods to address ASB.

Overall, the Commissioner’s funding supported Lancashire Constabulary to respond to 5,379 incidents that resulted in 595 arrests.

As I support and visit projects, it is great to see the positive work happening to make Lancashire safer, through diversionary activity, enhanced policing operations and projects, investment in infrastructure such as CCTV or road safety measures to just name a few.

It is also a poetic irony that we are achieving this positive change within the county, by using the ill-gotten gains of criminals we have seized, investing them back into the areas they have exploited, tackling the root causes of crimes.



Bacup Family Centre (Solutions – Community Youth Project) Rossendale

Bacup Family Centre were awarded £10,000 towards their Solutions – Community Youth Project.

Following repeated issues raised at Rossendale's multi agency ASB meeting, Bacup Family Centre developed the Community Youth Project. Bacup Family Centre work with vulnerable young people causing or at risk of getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The project provides young people access to a dedicated youth space for several days and evenings per week.

Police in the Rossendale area have opened a new office within the community centre with the aim to improve engagement opportunities with partners, the public and youths. They also have established dedicated daily ASB patrols targeting hotspot areas, making use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Community Protection Notice and Warnings.

An average of 25 young people have been attending each session, and 79 have been engaged with in total. Bacup Family Centre have regular contact with around 30-40 of these young people per week. Further funding had been acquired from CCG funding streams which allowed for 12 of the young people to be referred into the free dance lessons.

A further application was received by Bacup Natural History Museum who link in with the Family centre and provide activities for identified young people. The Museum have received funding towards the installation of CCTV to enable them to effectively capture Anti-Social Behaviour and other crime following on from incidents relating to young people who now attend the Solutions Project. They were identified as causing nuisance on the grounds of the Museum.

LOOKING AHEAD

I am very proud of the achievements over my time in office and the results over the past 12 months which are highlighted in this report.

The world of policing never stands still, and while we have made great strides in delivering against the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan for Lancashire, I realise that there is still more to be done in taking the fight to criminals and keeping our beautiful county safe.

I am pleased to say that we will see more officers joining Lancashire's front line in the coming months following the Constabulary's successful recruitment drive which beat the national targets set through the Police Uplift Programme.

Many of the officers recruited are now completing their training and will soon join teams across the county, bolstering our response to crime and anti-social behaviour across Lancashire, from our cities to our glorious countryside.

You can expect to see even more results through Op Warrior which pursues organised crime gangs, targeted efforts to crack down on anti-social behaviour through the Constabulary's new specialist unit and the additional funding secured from the Government, continued action to take dangerous drivers off our streets and more partnership work to tackle violence against women and girls.

With the budget set for the year ahead and the biggest investment in the Constabulary in living memory now underway, I will ensure that the force has the resources and infrastructure needed to build on its position as one of the top forces in the country.

I will continue to lead the fight against crime by working closely with the Chief Constable and our partners to make sure that Lancashire residents get the policing service they deserve.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

What you have to say is important to us. If you would like to comment on the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, you can contact us using the information below.

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