

**Report to:**

**TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Relevant Officer:**

Paolo Pertica, Head of Community Safety Strategy

**Date of Meeting**

06 June 2018

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT APRIL 2017 – MARCH  
2018**

**1.0 Purpose of the report:**

- 1.1 To consider the performance regarding the Community Safety Partnership's priorities between April 2017 and March 2018. The priorities discussed within this report are the Partnership's priorities from the 2016 - 2019 Community Safety Plan, which are Violence Against The Person, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), Domestic Abuse, Sexual Offences & Rape, and Child Sexual Exploitation. This report will also make reference to other ongoing work such as Counter Terrorism, Serious Organised Crime, Hate Crime and Modern Day Slavery.

**2.0 Recommendation:**

- 2.1 To consider the performance of the Community Safety Partnership against its 2016 - 2019 priorities and identify any matters for further consideration.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation:**

- 3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes
- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
- Not applicable

**4.0 Council Priority:**

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 BSafe Blackpool, the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership (CSP), is a group of statutory partners who meet quarterly to take forward strategic issues relating to addressing crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The group is chaired by Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader, Blackpool Council. The statutory responsible authorities for BSafe Blackpool are Blackpool Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire & Cumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (previously part of the Probation Service) and the National Probation Service. A number of additional organisations, although not statutory responsible authorities, are also members of the partnership such as Blackpool Coastal Housing, North West Ambulance Service and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. Other organisations from the private, public and third sector may also be temporarily involved with BSafe Blackpool subject to the issues being addressed by the partnership. Actions and decisions made at the meetings are then cascaded to the operational arm of the Partnership which includes a number of teams, such as the Community Safety team, as well as a number of thematic subgroups, such as the ASB working group.
- 5.2 The priorities on which the partnership focuses are identified by the Strategic Assessment, which is a process taking place every three years and refreshed yearly, which analyses the crime, anti-social behaviour and harm data from Blackpool in order to identify the areas which require particular attention. The Strategic Assessment also identifies key threats, any specific trends in crime, disorder and substance misuse and any changes since the previous assessment. The way in which performance against the priorities is measured has significantly changed in the last few years, with focus progressively shifting from volume crime and crime reduction targets, to a more harm and risk based perspective on crime and its impact. The new Strategic Assessment will be developed in 2018/19 and should be ready some time in November 2018. Once the priorities will be identified by the Strategic Assessment and confirmed by the CSP, the new three year 2019/2022 Community Safety Plan will be developed.

## **6.0 Performance**

- 6.0.1 As explained in previous scrutiny reports, during the period between 2004/5 and 2014/15, crime in Blackpool consistently reduced year on year which created an extremely challenging baseline from which to achieve further reductions. Therefore, in 2015/16 all crime increased for the first time in a number of years partly due to this baseline, but probably also due to the aforementioned change in emphasis around harm and risk. This shift in focus and the ongoing work to make reporting crime easier, particularly for vulnerable victims, has actively encouraged victims to come forward and report crimes such as hate and sexual offences, which perhaps in the past would not be reported. Consequently, although this has led to increases in these crime categories, they can be and are recognised as positive outcomes. This trend of increases in 2015/16 is not unique to Blackpool and has continued throughout the following two years, with all districts across Lancashire experiencing increases during 2016/17 and 2017/18. With

regards to the period April 2017 to March 2018 all crime in Lancashire has increased by 18.2% (n=+19,610) compared to the previous year.

6.0.2 All crime in Blackpool for the period April 2017 to March 2018 has increased by 19.4% (n=+3599) compared to the previous year. As per the previous year, each month has shown an increase when compared to the same month in the previous year. The crime categories contributing to the majority of this increase are Violence Against the Person, which is up by 36.1% (n=+2123), and public order offences (n=+603). All burglary offences have shown a small reduction of 1.4% (n=-25), and vehicle offences have reduced by 9.7% (n=-131). The Partnership is aware of crime recording issues around violence and the inclusion of malicious communication within this category, which have impacted on the increases throughout the last 12 months. This has led to all districts across Lancashire seeing increases in violent offences during 2017/18, which suggests that such an increase is not a Blackpool phenomenon.

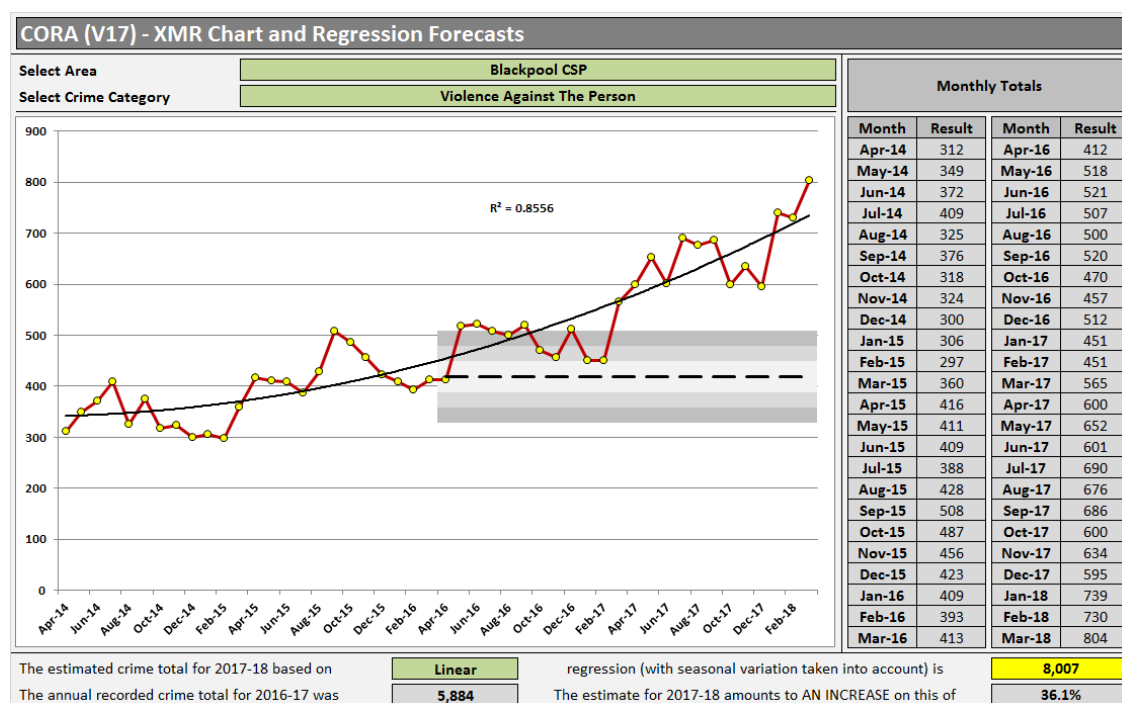
6.0.3 With regards to the Community Safety Partnership priorities for 2016/19, the performance for the period April 2017 to March 2018 is as follows:

## 6.1 Violence Against The Person

6.1.1 The figures for the period April 2017 to March 2018 in relation to Violence Against The Person (VAP) are as follows:

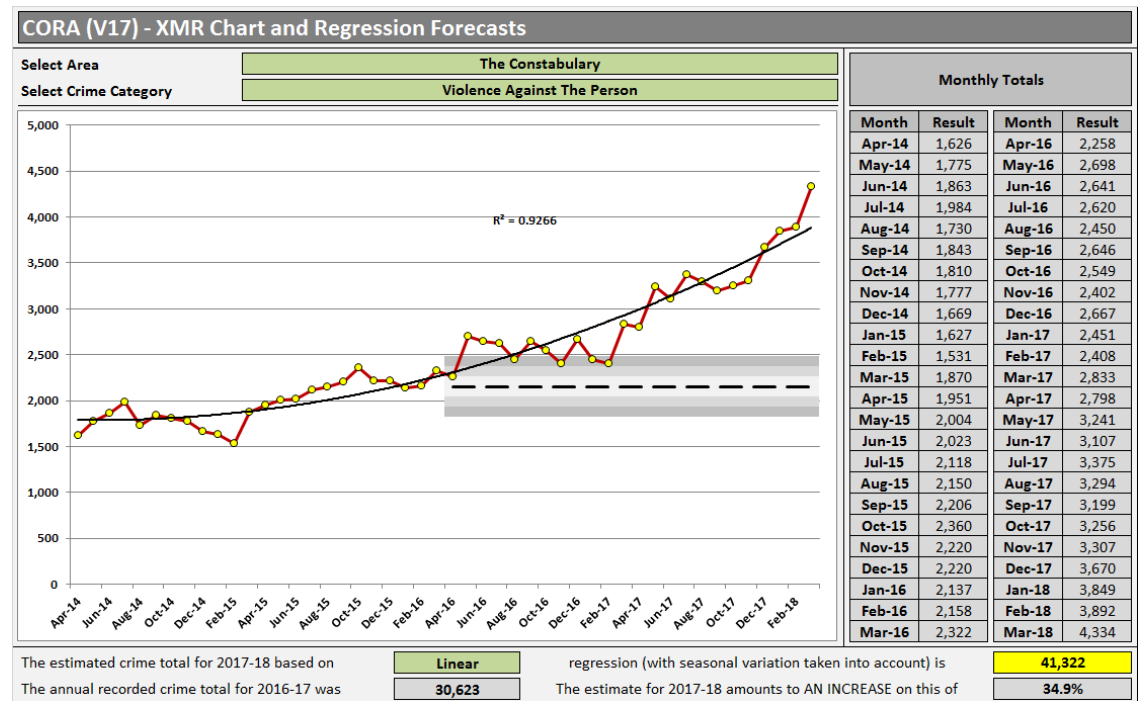
Serious Assaults:	increase of 15.3% (+26 offences)
Less Serious Assaults:	increase of 19.0% (+533 offences)
Non-Injury Assaults:	increase of 37.0% (+748 offences)

6.1.2 In Blackpool, the trend for the last four years in relation to VAP is as follows:



All Violence Against the Person has continued to increase in Blackpool and Lancashire in recent years. In 2017/18, there has been a 36.1% increase in Blackpool, with a 34.9% increase across the County. Harassment offences have remained similar to that of last year (n=726), whilst the introduction of malicious communication into this category has seen an additional 676 offences.

The trend for Lancashire is as follows:



- 6.1.3 The continuance of improving standards of recording of crime has undoubtedly impacted upon the Violence Against The Person figures, and therefore more crime is being recorded than previously. However, with regards to the increase itself, this seems to be due to the cumulative impact of increases across a number of violent crime categories, with the largest increases being seen in non-injury assault and malicious communication due to its inclusion in 2017/18.
- 6.1.4 Initiatives to tackle violence within Blackpool continue to be implemented by the CSP, particularly in relation the Night Time Economy (NTE). Some of these are longstanding projects such as the Night Safe Haven provision, the Taxi Marshalling and Safer Taxis, all of which have been mentioned in previous scrutiny reports.
- 6.1.5 The CSP has been working with the Community Safety Analyst in order to further analyse the data pertaining to violent crime in Blackpool, in order to search for any helpful patterns. The analysis confirmed that victims and offenders aged 16 to 24 remain those most at risk. As a result, the Community Safety Team (CST) continued to work with Blackpool and The Fylde College in supporting “The Choice is in Your Hands”, which is a violent crime awareness project. The project included involving students to

design and produce awareness posters and beer mats that were disseminated into thirteen town centre licensed premises, the student union bar in Blackpool and Fylde College and Blackpool Victoria Hospital. The overall aim of the project is to raise awareness of the consequence of being an offender or a victim of violent crime.

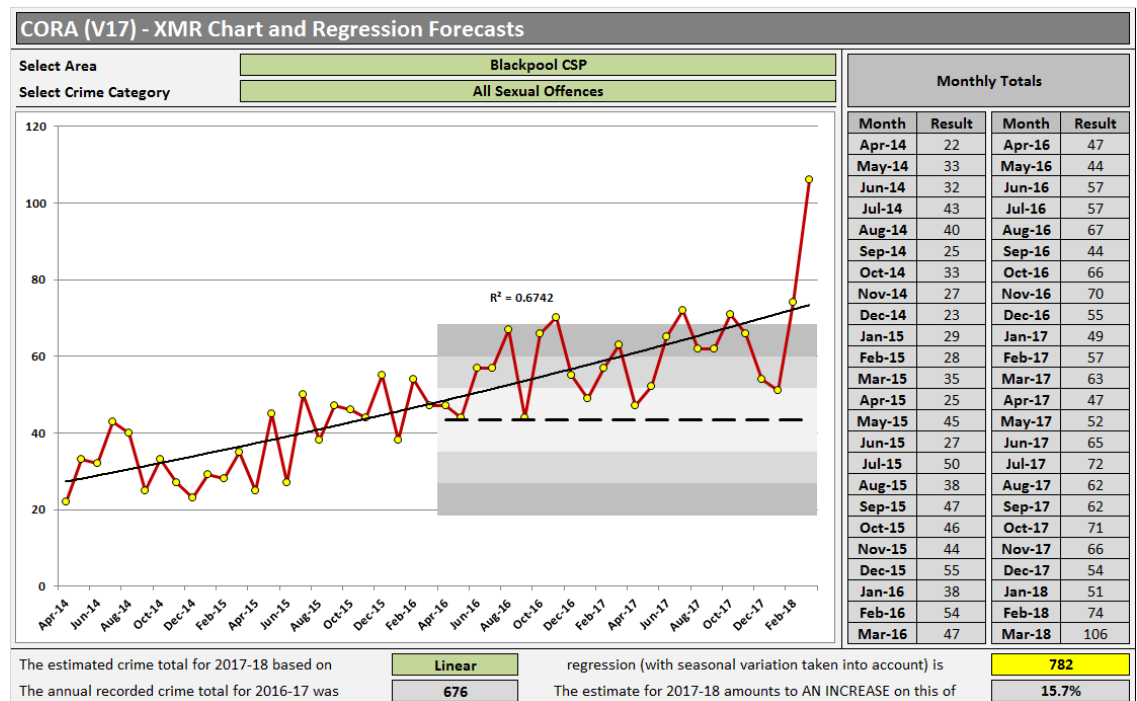
- 6.1.6 In addition to the above, a theatre company was commissioned by the CSP and Blackpool and The Fylde College to write, produce and perform a short drama on the consequences of violent crime, focusing on a 'one punch kills' scenario. The theatre company were also asked to incorporate information on the Prevent agenda, highlighting the manipulation and grooming of people to carry out acts of radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. The drama was performed in December 2017 at Blackpool and The Fylde college in front of approximately 1500 students, most of which were aged between 16 and 24.
- 6.1.7 The CST was an exhibitor at the Blackpool and The Fylde College Fresher's Fairs, which provided an opportunity to engage with new and existing students. In excess of 1500 people attended the event over two days, where information on violent crime, including the *'The choice is in your hands'*, was provided. Members of the CST also distributed personal safety items to the attendees, which included anti-drink spiking bottle tops, contactless card protectors, panic alarms, in case of emergency cards (ICE), anti-purse dipping bells and property marking kits.
- 6.1.8 Although it is extremely difficult or perhaps even impossible to identify specific outcomes associated with the above activities, it is believed that the young people's awareness on the implications of becoming a victim or an offender of violent crime was increased significantly. Indeed, positive feedback was received by those participating and the professional involved.
- 6.1.9 Recently the CSP provided funding for a further seven body-worn cameras and the associated computer software required. The provision of body-worn cameras is in order to deter individuals from engaging in violence in the first place, or better detect those who do become violent. It is hoped that this will enable improved capturing of witness/victim information, and consequently aid investigation, identification and prosecution of perpetrators.
- 6.1.10 CCTV Monitoring continued to support addressing violent crime. During the period April 2017 to March 2018 a total of 101 downloads have been undertaken involving assaults, as well as an additional 31 downloads involving sexual assaults. The evidence provided by CCTV can play a pivotal role in securing convictions in court although, as explained in the previous report, is not possible to provide specific statistics.

## 6.2 Sexual Offences and Rape

6.2.1 The figures for the period April 2017 to March 2018 in relation to Sexual Offences and Rape are as follows:

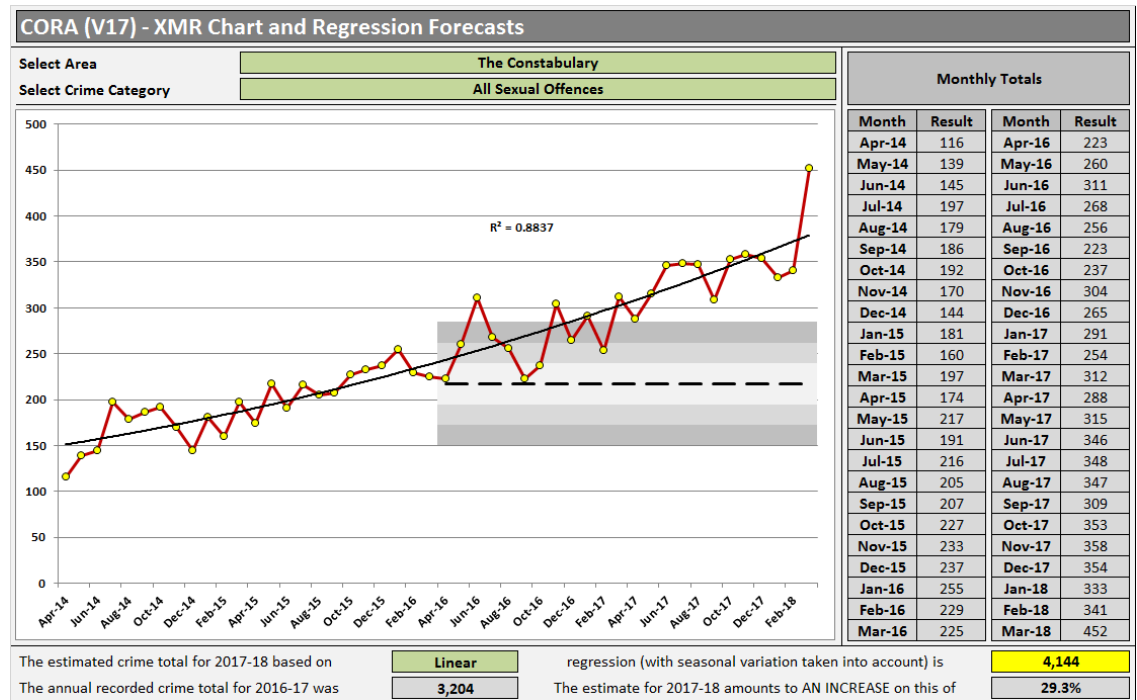
All Sexual Offences	increase of 15.7% (+106 offences)
Rape	increase of 30.9% (+67 offences)
Sexual Assault	reduction of 6.4% (-16 offences)
Sexual Offences (children under 16)	increase of 1.9% (+7 offences)

6.2.2 In Blackpool, the trend for Sexual Offences over the last four years is as follows:

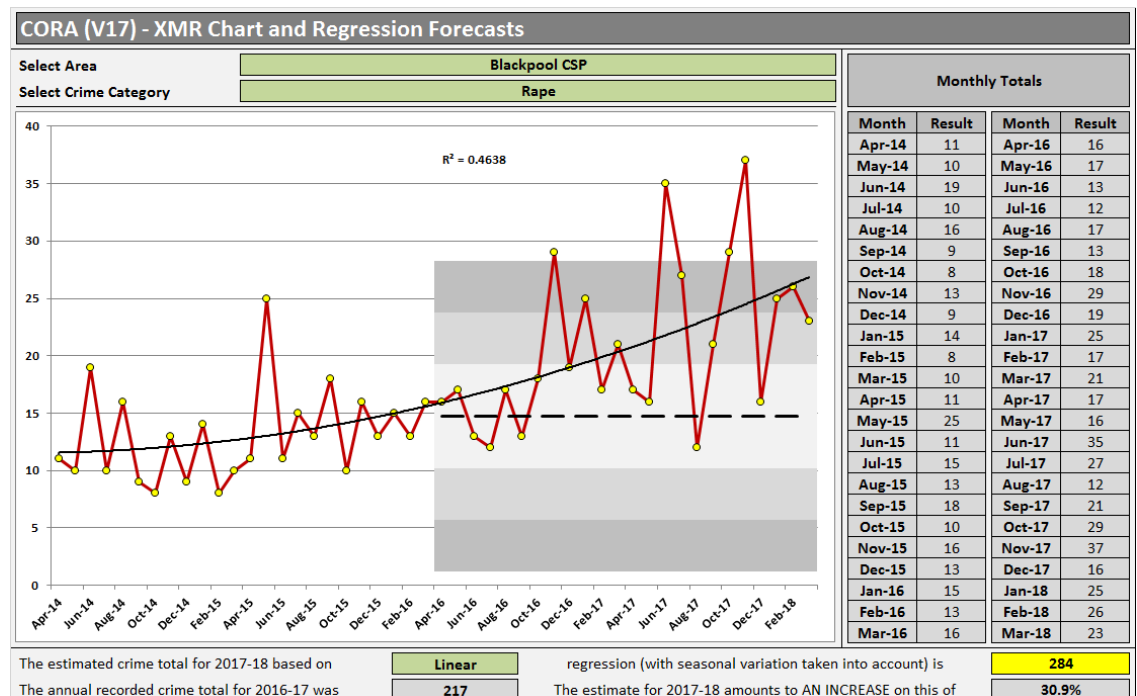


6.2.3 The increase in Sexual Offences has been a continuing trend over the last four years. During the period April 2017 to March 2018 there were 782 sexual offences reported in Blackpool. The number and proportion of 'non recent' (having taken place over 12 months before they were reported) has reduced compared to the previous year from 215 to 199 (31.2% to 25.4% of sexual offences). The recording of offences of sexual activity involving a child have remained at similar levels to last year – this crime type includes the use of social media/technological equipment to send and request images of a sexual nature (i.e. sexting etc.). Increases within Sexual Offences in Blackpool are consistent with those which are being seen both across the county and nationally.

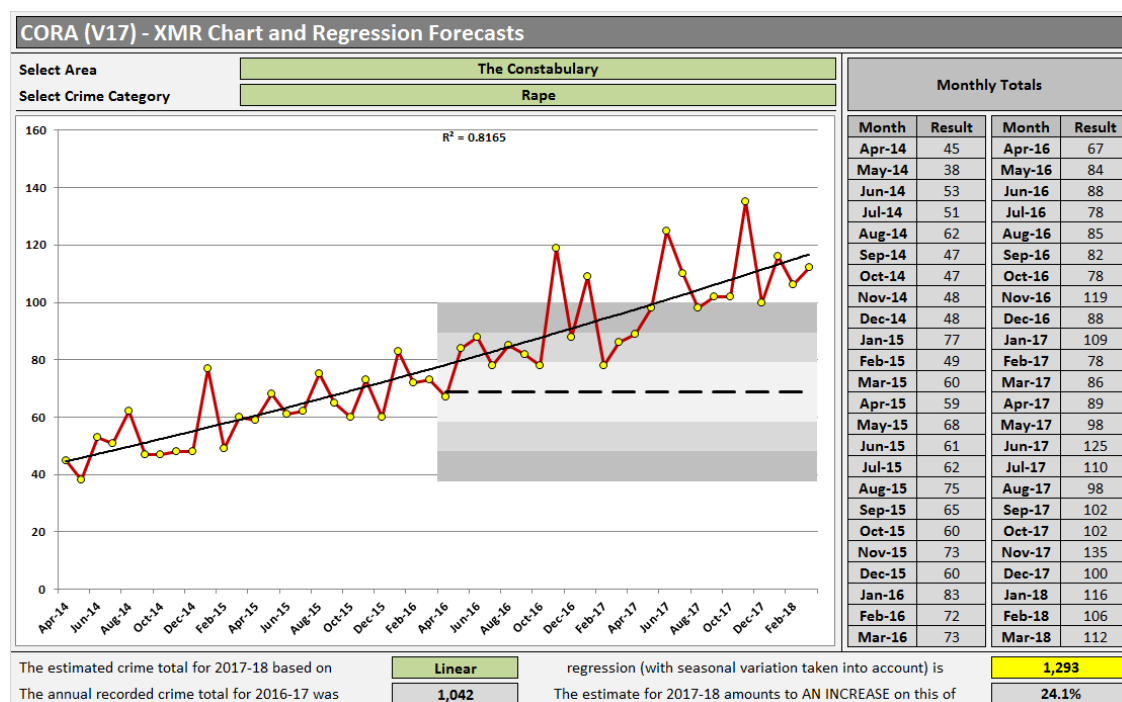
## 6.2.4 The figures pertaining to Sexual Offences for Lancashire are as follows:



6.2.5 In relation to Rape, performance figures have previously demonstrated comparable increases between Blackpool and the rest of Lancashire. Of note, the number of rape offences which occurred during 2017/18 increased from 113 to 167 compared to 2016/17. The overall rape figures include all offences reported during the 12 month period – therefore historical offences are added to the figure mentioned above. The four year figures for Blackpool are as follows:



6.2.6 The trend across the County is as follows:



6.2.7 As mentioned within the last report, and similarly to Violence Against The Person, changes in recording are likely to have contributed to some of the increases being seen with Sexual Offences and Rape. However, there has also been a concentrated effort to encourage victims to report these types of crime. Particularly as far as the historical incidents are concerned, individuals are becoming more and more confident in coming forward to the Police and reporting such crimes. Moreover, offences which relate to the use of social media and mobile phones are being reported much more frequently than they have ever been before. Whilst all these factors result in increased figures, this is viewed as a positive development because victims are recognising that what they have experienced is crime and they report it accordingly. This trend is not just evident locally, but also county wide, regionally and nationally too.

6.2.8 A Sexual Health Action Plan has been developed and the CST worked with colleagues from the Police and Public Health in order to identify the priorities relating to Sexual Offences and Rape to be included within this plan. This enables a fully joined-up approach in dealing with sexual violence and will allow for this work to be linked with that of existing agencies providing sexual health services.

6.2.9 The Aquazure working group, which work aims to reduce sexual assaults, rape and prostitution, consist of members who formerly constituted the Aquamarine group (a multi-agency group tackling sexual offences and rape), and Azure (a multi-agency group tackling prostitution). The newly formed Aquazure group works on those tasks agreed within the Sexual Violence Action Plan referred to above. This co-ordinated activity has resulted in no reports of sexual assaults taking place within the known local parlours and saunas, nor any reports of trafficked victims or underage workers during 2017/18, which is a remarkable improvement from the previous 12 months.



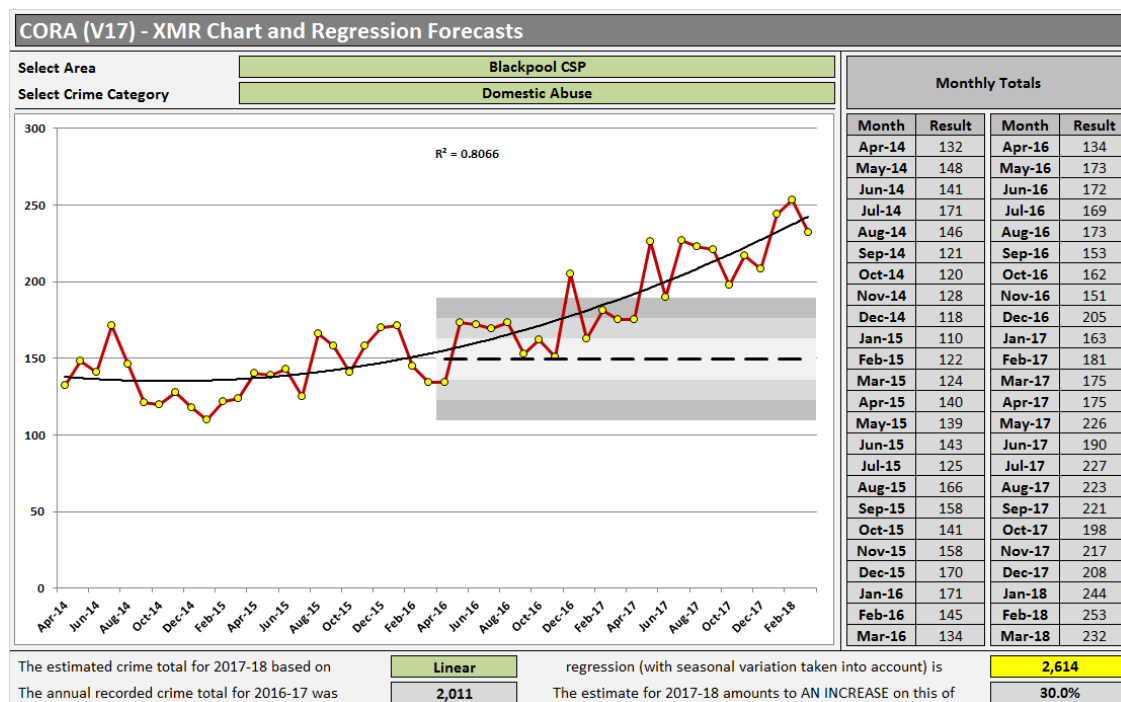
- 6.2.11 A new Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) has now been appointed to work full time at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. This post has been funded for three years as a result of a successful bid to the Home Office between Blackpool Council and the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner. Health data analysis had highlighted that there were a substantial number of victims presenting at hospital who never reported the assault to the Police. It is hoped that this new post will be able to support these victims.

### 6.3 Domestic Abuse

- 6.3.1 The figures for the period April 2017 to March 2018 in relation to Domestic Abuse are as follows:

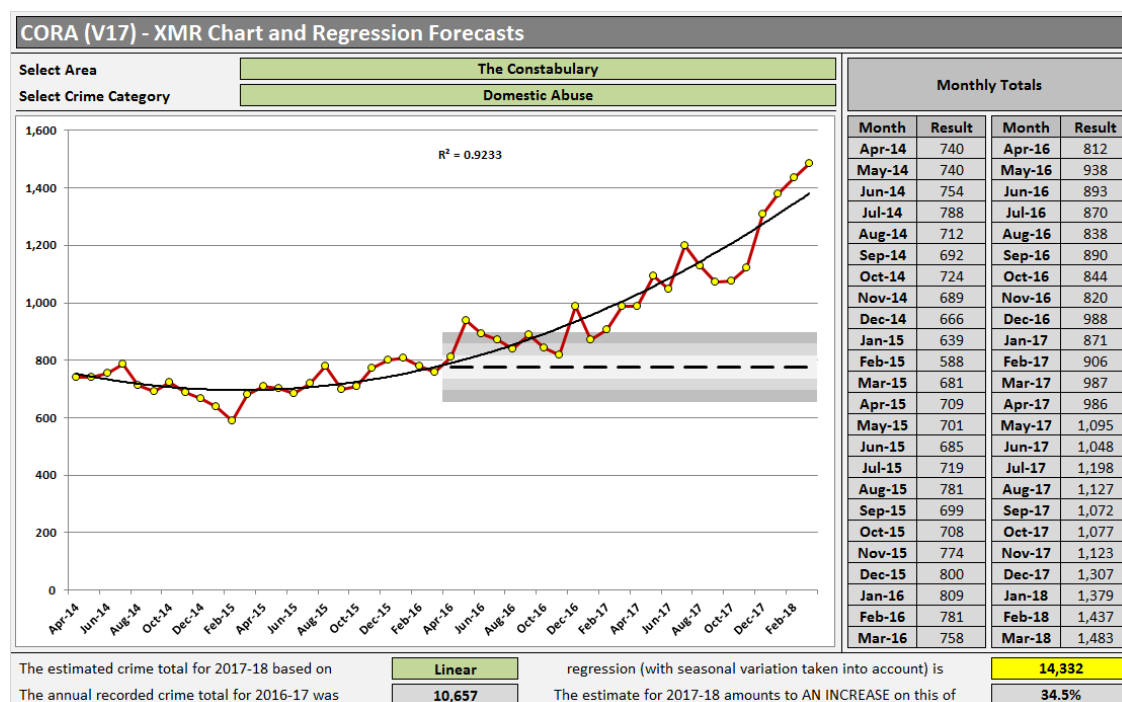
All domestic assaults	increase of 27.3% (+359 offences)
Serious domestic assaults	increase of 28.6% (+10 offences)
Less serious domestic assaults	increase of 21.0% (+148 offences)
Non-injury domestic assaults	increase of 34.8% (+201 offences)

- 6.3.2 The four year Domestic Abuse figures for Blackpool are as follows:



- 6.3.3 Domestic Abuse (which encompasses all crimes with a 'domestic violence' marker) has seen an annual increase of 30% (+603 offences) with Quarter 4 (January to March 2018) having had the highest number of offences during the last four years (n=729), which regrettably was the same across the whole of Lancashire.
- 6.3.4 Although there have been increases within Domestic Abuse, this is something that has been seen across every single district within Lancashire during 2017/18. Blackpool's proportional increases are the fifth lowest across the county.

6.3.5 The trend across the county is as follows:



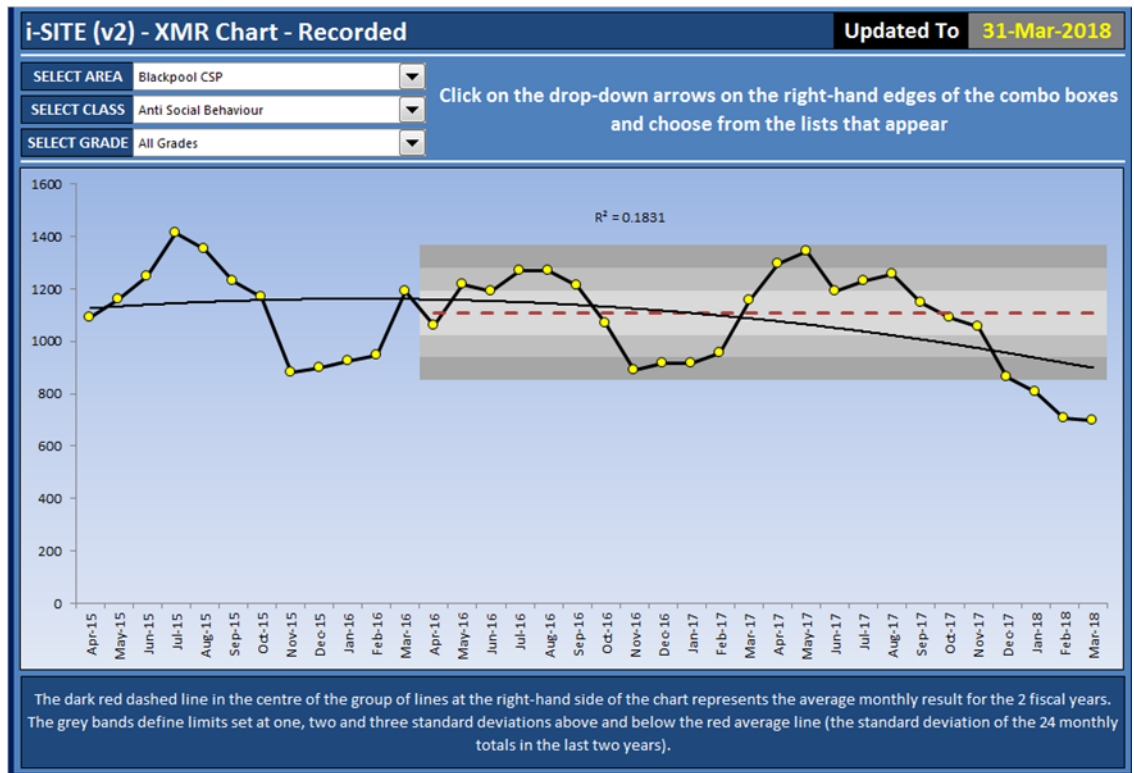
6.3.6 For high-risk abuse cases, referrals are made to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) which will develop a risk management plan for all parties i.e. victim, perpetrator and associated children. Recent MARAC data is as follows:

BLACKPOOL MARAC DATA			
	April 2015 – March 2016	April 2016 – March 2017	April 2017 – March 2018
Total MARAC cases listed in Blackpool	395	523	604
Total children listed in MARAC cases in Blackpool	456	558	741
Total repeat MARAC cases listed in Blackpool	74	153	185

6.4 Anti-social Behaviour

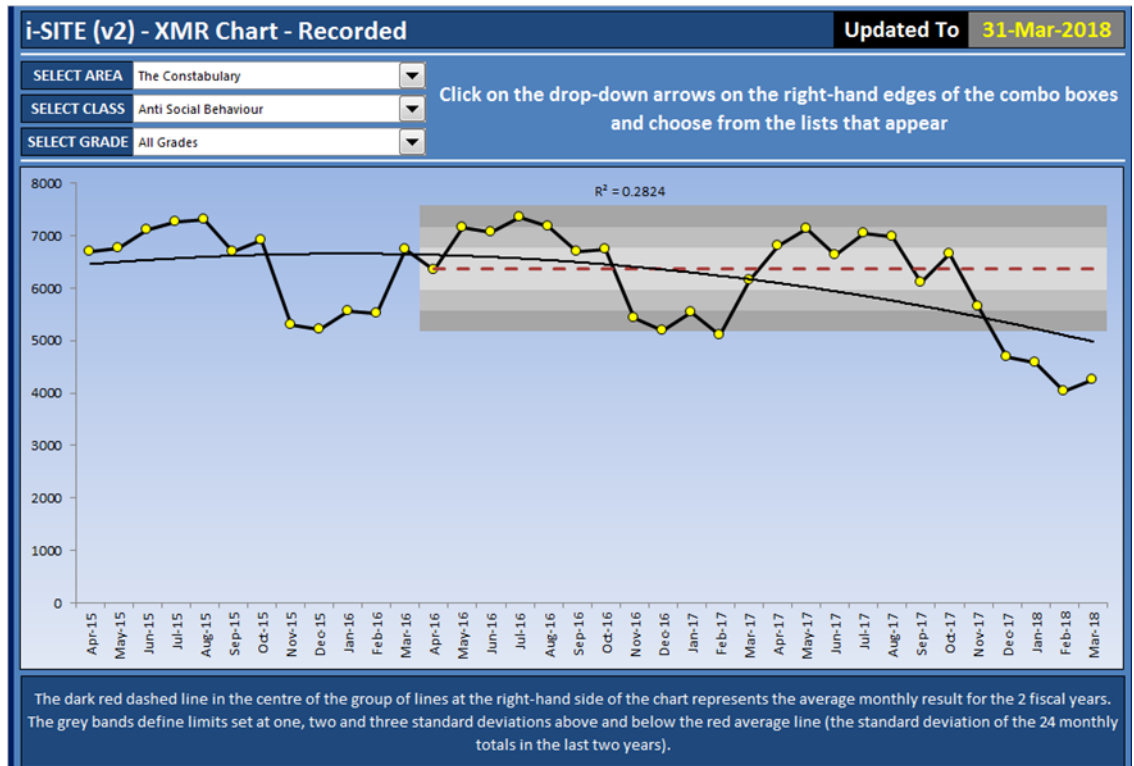
6.4.1 Incidents of Anti-social Behaviour reported to the Police during the period April 2017 to March 2018 have reduced by 3.3% (-434 incidents), and by 6% over the last two years. The average number of incidents reported per day has been 35.

6.4.2 The three year trend for ASB in Blackpool are as follows:



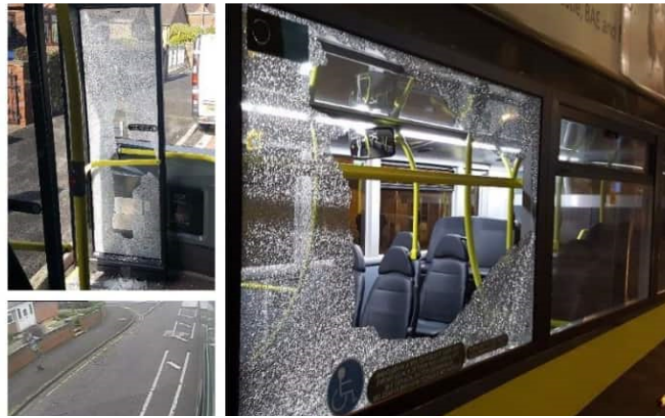
6.4.3 There were increases in Quarter 1 (+10.3%) and Quarter 3 (+5.0%), with reductions in Quarter 2 (-3.2%) and Quarter 4 (-26.9%). Eight of the twelve months showed comparative reductions. Peak reductions occurred in the most recent months of February and March.

6.4.4 Anti-social Behaviour across Lancashire between April 2017 and March 2018 has shown a reduction of 7.1%:



- 6.4.5 There were 34 medium to high Risk ASBRAC cases referred during 2017/18 which were heard, planned and safeguarded. In 18 cases a reduction in risk was achieved so that the victims felt safer, more confident and no longer in need of further intervention from the Police or the Council. As a result of these changes, their ASBRAC cases were closed. Of the 16 remaining ASBRAC cases still open at the end of March 2018, although the risk to the victims has reduced already, ongoing interventions were still taking place to support these victims at the time of writing this report.
- 6.4.6 Although the overall number of referrals to ASBRAC has reduced compared to the previous 12 months, there has been a noticeable increase in the complexity and vulnerability of those referred to ASBRAC in 2017/18. For example, of all referrals during this period, 68% were high risk cases and 9% involved hate crime. These cases needed a lot more support until the individuals felt safe and confident enough for their referral to be closed compared to previous cases. The CST managed 445 ASB cases during the 2017/18 period. Referrals were received directly by the CST from Neighbourhood Police Officers, Council colleagues, other partner agencies, and from members of the community following the Team's attendance at local community meetings. Once referrals were received, they were investigated and action plans put in place to safeguard victims and address the behaviour of the perpetrators. Out of the 445 cases, 421 have been problem solved satisfactorily, with 24 cases still ongoing at the time of writing this report.
- 6.4.7 The number of 'nuisance' ASB reports has increased from 7617 incidents in 2016/17 to 7745 incidents in 2017/18, which is an increase of 128 incidents or 1.7%. Although this is a rather small increase and the work of the CST contributed to reducing the number of ASB incidents, these can be affected by all sorts of other influences and factors out of the control of the team. For example, nuisance ASB continued to increase during the summer months when most of the recorded incidents in this period were due to reports of stone throwing by young people at taxis, buses and trams from some of the local bridges.
- 6.4.8 However, once these problems were identified, the CST reviewed the membership of the ASB working group to ensure that members of Blackpool Transport and British Transport Police were included in order to address these issues.

## **Fury as spate of vandal attacks on Blackpool buses spark safety fears and cost thousands to repair**



- 6.4.9 As well as the young people throwing stones at vehicles, during 2017/18 Blackpool Transport suffered from approximately £100,000 of damage occurring to their vehicles, as a result of crime and ASB committed by young people. The CST have been working with Blackpool Transport and the Police in order to tackle these issues, which are mainly experienced when young people are going to and coming back from school.
- 6.4.10 The project agreed to address these issues consisted of a balanced response including both engagement and enforcement activities. The CST facilitated visits by an Engagement Officer from Blackpool Transport to various secondary schools, who delivered awareness sessions in assemblies to over 3000 students on the impact of ASB to their vehicles and their staff. In addition, an arrangement was put in place to allow teachers to travel free of charge on the most problematic routes. Since these two interventions were implemented, substantial reductions were experienced, including in one school where an 80% reduction in reports of ASB involving their students was achieved.
- 6.4.11 The CST also started a project working in partnership with Blackpool Transport and Head Start, which is a lottery funded local project working with young people, to create a young person focus group with the aim of developing a media campaign to reduce crime and ASB on public transport. This project has started recently so no outcomes are known yet.
- 6.4.12 The CST has also assisted with the co-ordination of the enforcement action with police colleagues. This involved negotiating and securing an increased police presence in problem hot spot areas, and implementing a Trojan taxi that followed buses on high risk routes. The deployment of the Trojan vehicle helped identify eighteen problematic young people involved in the ASB, and additional young people were identified by using CCTV evidence which linked them to some of the local colleges. A number of interventions were then implemented with these young people including home visits, restorative justice (young people were made to wash some of the vehicles affected), and in one particularly serious case a young person has been charged with assault. As

a result of the above activity no further offending is known as having occurred from these young people.

- 6.4.13 Utilisation of the Tools and Powers introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act in October 2014 is now well established in Blackpool. In the twelve months period April 2017 to March 2018 the CST issued 87 Community Protection Warning, a number of Community Protection Notices, 6 Criminal Behaviour Orders and 1 Civil Injunction.
- 6.4.14 The CST sit on the Lancashire County ASB Working Group and has been and remains involved in a joint project with Preston and Blackburn which looks into the increasing levels of youth related ASB at certain McDonald's restaurants, which is taking up a substantial amount of Police and Council time and resource to deal with. A full analysis of each area has been carried out by the police analysts and an action plan to address the issues identified has been developed. The action plan includes those restaurants with the highest number of issues, that are all managed by the same individual, and which will be visited by their respective local authority Health & Safety teams. They will agree an SLA with the restaurants to address some of the issues identified, which are all associated with the poor management of the premises. As these measures have been implemented recently, no outcomes are known yet.
- 6.4.15 Over the past year Blackpool has experienced resurgence in larger scale cannabis farms. The CST has worked with police colleagues building sufficient intelligence/evidence to obtain warrants. The CST has a thermal imaging camera which has been used to verify heat signatures emanating from suspected buildings. Over the past few months six farms were confirmed partly by using the intelligence collated by the CST, and over 3000 plants were recovered. This work carried out by the CST meant that it expedited the process for police officers to secure warrants, thereby saving time for those police colleagues involved.

**More than 500 plants seized from cannabis farm**



PC John Kingsley-Mills, right, with leading officer Jess Cooper, retrieving around 500 cannabis plants from a house on Edgeton Road

**Hundreds of plants found at resort cannabis factory**



Some of the plants found - nobody has been arrested

- 6.4.16 The CST attended the monthly Police Tactical Tasking Group where risks and threats were discussed and the CST supported police colleagues to problem solve the issues debated, including using civil powers where appropriate.
- 6.4.17 During 2017/18 the CST secured funding from local Councillors and other sources of funding to purchase eleven body worn cameras for the South Blackpool Neighbourhood Policing team, which have been used by officers to protect themselves and gain video



evidence of crime and ASB. The CST has supported Blackpool Police by taking witness statements and community impact statements from victims and businesses, which were used in court proceedings when proactively tackling crime and ASB

- 6.4.18 The CSP developed and launched an 'Alternative Giving' campaign in partnership with Blackpool Food Partnership, Housing Access & Support Team and BID, in support of 'Operation Clean-up'. The aim was to raise awareness of the services offered by Blackpool Food Partnership amongst members of the public, in an effort to help people understand that giving money to street beggars did not resolve their issues, and in some instances actually sustained their addictions. Posters were displayed on bus shelters, shops and in customer facing businesses. The project was also showcased at the Blackpool Pub Watch Licensees forum and the Blackpool Business Leadership Group. The campaign has raised so far approximately £1,000 which has been given back to the services that assist these individuals. The town centre Geographic Inspector recommended this project for the Police Annual Divisional Awards.



## 6.5 Child Sexual Exploitation

- 6.5.1 As Child Sexual Exploitation is not designated as a specific crime category, it is not possible to provide accurate performance data against this priority. However, the CST works closely with the Awaken Team and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to protect victims of sexual offences up to the age of 18, disrupt perpetrators and tackle problematic locations.
- 6.5.2 The CST attends the monthly multi-disciplinary MACSE and Missing from Home and Child Sexual Exploitation Subgroup meetings where children at risk of CSE or those missing from home are discussed. Within these groups, it was recognised that on many occasions CSE, missing from homes and anti-social behaviour were quite closely linked and therefore the different professionals were often dealing with the same young people. For those vulnerable young people involved in sexual exploitation, plans are put in place to reduce their vulnerability, as well as tackling places and people of concern. Where appropriate, the CST issued Community Protection Warnings and Community Protection Notices (CPW/CPN), which are used to put restrictions on problematic behaviours. During 2017/18, 21 CPWs and 1 CPN have been issued to people of concern with a success rate of 99% at CPW stage, and 100% at CPN stage, with regards to achieving the restrictions stated within the CPW or CPN. This means

that the capacity of those involved in exploiting children was reduced, and therefore it is likely that the risk of exploitation of the children involved was also reduced accordingly. Examples of conditions include prohibiting young people into addresses of concern, preventing the use of drugs and alcohol in the presence of young people, and requiring adults to report children who had gone missing.

- 6.5.3 The CST worked with the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) subgroup of the local Children Safeguarding Board prior to the CSE awareness week to develop and implement a 'design a poster or leaflet' competition. This involved inviting young people who accessed services in Blackpool to design and create a poster highlighting sexting/grooming, and/or produce information on what support services were available in Blackpool. Blackpool Children's Safeguarding Board provided prizes for the best two entries, and the winners were chosen by the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Boards. The winning designs are shown below and are currently distributed throughout the borough.
- 6.5.4 Due to the concerns with regards to young people accessing inappropriate material and becoming engaged with inappropriate adults online, the CST worked in partnership with a local P.C. to develop an educational response, named 'Operation Safety Net'. The project consisted of developing an educational package which included a video created by Blackpool and The Fylde College involving local young students providing online safety messages, a poster to be displayed in all primary schools and a leaflet which was given to all of those purchasing online devices from retailers in Blackpool. In addition, information and awareness sessions were provided to all 31 primary schools focusing on year 6 students regarding online safety.
- 6.5.5 Although it is rather difficult to identify specific outcomes following the above work, positive feedback has been received from local parents and schools and, in one particular case, it is known that a vulnerable young child who was exploited online was identified and safeguarded following the information provided at the assembly in their school. Another outcome of the project was that NSPCC colleagues were invited by some schools to attend their parent's evenings in order to educate parents on online safety.





## 7.0 Hate Crime

7.1 The breakdown for Blackpool hate crime offences is as follows:

Incident Type	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Change	% Change
<b>All Hate Crime</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>+148</b>	<b>+72.9%</b>
Race	81	139	211	+72	+51.8%
Religion	8	11	23	+12	+109.1%
Sexual	32	33	93	+60	+181.8%
Transgender	5	10	24	+14	+140%
Disability	13	23	26	+3	+13.0%
<b>All Hate Incidents</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>-156</b>	<b>-66.7%</b>
Homophobic Incident	65	51	26	-25	-49.0%
Racist Incident	158	150	42	-108	-72.0%

7.2 Although there appears to have been an increase in hate crime during 2017/18, predominantly the reason for this has been the reclassification of hate incidents to crimes. When the numbers of all hate crimes and all hates incidents are combined, there has been a reduction of 1.4% (-6) in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. Moreover, the continued effort to facilitate reporting and the increased confidence amongst victims to report hate crime has probably also had an impact on the increases in this crime category. Support services for victims of crime is available so that those in need of them can be referred accordingly.

## 8.0 Counter Terrorism

8.1 As reported in the previous report, work continues to ensure that the new duties, as identified by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA) and particularly in relation to the Prevent strategy, are discharged by the Specified Authorities. The local Prevent Delivery Group, chaired by Louise Fisher, Deputy Director of Cumbria and Lancashire Community Rehabilitation Company, is now meeting regularly to support all Specified Authorities and other relevant partners with the implementation of the "Revised *Prevent* Duty Guidance" from the Home Office. This is in order to ensure that Blackpool can, as much as possible, prevent adults and young people from becoming radicalised. Officers from the organisations represented at the Blackpool Prevent Partnership Board continue to receive training in this area, in order to ensure that there is an understanding of the Prevent Strategy and how to use existing expertise and professional judgement to recognise vulnerable people who may need support. If required, referral mechanisms are in place for those individuals identified as needing support, as well as for those who may be a cause of concern to the police and the relevant counter terrorism agencies.

8.2 One of the key statutory duties of the CTSA is to establish clear referral pathways to Channel for adults and children at risk. Channel is a voluntary, confidential programme that provides support to people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. It operates across the country through Local Authority-Chaired multi-agency panels and is not a form of criminal or civil sanction. The Local Authority operates the Channel programme on behalf of the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism at the Home Office. The aim of the programme is to safeguard people from the harm which radicalisation can cause, before they come to harm themselves or become involved in criminal behaviour linked to terrorist acts that will harm others.

8.3 As mentioned in the previous report, work is also continuing in order to ensure that an attack can be prevented, or at least its impact limited, in some of the most vulnerable areas of the town where large events are held. In addition, work is also taking place to ensure that, in the unlikely event of a terrorist attack, Blackpool is as prepared as it can be to protect its citizens and infrastructure.

## **9.0 Serious Organised Crime**

Serious Organised Crime remains a focus of the CSP and the 'GENGA' working group, which was established to carry out the tasks relating to this area of work. The work of the group, supported by Lancashire Constabulary, aims to target organised crime such as drug dealing, child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, illicit trade and fraud. It is a multi-agency group which centres around an information sharing tool called PAM. This tool enables agencies to share intelligence and request information in relation to serious organised crime.

9.1 During the financial year 2017/18 twenty referrals were submitted to the GENG West Hub (Blackpool, Lancaster, Fylde & Wyre) via the PAM system. From these referrals it has been possible to assist the co-ordination of multi-agency enforcement operations to tackle issues pertaining to the aforementioned areas. Examples of such work include an operation concerning rogue landlords and a safeguarding operation around organised children performing card tricks in the night time economy. The role of the CST has been to provide information from all the local authority data base systems and using the tools and powers of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. With regards to the outcomes associated with this work, a recent example is the conviction of a local male involved in fraud across the country, who received a two year prison sentence.

9.2 Moreover, a multi-agency operation was carried out with the CST working in partnership with the police, Gang Masters Authority, HMRC, Hope for Justice, the Minimum Wage Unit, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service and other local authority teams, which visited three local problematic hotels suspected of exploiting migrants. Two Eastern European and two vulnerable English adults were found living in inhumane conditions in the basement of one of the hotels. In total sixteen exploited foreign nationals were found being underpaid including a Romanian child. Following this operation:

- Significant fines were issued regarding non-payment of the national minimum wage
- HMRC are pursuing unpaid tax and VAT
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue issued two prohibition orders
- The local authority took the hotels owners to court using the Enterprise Act 2016 due to non-compliance with Health & Safety and Licensing requirements.

Shortly after the above actions, all three of the hotels decided to cease operating and their owners are currently being prosecuted.

## **10.0 Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking**

10.1 Part of the serious organised crime work currently being undertaken by the Partnership involves modern day slavery and human trafficking. This is due to the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which now holds local authorities responsible for modern slavery and human trafficking. Therefore, through the GENGA group, a multi-agency operation has been organised which will seek to address potential issues regarding slavery and trafficking within Blackpool.

10.2 An example of this work involves a woman from Blackpool in July 2017 who was taken to the Preston Royal Hospital following epileptic seizures who disclosed she had been trafficked to Blackpool from Peterborough. She was a Kurdish National who had been trafficked to the UK. The CST, together with Health Single Point of Contact, used the National Referral Mechanism to get the victim to a place of safety through the Salvation Army. No further involvement was required from the CST once the woman was in a place of safety.

10.3 Cannabis Farm: Following community intelligence provided to the police, the CST used the thermal imaging camera to ascertain if high levels of heat could be confirmed. Once the CST was able to confirm that a high level of heat were present, the Police served two Drugs Warrants at addresses in the Claremont ward area. Two cannabis farms were found containing approximately 1000 plants between them. In the first farm an Algerian National was found living there, and in the second farm a Vietnamese National was found. National Referral Mechanism referrals were completed to addresses suspected of Modern Day Slavery issues. The outcomes of these operations was the disruption of the two cannabis farms, the signposting of two vulnerable individuals who were exploited, and the improved levels of confidence and safety within the local community.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

## **11.0 List of Appendices:**

11.1 None

- 12.0 Legal considerations:**
- 12.1 None
- 13.0 Human Resources considerations:**
- 13.1 None
- 14.0 Equality considerations:**
- 14.1 None
- 15.0 Financial considerations:**
- 15.1 None
- 16.0 Risk Management considerations:**
- 16.1 None
- 17.0 Ethical considerations:**
- 17.1 None
- 18.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:**
- 18.1 None
- 19.0 Background papers:**
- 19.1 Crime data provided by the Lancashire Constabulary Analyst using Police CORA.