

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paolo Pertica, Head of Visitors Services
Date of Meeting	21 January 2015

COMMUNITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE REPORT APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2015

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider performance within the Community Safety Partnership's priorities Between April 2015 and November 2016. The current priorities are as follows: Assaults, Antisocial Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Offences, Reducing Re-Offending and Substance Misuse. The Partnership is also paying particular attention to Serious Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism. The report will also introduce the new priorities for the 2016/19 period.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To consider the performance of the Community Safety Partnership against its 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, is a group of statutory partners who meet bi-monthly to take forward strategic issues relating to addressing crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The group is chaired by Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health, and Councillor Gillian Campbell is the deputy chair. The statutory responsible authorities for BSafe Blackpool are Blackpool Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire and Cumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (previously part of the Probation Service) and the National Probation Service. A number of additional organisations, although they are 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 and 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, such as the Tactical Tasking Group and a number of additional thematic subgroups.
- 5.2 The statutory partners of Blackpool Community Safety Partnership have been working in partnership in order to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the impact of drugs and alcohol misuse for the last fifteen years, following the implementation of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The priorities on which the partnership focuses are identified by using an annual Strategic Assessment, a process which analyses the crime, disorder 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.
- 5.3 The way in which performance against these priorities is measured has significantly changed in the past couple of years, with focus progressively shifting from volume crime and reduction targets, to a more harm and risk based perspective on crime and its impact. For example, the use of the Cambridge Index of Harm model places greater emphasis on the harm created by certain crime categories and allows resources to be directed to those crimes that generate the highest levels of harm. To calculate the level of harm each crime type is given a weighting which is based on the length of sentencing applied to that offence, multiplied by the number of offences. In Blackpool, five crime categories account for 90% of the harm, despite only representing 21% of the number of reported crimes, which demonstrates the need to focus on harm and risk as opposed to volume. Four out of these five crime categories are encompassed as part of the partnership priorities (rape, sexual offences, wounding and assault).

6.0 Performance

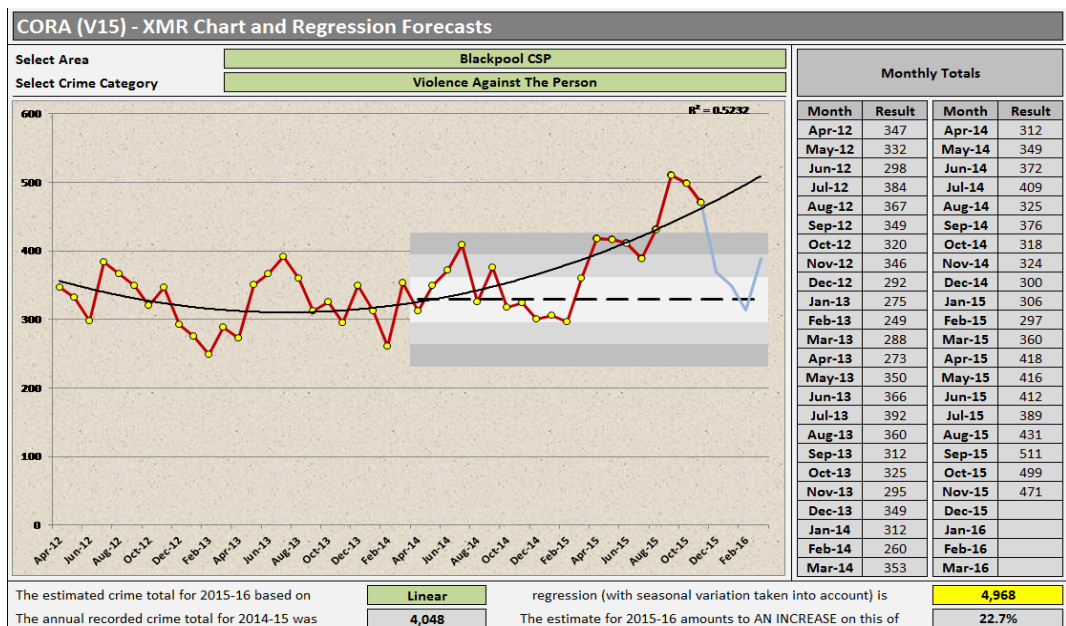
- 6.0.1 During the period between 2004/5 and 2012/13, crime in Blackpool reduced by approximately 30% from 22,196 crimes per year to 15,552. In 2014/15 a further reduction of 6.6% in all crime was achieved compared to 2013/14, therefore creating a challenging baseline from which to achieve further reductions in 2015/16.
- 6.0.2 All crime in Blackpool for the period April to November 2015 is up by 4.2% (n=463) compared to the same period last year. Of note, each month between August and November demonstrated an increase when compared to the same month in the previous year. To date, the two main categories contributing to this increase are Violence Against the Person, up by 27.4% (n=762) and Criminal Damage, up by 10.8% (n=178).
- 6.0.3 The forecast is that by the end of the financial year in March 2016 all crime will be up by 5%. With regards to the current Community Safety Partnership priorities, the performance for April 2015 to November 2015 is as follows:

6.1 Assaults

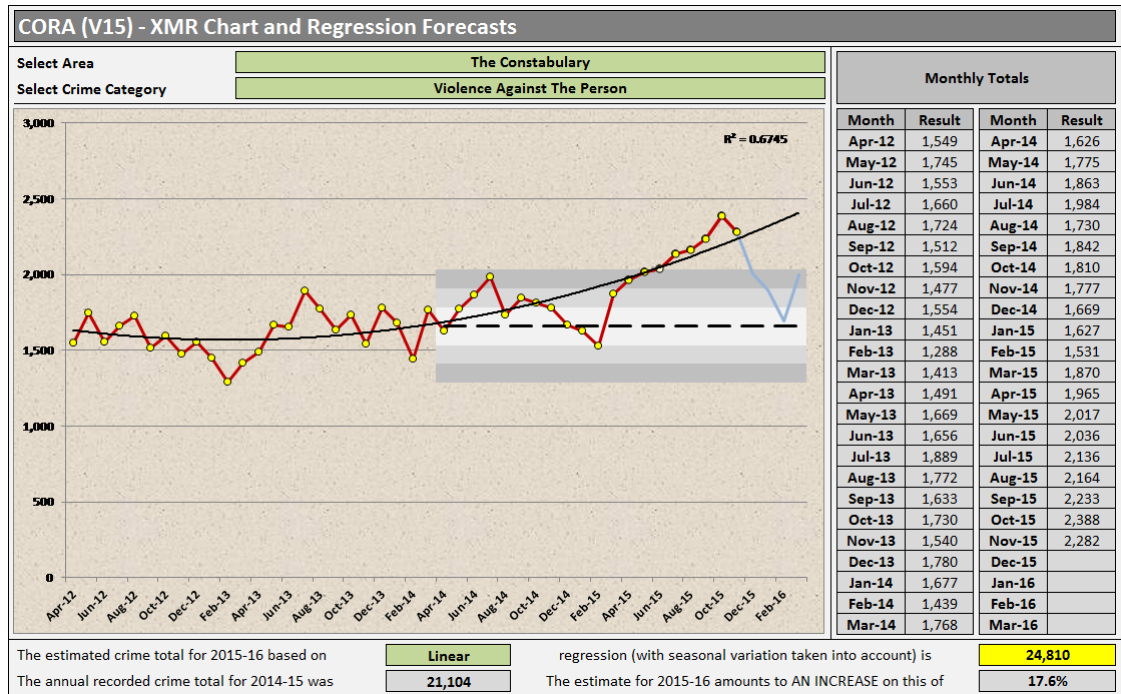
- 6.1.1 The figures for April – November 2015 in relation to Assaults are as follows:

Serious Assaults:	reduction of 26.4% (-34 offences)
Less Serious Assaults:	increase of 16.9% (+227 offences)
Non-Injury Assaults:	increase of 40.2% (+416 offences)

- 6.1.2 In Blackpool, the trend for the last three years in relation to Assaults is as follows:



6.1.3 This upward trend is also being seen across Lancashire as a whole:



6.1.4 To assess the National picture of crime in relation to Assaults, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) has been referenced. This survey covers a rolling reference period of July 2014 and June 2015. Comparisons are made year-on-year with the previous year (the 12 month period ending June 2014).

6.1.5 Nationally, the Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that there was a rise in Violence Against The Person offences recorded by the Police (up by 25%, or an additional 163,398 offences). There was also a 16% rise in violence with injury (up by 54,653 offences). This was driven by increases within the violence without injury sub-group due to changes in recording practice. Historically, crime outcomes would simply be recorded as ‘detected’ or ‘undetected’, dependent on whether a charge was obtained against an offender. However, this has been changed and positive outcomes/actions can now be recorded (such as restorative justice, community resolutions, etc.) to better reflect work by officers to obtain positive outcomes. However, this means that more crimes are now recorded where they would not have been previously. This has led to a statistical increase in violence.

6.1.6 In an attempt to address violence in Blackpool, particularly within the Night Time Economy (NTE) which is often a peak time for violence, Blackpool Community Safety Partnership has implemented a number of initiatives. For example, the Night Safe Haven Bus has proven extremely beneficial to late night revellers who may need assistance from paramedics or support services. The Bus also ensures a high visibility presence in one of the busiest areas of the Night Time Economy and acts as a

deterrent. A taxi marshalling scheme is also in place which ensures that patrons queuing for taxis after the pubs and clubs have closed are able to get a taxi safely, preventing fights and violence in the queue. This runs alongside the Safer Taxi scheme which enables vulnerable people in the Night Time Economy to be taken home safely in a taxi free of charge should they require it.

- 6.1.7 BSafe Blackpool is currently working with the Trauma Injury Intelligence Group (TIIG), provided by the Centre for Public Health at John Moore's University, in order to analyse where the specific 'hot-spots' for assaults are within Blackpool and, where appropriate, putting interventions in place to tackle the issue. The Trauma and Injury Intelligence Group was established to look at access to quality and reliable injury information. A major element of Trauma Injury Intelligence Group is the ongoing development of an Injury Surveillance System (ISS) across the North West of England. The Trauma Injury Intelligence Group Injury Surveillance System collects and reports on injury data from local emergency departments (Eds), as well as warehouse data collected by the North West Ambulance Service. The results are then provided to Community Safety Partnerships and Public health departments.
- 6.1.8 The Partnership CCTV Van is used on a daily basis to act as a deterrent, as well as to secure evidence both within the Night Time Economy and outside vulnerable victims' addresses. The van and cameras were donated by a local business, after which BSafe Blackpool funded the livery and installation. Ward Councillors from Claremont and Talbot have also contributed to this initiative.
- 6.1.9 To tackle alcohol related assaults in the town centre, BSafe Blackpool runs media campaigns such as the 'Alcohol Changes You' campaign, which aims to target violent offences within the night time economy. The campaign ran over a number of months with beer mats (Facematts) being delivered to thirteen licensed premises within the Town Centre. Feedback provided from the bars and the Chair of the 'Pubwatch' Scheme in Blackpool suggested that the campaign was very popular. Further work will be carried out on expanding the campaign to more premises throughout Blackpool and increasing the publicity.

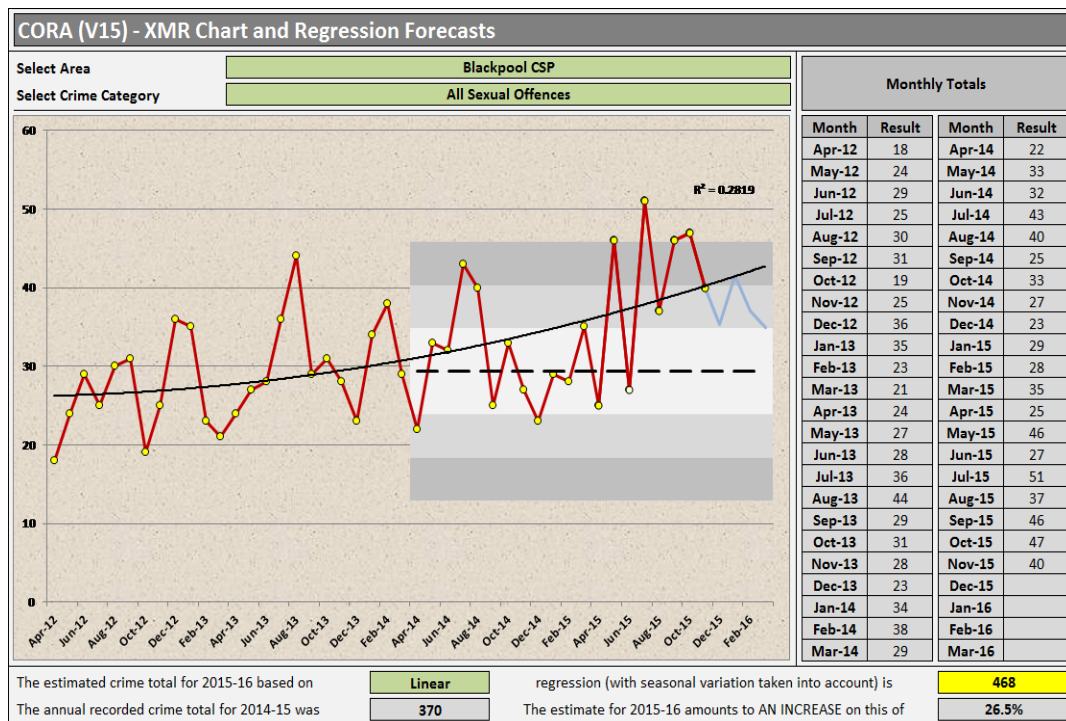


6.2 Sexual Offences and Rape

6.2.1 The figures for April – November 2015 in relation to Sexual Offences and Rape are as follows:

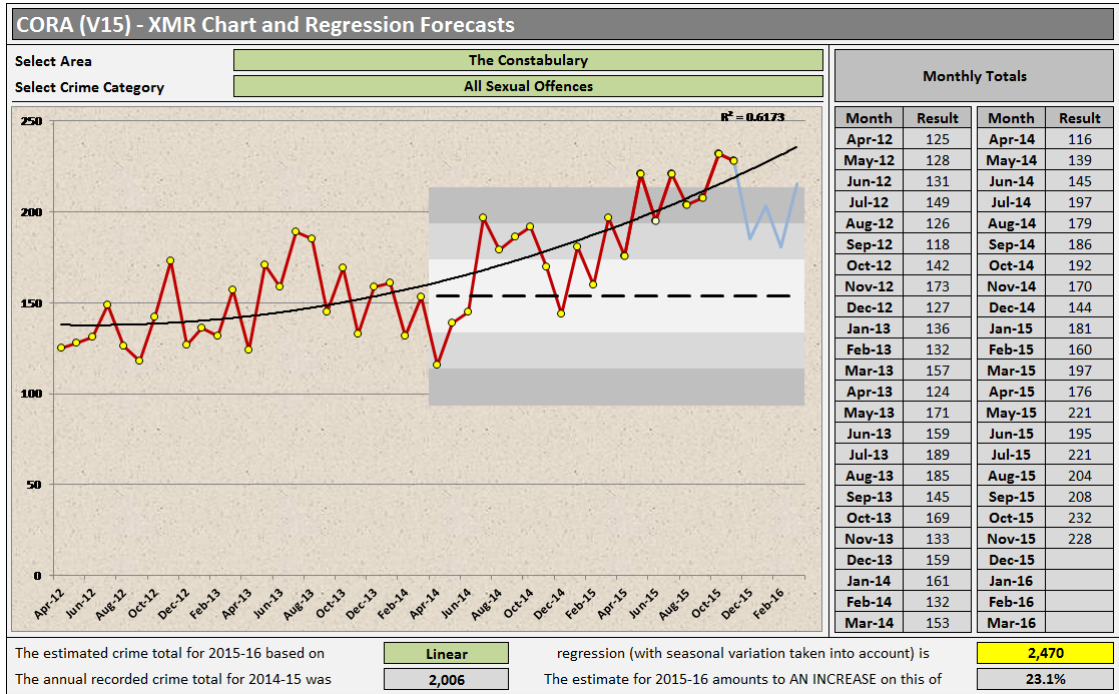
All Sexual Offences	increase of 25.5% (+65 offences)
Rape	increase of 17.7% (+17 offences)
Sexual Assault	increase of 30.2% (+48 offences)
Sexual Offences (children under 16)	increase of 43.2% (+48 offences)

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

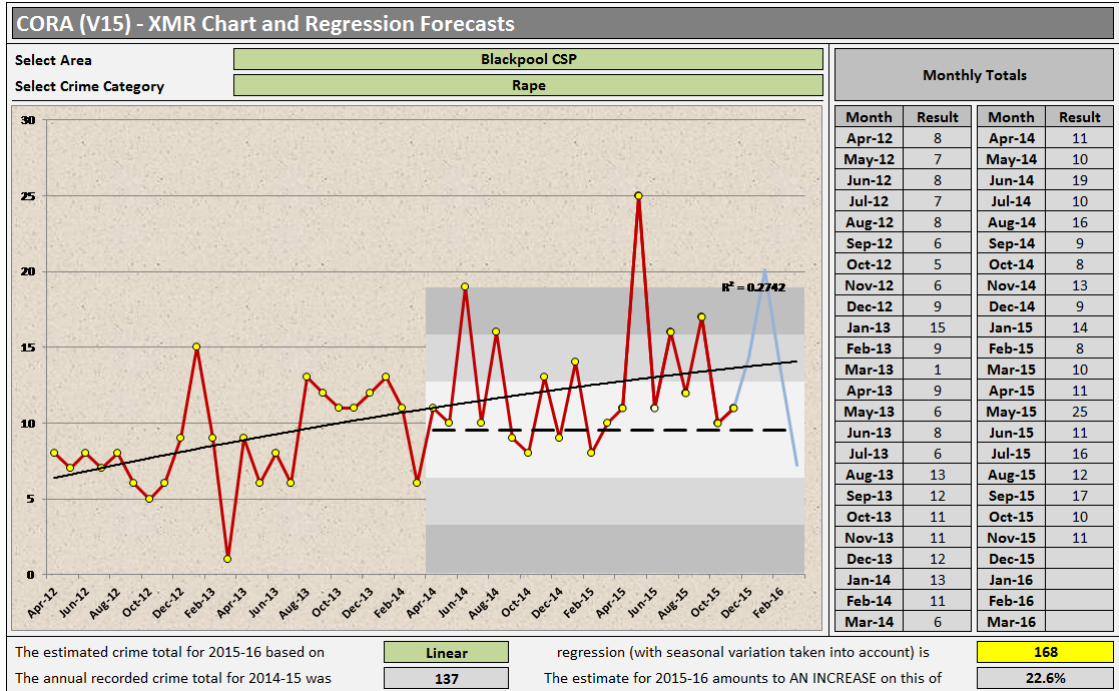


6.2.3 Whilst all districts across Lancashire have shown a year to date increase for sexual offences (with the exception of Fylde), Blackpool has seen the largest increase and had the most offences reported across the County. This has been an increasing trend over the last three years and, of all sexual offences reported across Lancashire, 19% of these occurred in Blackpool. During the period April to November 2015 there were 319 sexual offences in Blackpool. Of these, 29.5% (n=94) were classed as ‘non recent’, i.e. they took place over 12 months before they were reported.

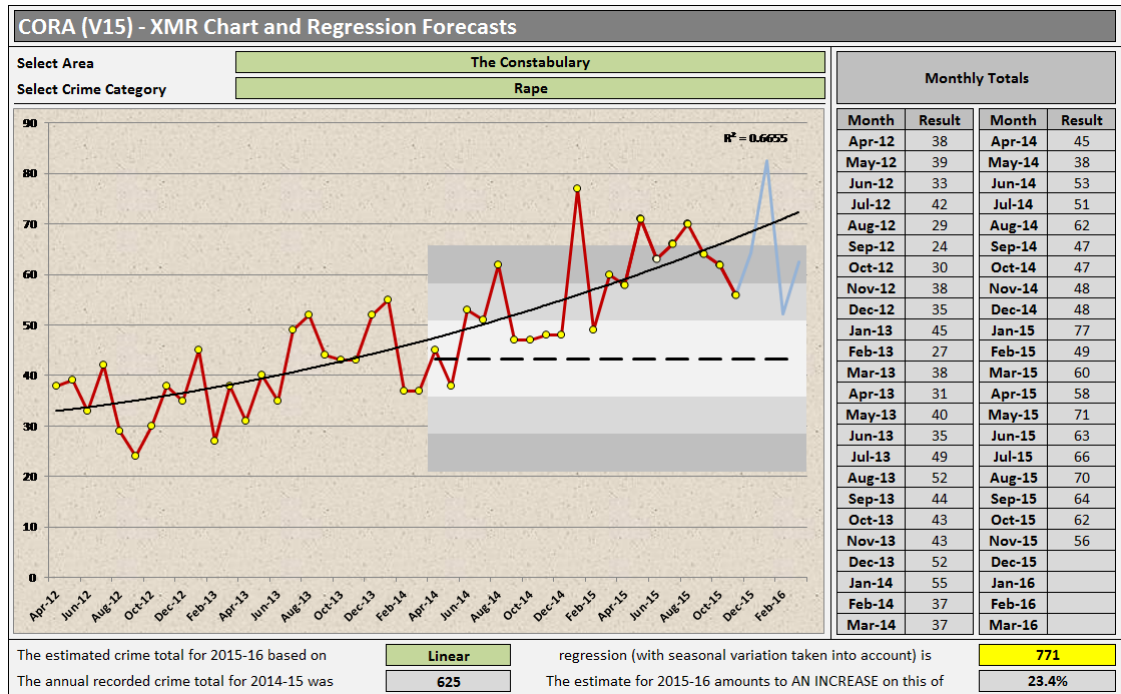
6.2.4 The figures pertaining to Sexual Offences for Lancashire are as follows:



6.2.5 In relation to Rape, the three year figures for Blackpool are as follows:



6.2.6 This increase is also being seen across the County:



6.2.7 From a National perspective (England and Wales), sexual offences continued to rise with the latest figures showing an increase of 41% on the previous year, equivalent to an additional 27,602 offences. The number of rapes and other sexual offences are at the highest level since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002/03. This is thought to be attributed to a greater willingness in victims to come forward and report crimes, and there have also been improvements in recording of rapes and sexual offences.

6.2.8 In relation to sexual offences and rape, the Partnership continues to support the Aquamarine working group which works with partners to tackle these issues by looking at educational opportunities and awareness raising. This group is currently considering implementing the ‘We Can Stop It’ campaign which aims to raise awareness and provide information for young men about consent and perceptions of rape. It is hoped that this campaign can be run across social media and throughout schools. Much work has been done to encourage reporting in this area of work as, due to the associated stigma, many incidents are not reported.

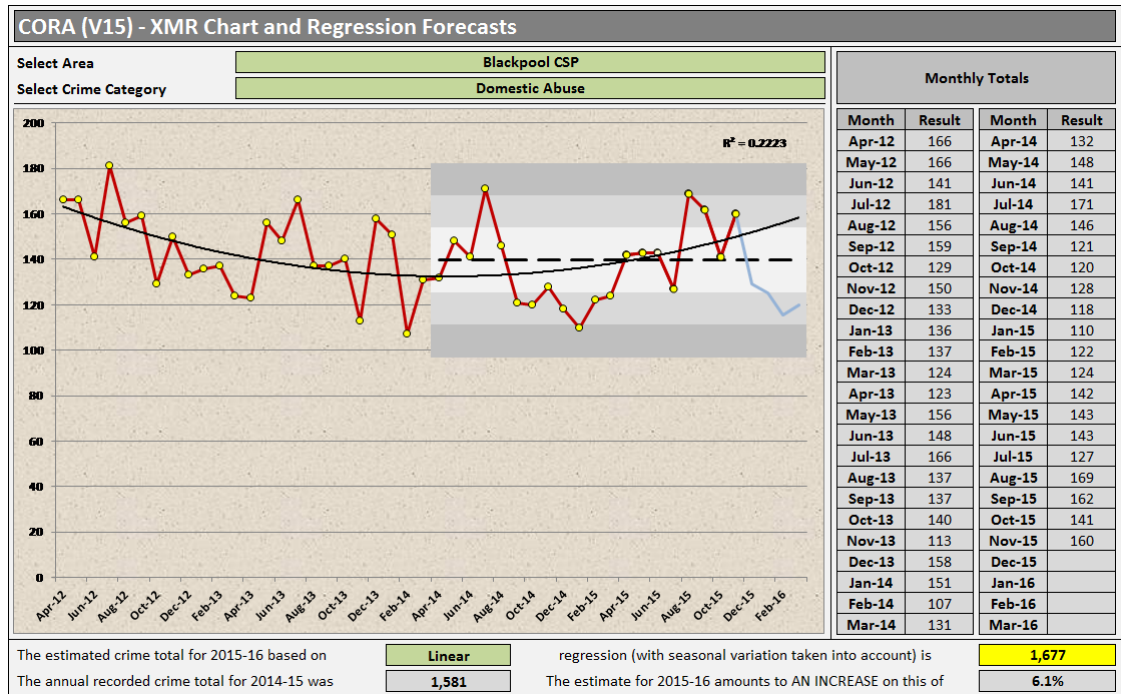
6.2.9 An emerging theme within this area has been that approximately half of reported offences were against young people under sixteen years of age. As a result monies were secured by the Community Safety Team from Public Health and used to implement an educational campaign for young people in terms of understanding the law, explaining consent, learning how to say no, consequences and healthy relationships. This campaign has been delivered at local high schools and higher education centres and, in future, it will form part of PSHE.

6.3 Domestic Abuse

6.3.1 The figures for April – November 2015 in relation to Domestic Abuse are as follows:

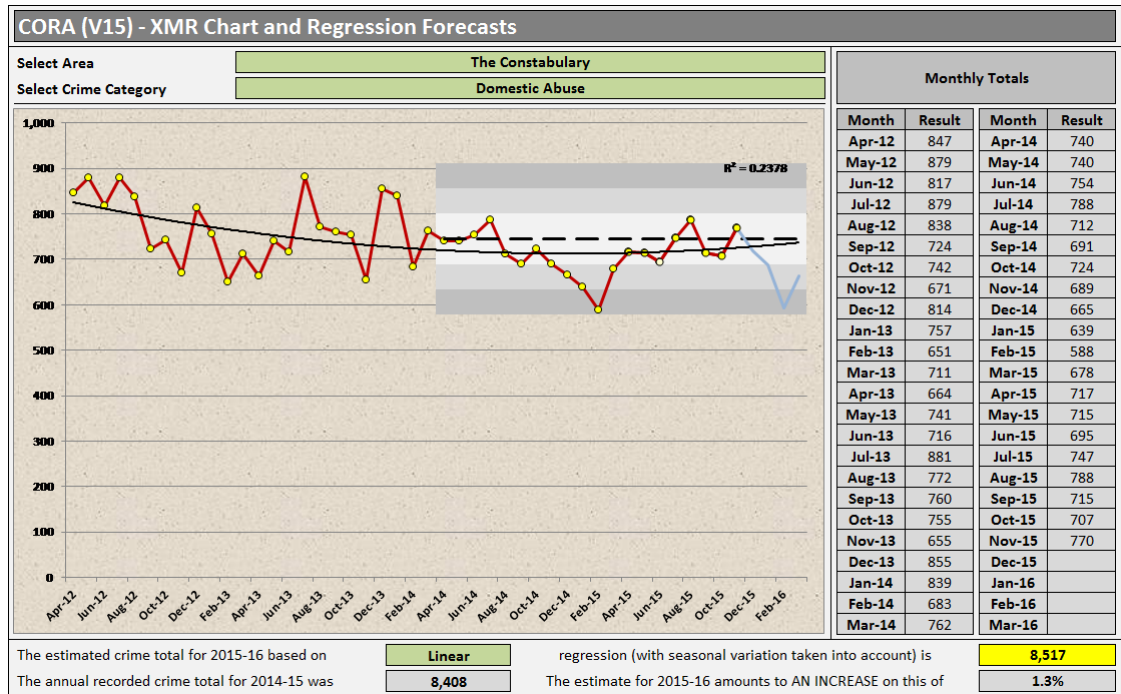
All domestic assaults	increase of 7.3% (+81 offences)
Serious domestic assaults	reduction of 29.6% (-8 offences)
Less serious domestic assaults	reduction of 1.5% (-6 offences)
Non-injury domestic assaults	increase of 32.3% (+94 offences)

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



6.3.3 Domestic Abuse (which encompasses all crimes with a 'DV' marker) has seen a year to date increase of 7.3% (+81 offences) with Quarter 2 (July – September 2015) having had the highest number of offences since the same quarter in 2012. The current forecast for year end is an increase of 6.1%.

6.3.4 The trend across the County is as follows:



6.3.5 Nationally, there has been an increase in Domestic Abuse but it is thought that this is down to changes in recording practices and an increased in the reporting of domestic abuse. After the HMIC inspection expressed concerns about the police response to Domestic Abuse, there has been a renewed national focus on encouraging victims to report and ensuring that recording of domestic crimes is done efficiently.

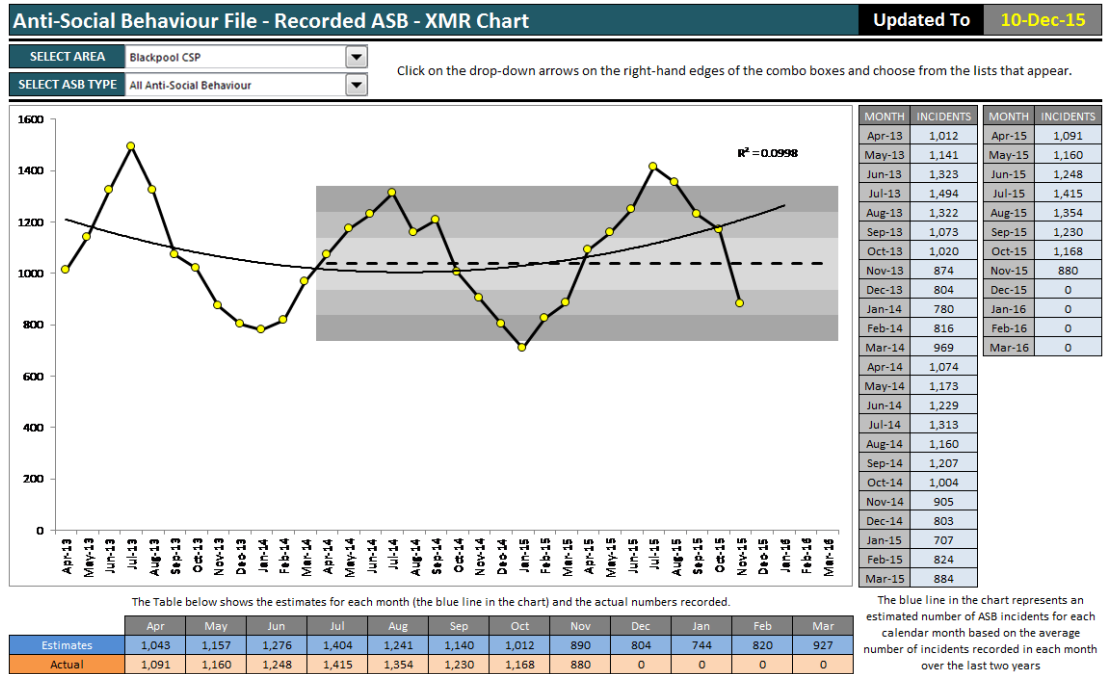
6.3.6 Currently, in recognition of the current demand and priority that Domestic abuse commands within the town, the partnership is conducting a comprehensive review of Domestic Abuse Services. This piece of work is being led by Delyth Curtis, Director People, Blackpool Council and includes all partnership and commissioning representatives to look at an integrated commissioning approach to services and includes workforce development for front line staff.

6.3.7 In addition there are currently two Domestic Abuse Pilots, one of which has started and the first cohort completed, targeting perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, The Inner Strength pilot, which is a therapeutic intervention funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner’s office in conjunction with Blackpool Public Health. The other one is a research pilot looking at providing early support using a targeted approach to families of standard risk domestic violence incidents to try and reduce the risk of escalation. This is due to commence in February 2016.

6.4 Antisocial Behaviour

6.4.1 Incidents of Antisocial Behaviour reported to the Police between April and November 2015 are up by 5.3% (+479 incidents). During this period there was a 9% increase in the number of ASBRAC referrals, with 56 referrals being made this year compared with 51 in the same period of the previous year.

6.4.2 The three year figures for Antisocial Behaviour in Blackpool are as follows:



6.4.3 Quarter 2 of this year (July – September 2015) saw the highest number of incidents reported in the last three years with the largest increases occurring in Bloomfield, Brunswick and Claremont wards. This may be attributed to a number of persistent issues throughout the summer months regarding a prolific cohort of young people targeting parks, the Town Centre and the Promenade. There are also a number of ASB cases which feature both victims and perpetrators who are frequent callers to the Police and Council. This can adversely affect the number of logs and calls which are included in the Police data as often these calls are about ongoing problems, malicious complaints or are repeat calls about the same issues.

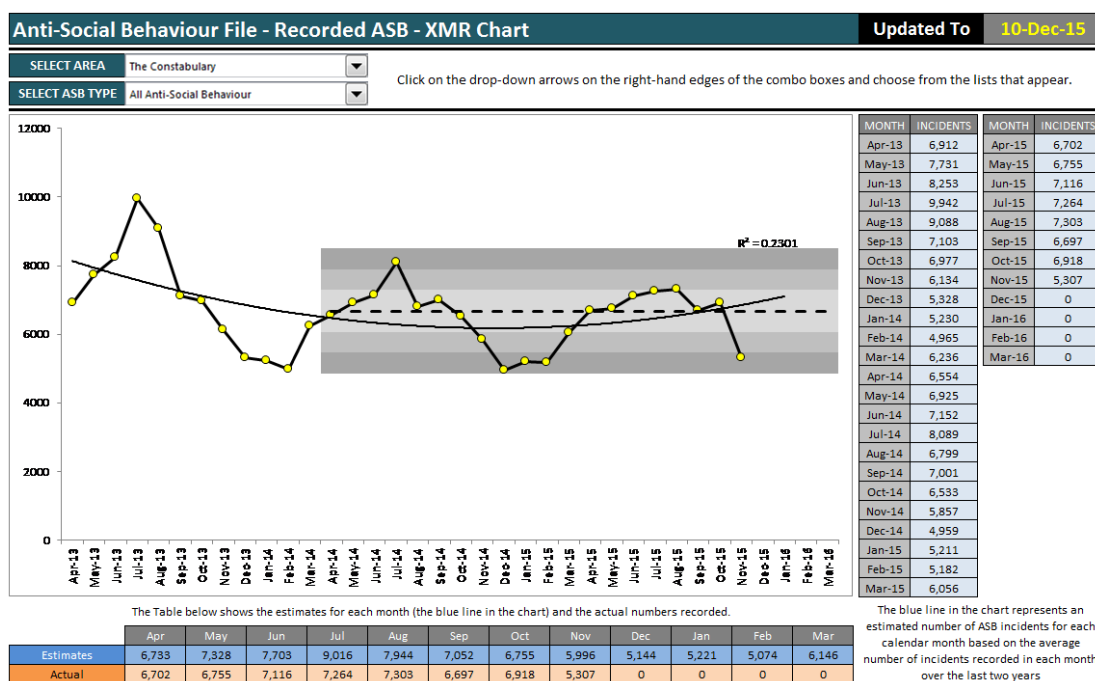
6.4.4 There were 139 frequent callers on the cohort for Blackpool during the April-Nov 2016 period, which accounted for 7762 calls to the police in that period. This number of individuals is high compared with other areas. The comparison with the other Policing divisions is as follows:

Area	Number of identified vulnerable callers	Number of calls between April 2015 – November 2015 (8 months)
WEST	148	8816
SOUTH	67	3832
EAST	95	6530

6.4.5 The number of frequent callers in Blackpool is especially high, accounting for approximately half of all calls for the whole of West Division. The operational management of these individuals now requires Police Control Room operators to open a log whenever they call in which may account for some of the Antisocial Behaviour increase.

6.4.6 With regards to the Tools and Powers introduced by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act that was implemented in October 2014, during the period April to November 2015/16 271 Warning Letters, 42 Community Protection Notices, five Fixed Penalty Notices, three Civil Injunctions, one Criminal Behaviour Order and one Closure Order were issued. These were for low level problems such as refuse and dog control, to serious issues like harassment and threatening behaviour.

6.4.7 Antisocial Behaviour across Lancashire between April and November 2015 has shown a reduction of 1.6%:



6.4.8 Nationally, the number of Antisocial Behaviour incidents recorded by the Police is demonstrating a continuing downward trend.

- 6.4.9 The Partnership continues to tackle Antisocial Behaviour through supporting multi-agency efforts to problem-solve and engage in Early Action work. A large part of this early intervention takes place through the use of Community Protection Warnings and Notices which have been extremely effective in tackling a wide range of Antisocial Behaviour issues. To illustrate this, of the 271 Warnings issued, only five led to prosecution indicating a 98% success rate in resolving Antisocial Behaviour using this tool. Of particular note is the fact that these warnings have also been effective in dealing with youth nuisance through issuing the warning to the parent of that young person. As this can have ramifications for a parent's tenancy, this is often a successful way to ensure that the behaviour of their child is tackled. For example, it has historically been difficult to deal with some Antisocial Behaviour issues such as football in the street as there was no relevant legislation. However, since the implementation of the Community Protection powers, these issues are far more successfully resolved.
- 6.4.10 In relation to the other tools and powers available under the new legislation, an example of a Civil Injunction undertaken in Blackpool was in the case of an ASBRAC perpetrator who was making threats to kill two of his victims, filming himself outside their addresses, and then posting the videos on social media. To tackle this, a Civil Injunction was secured from the County Court that found the perpetrator guilty and gave a suspended sentence with the power of arrest. This work is often undertaken in conjunction with Lancashire Constabulary and other partners and this level of multi-agency work is something which the Partnership continues to foster in order to effectively tackle Antisocial Behaviour.

6.5 Reducing Re-Offending

- 6.5.1 Monitoring reoffending rates is rather complicated and, in order to do so, the Ministry of Justice collates data over a number of years which is then made available to the Probation Services, Community Rehabilitation Companies and their partners to monitor performance.
- 6.5.2 The most recent proven reoffending statistics relate to the period from January to December 2013. The Blackpool reoffending statistics for both adult offenders and juveniles is 29.1% for this period. This represents a 2.1% decrease compared to the previous 12 month period. The statistics relate to 2704 offenders, which represents a decrease of 509 offenders from the previous 12 months. Of this group, 788 offenders reoffended, which is a decrease of 216. And finally, the number of reoffences has decreased by 437 to 2720. These statistics demonstrate a consistent reduction in reoffending locally.

6.6 Substance Misuse

- 6.6.1 Blackpool has poor life expectancy, with life expectancy for males the poorest in England at 74.3 years compared to 79.4 years nationally. Life expectancy for females is similarly poor at 80.1 years, compared with 83.1 years nationally (the third poorest after Manchester and Liverpool).
- 6.6.2 Substance and alcohol misuse is considered high within the town, with alcohol-related death being the second highest in England for males (cirrhosis being one of the major drivers of the life expectancy gap). Further estimates suggest that the prevalence of problematic heroin and/or crack cocaine use in Blackpool is 21.89 per 1,000 populations. Blackpool has the highest drug prevalence rate across the region, and is within the top ten nationally.
- 6.6.3 The percentage of opiate (heroin) clients who successfully completed treatment and did not relapse within 6 months in 2015/16 Quarter 2 has slightly increased to 6.4%, but continues to be below the baseline of 7%. The decrease in achieving the baseline target can be attributed to a change in the way treatment is delivered. Prior to September 2014 clients in treatment were exited immediately after their clinical intervention which was often too soon, and meant that many clients relapsed. The new treatment system now includes a wider recovery offer meaning that clients remain in treatment for a longer period of time once the clinical intervention is completed. Early indications suggest that this work supports the clients to better maintain their recovery better, therefore reducing the number of relapses.
- 6.6.4 The non-opiate (cocaine/crack-cocaine/amphetamines) clients successfully completed in Quarter 2 of 2015/16 have reduced to 46.9% compared with 51.2% in Quarter 1. This percentage should be read with caution as the number of non-opiate clients in treatment is low, and therefore any small reduction in numbers shows a large percentage drop. Blackpool is still performing within the top Quartile range for comparator local authorities and is considerably higher than the national average of 38.5%.
- 6.6.5 The percentage of alcohol clients who have successfully completed treatment in 2015/16 in Quarter 2 has dropped from 44.6% compared to 41% in Quarter 1. This correlates with a decrease in the number of clients accessing alcohol treatment and work is currently ongoing with Horizon treatment system to improve numbers. A service review is due to commence this year and Public Health will also be updating the Needs Assessment for alcohol to establish the current level of need.

7.0 New Priorities

- 7.1 The annual Strategic Assessment to decide the priorities for 2016/17 has now been completed and the priorities were agreed at the Pan-Lancashire Strategic Assessment Stakeholder Conference in April 2015. These will be consulted upon in Blackpool in early 2016 as part of the development of the Community Safety Plan.
- 7.2 The priorities for 2016/17 are: Sexual Offences, Antisocial Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Child Sexual Exploitation, and Violence Against The Person. Drug and Alcohol, Mental Health, Reoffending and Deprivation were also identified as ‘Causation Factors’ impacting on the priorities, and therefore the partnership will also continue to support the activity taking place to address these areas, particularly with regards to their impact on the priorities.
- 7.3 The Partnership will also continue to support the work taking place to support the implementation of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, particularly in relation to the Prevent strategy, in order to ensure that Blackpool can prevent adults and young people from becoming radicalised. Work will also continue to ensure that, in the unlikely event of a terrorist attack, Blackpool is as well prepared as possible to protect its citizen and infrastructure.
- 7.4 Similarly, the partnership will continue to work in partnership with Lancashire Constabulary and all other relevant agencies in order to address Serious Organised crime and reduce its impact on Blackpool communities. The areas targeted by this work will include drug dealing, child sexual exploitation and business crime.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

8.0 List of Appendices:

8.1 None

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Human Resources considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Equality considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Financial considerations:

12.1 None

13.0 Risk Management considerations:

13.1 None

14.0 Ethical considerations:

14.1 None

15.0 Internal/External Consultation undertaken:

15.1 None

16.0 Background papers:

16.1 Crime data provided, by the Lancashire Constabulary Analyst using Police CORA recorded crime. Reoffending data has been provided by the Lancashire and Cumbria Community Rehabilitation Company.