BLACKPOOL COMMUNITY

Safety Plan

2022 - 2025

Working together to make a difference

Contents

Foreword

Welcome to the 2022- 2025 BSafe Blackpool Community Safety Plan, which sets out the Community Safety Partnership priorities for the next three years. Strong partnership working has been for many years, and will remain, one of the main strengths of the partnership in addressing crime, antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse. Despite a lot of good work in the last three years and Blackpool remaining a safe place to live and visit, certain crime categories are still higher than the Lancashire and national average, and therefore the partnership will be supporting the development of interventions aimed at reducing these crime categories. The partnership is aware that some of the areas experiencing high levels of crime are some of the most deprived areas in the country, and therefore the partnership is aware that working with those addressing poor education, unemployment, poor housing and poor health is paramount in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as drug and alcohol misuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their hard work in supporting the last Community Safety Plan, and I look forward to working with you all in implementing this one over the next three years.

Councillor Paula Burdess
Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Street Scene and Neighbourhoods

Introduction

Structure of Community Safety Partnership

The purpose of the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership is to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and re-offending in Blackpool, as well as supporting the victims of crime and the communities affected by crime, antisocial behaviour and substance misuse.

The membership of the Blackpool Community Safety Partnership includes Blackpool Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackpool Teaching Hospital, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the North West Ambulance Service. However, as and when required other organisations may be opted in from the public, private, third, voluntary and community sector.

Over and above these organisations, a number of additional agencies from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors also support BSafe Blackpool. Working together in this way allows the partnership to gain a better insight into the issues within Blackpool, as well as providing wider options

for applying multi-agency responses to these problems. This therefore ensures more holistic and effective solutions to be undertaken.

This group includes the statutory responsible authorities, as outlined within the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, as amended by the 1999 Youth Justice & Criminal Evidence Act, the 2000 Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing Act), the 2001 Anti-Terrorism, Crime & Security Act, the 2002 Police Reform Act, the 2006 Police Justice Act, the 2009 Policing and Crime Act and the 2014 Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act, the Serious Crime Act 2015, and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and the forthcoming Responsibilities and Duties around Serious Violence which is due in Autumn 2022.

Internally, the work of the partnership is accountable to the local authority scrutiny process on an annual basis. Externally, the partnership is accountable to the Home Office, which ensures that its work addresses both the national and local priorities.

The organisational chart shows the current structure of the groups which are used to address the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership Plan. However in addition task and finish groups are created as and when emerging threats rise.

Blackpool Community Safety Partnership

Child sexual and criminal exploitation	Domestic Abuse	Antisocial behaviour	Drugs and alcohol	Serious and Organised Crime	Sexual offences, Rape & Prostitution	Counter terrorism	Violence	Reducing Reoffending	Burgulary	Road Safety
Children Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP)	Domestic Abuse Strategic Board	Antisocial Behaviour Working Group	Alcohol Strategy Group	GENGA	Aquazure	Blackpool Prevent Partnership Board	Violent Crime Working Group	Reducing Reoffending Board	Burlgary Working Group	Lancashire Road Safety Partnership
Daily Exploitation and Missing Meeting Group (DEM)	MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)	ASBRAC (Antisocial Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference)	Drugs and Alcohol Managers Group	County lines		Lancashire Contest Board				
			Risk Management Meeting Group (RMM)							
			Harm Reduction Group							

Aquazure
Working group that focuses on sexual offences and rape
GENGA – Operation

GENGA
Focuses on the peruse element of serious and organised crime through a joined up approach between Lancashire Constabulary and local authorities

Working with Lancashire Partners

Members of the Blackpool Community Safety and Drugs Partnership (BSafe Blackpool) attend the Lancashire Community Safety Strategic Board, and have regular meetings with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.

Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board (LCSPB):

The Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Board (LCSPB) is responsible for addressing community safety issues through co-ordinating the work of county-wide 'responsible authorities' and other agencies to tackle priorities and deliver stronger and safer communities. The current board structure includes the Lancashire 12 districts and the unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool by invite and together all are referred to as the 'Lancashire 14'.

The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC):

The OPCC supports the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in his work. The OPCC meets regularly with various partners to work collaboratively in problem solving crime and antisocial behaviour as well as seek funding from the government or PCC funding streams.

Lancashire Violence Reduction Network (VRN):

The Lancashire VRN is made up of partners from across public services and the third sector who are working to shift the mind set towards early intervention and prevention to facilitate a culture change and embed new approaches to supporting Lancashire communities.

Strategic Objectives

A number of strategic objectives have been established for the Community Safety Partnership. These strategic objectives help ensure that the Community Safety Partnership is focusing on the issues that matter most within the local community.

Strategic Objective 1

To successfully deliver the functions of the Community Safety Partnership for Blackpool by:

- Engaging with local community and statutory groups to identify local concerns in relation to community safety and to invite their contribution to prioritising and addressing those concerns;

- Preparing the Community Safety Partnership plan and organising the work of the partnership to meet priority needs;

- Putting in place implementation structures and delivery mechanisms and facilitating resident focused participatory community safety structures that will contribute to a reduction in crime and the enhancement of policing and community safety in the partnership's area, directly through the collaborative working of the membership of the partnership, through the work of its delivery groups or through working in partnership with, or supporting the work of others;

- Increasing Community Safety Partnership awareness with the public and key stakeholders by planning communications activity to more proactively inform and promote the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

Strategic Objective 2

To improve community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime and anti-social behaviour through:

- Working in partnership with designated partners, local statutory bodies/agencies, the voluntary sector and the community to deal with, and reduce the impact of, actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and crime in the community;

- Ensuring that local statutory bodies and agencies deal with the anti-social behaviour and crime-related issues that matter in their area;

- Providing comprehensive community input into decision making processes about tackling actual and perceived anti-social behaviour and giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions on meeting outcomes;

- Working in partnership with the police, local statutory bodies, agencies and the community to reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour and crime on the community.

Strategic Objective 3

To support community confidence through:

- Ensuring local accountability through the Community Safety Partnership's role in monitoring performance of the groups delivering the action plans;

- Ensuring that Community Safety Partnership delivery reflects the involvement, views and priorities of local communities.

What has happened since the last Community Safety Plan

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, lockdown restrictions came into effect from 23 March 2020 and imposed strict limits on daily life. These included significant restrictions on freedom of movement and a requirement by law for a range of businesses to close. Once in lockdown calls for police service reduced tenfold. An analysis of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown showed a decrease in almost all areas of crime recorded by police. This was driven by reductions in theft offences, particularly domestic burglary and theft of personal property. As this period coincided with the majority of people spending long periods at home during lockdown, it is not unexpected.

The May 2020 – 2021 Crime Survey for England and Wales shows that while there were decreases across a range of individual crime types, particularly theft offences, these were offset by rises in fraud and computer misuse offences, resulting in no change in overall levels of crime.
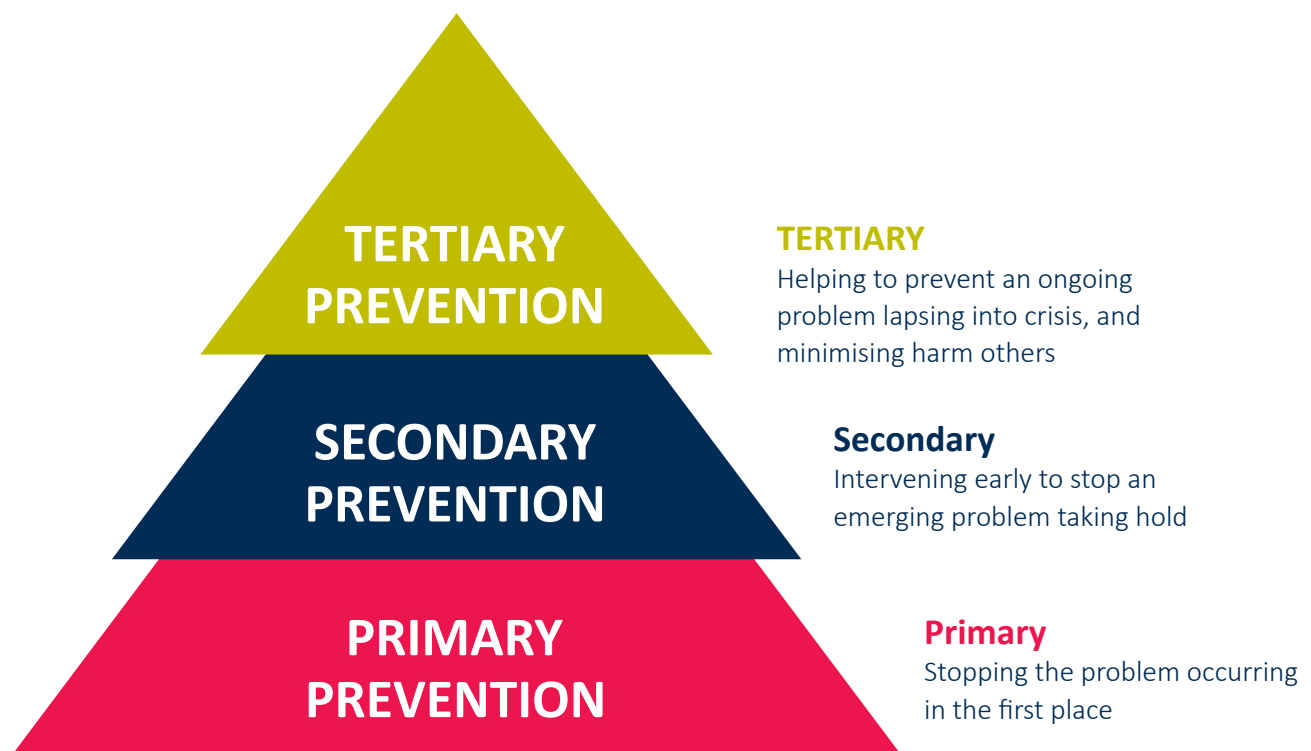
In terms of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Crime, it is difficult to interpret performance over the last three years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Public Health Approach

The Community Safety Partnership is taking a 'public health approach' to preventing and tackling serious violent crime. A 'public health approach' treats violence like an infectious disease and involves using scientific evidence to identify what causes violence and find interventions that work to prevent it spreading.

Preventing rather than reacting to serious violence has both human and economic benefits for individuals, families, communities, services and society as a whole. Therefore, we will be implementing early interventions to prevent people from becoming involved in violent crime.

Through this approach, we will consider primary, secondary and tertiary prevention opportunities based on the model of prevention (see below chart).

TERTIARY PREVENTION

SECONDARY PREVENTION

PRIMARY PREVENTION

TERTIARY
Helping to prevent an ongoing problem lapsing into crisis, and minimising harm others

Secondary
Intervening early to stop an emerging problem taking hold

Primary
Stopping the problem occurring in the first place

The model of prevention, 2020-2025 Lancashire Serious Violence Strategy, Lancashire Violence Reduction Network.

Blackpool

Economic and social context

To stop crime occurring in the first place (primary prevention) requires an improvement in the economic and social context of Blackpool, such as improved housing and education. The following highlight the economic and social issues that need to be addressed in the wider context to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership in reducing crime and keeping people safe. These issues are not directly within the remit of the Community Safety Partnership but partner organisations have a key role to play in making improvements.

In March 2022, Michael Gove announced new plans to level up Blackpool and in a further boost, Blackpool was also selected as one of 20 areas in England primed to receive a King's Cross-style transformation through an ambitious regeneration programme. The opportunities to address Blackpool's social and economic issues through the Government's Levelling Up agenda is particularly important as plans to crack down on rouge private landlords and invest in regeneration projects will help improve the lives of people in Blackpool by creating new opportunities for regeneration, jobs for the community and new homes for residents.

Gender

The population of Blackpool is approximately 138,381, **50.3%** of the population are estimated to be female and **49.7%** are male [1].

Age

A larger proportion of residents are aged 65+ **(20.5%)** compared to the national age structure **(18.5%)**. The working age population (16-64) in Blackpool is smaller than the national figure, additionally the 0-15 population in Blackpool is also slightly smaller than the national age structure.

Ethnicity

Residents are mostly of White British ethnicity **(93.6%)**, which is significantly higher than across England and Wales **(80.5%)**. Black and minority ethnic groups, including Irish and European residents, are estimated to make up **6.4%** of the population (approximately 9,000 people), compared with the estimated population for England and Wales of **19.5%** [2].

Sources:
[1] *ONS mid-year population estimate June 2020,ONS (2021)*
[2] *Ethnic Group, Census 2011*

Long-term illness and Disability

25.6% of people in Blackpool reported a long-term health problem or disability at the last Census, which is eight percentage points higher than the national average.

Sexual Orientation

ONS estimates from Annual Population survey data that amongst adults in Blackpool, around 107,100 **(94.9%)** adults identify as heterosexual, 3,700 **(3.2%)** people identify as gay or lesbian, around 600 **(0.6%)** people identify as bisexual and 500 **(0.4%)** adults whose sexual orientation is classified as 'other'.

Around 1,000 adults in Blackpool sexual orientation is unknown due to answering 'don't know' or refusing to answer the survey question [3]. Other estimates have put Blackpool's LGBTQ+ population as higher than the combined estimates from the data above.

Deprivation

Blackpool has a large proportion of residents living in deprived areas. According to the English Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) from 2019, Blackpool continues to rank as the most deprived of 317 Local Authority areas in England based on both average LSOA score and concentration of deprivation measures. The town has the highest proportion of its neighbourhoods in the most deprived 1% nationally.

Deprivation is measured using The Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IMD 2019). It is based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation
- Employment Deprivation
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation
- Health Deprivation and Disability
- Crime
- Barriers to Housing and Services
- Living Environment Deprivation.

Combining information from the seven domains produces an overall relative measure of deprivation

Qualifications

In terms of qualifications, Blackpool has a lower proportion of its working age resident population with NVG4 and above qualifications **(23.9%)** as compared to national (GB) average **(43.1%)**.

Benefit Claimants

There are a high proportion of benefit claimants with out-of-work benefits at a rate of approximately 16.6%, the majority of which claim ESA and incapacity benefits.

74.8% of working age people in Blackpool are estimated to be economically active, compared to national (GB) average rate of **78.4%** [4]. There are a high proportion of benefit claimants with out-of-work benefits at a rate of approximately 16.6%, the majority of which claim ESA and incapacity benefits.

As of May 2021, 1,102 working age residents claim disability living allowance **(1.3.%)**. The proportion is more than double for the North West and England.

As of October 2021, around **15.6%** of Blackpool's working age population are estimated to be on Universal Credit and not in employment, which is more than seven percentage points higher than the national figure (England) at **8.3%**) [5].

Gross weekly pay

As of 2021, the gross weekly pay for full time employees in Blackpool per week is approximately £541.50 compared to the national median wage at £612.80 [6].

Source:

[4] *Employment and unemployment (Jul 2020-Jun 2021): Economically Active, ONS annual population survey (2021).*

[5] *People on Universal Credit, October 2021, Department for Work and Pensions (2021).*

[6] *Gross Weekly Pay, Earnings by place of work, ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis (2021)*

[5] *People on Universal Credit, October 2021, Department for Work and Pensions (2021).*

[6] *Gross Weekly Pay, Earnings by place of work, ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - workplace analysis (2021).*

Housing

One of the main drivers of deprivation in Blackpool is poor housing; the oversupply of poor quality rented accommodation has far-reaching consequences on health, crime and antisocial behaviour, worklessness, community resilience and stability.

15.3% (10,810) of all homes in Blackpool are privately rented. Anecdotal data suggests the private rental sector has seen growth, particularly within inner wards. There is a relatively small social rented sector **(5.7%)**, and **29.5%** of homes are in the owner occupied sector.

Changes in seaside economies have led to patterns that have created a market based on former guest houses being converted into houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs). This type of accommodation facilitate a predominantly transient population. Poor quality housing concentrated in the inner wards, alongside unstable tenancies, contributes to high levels of crime and antisocial behaviour. The introduction of selective licensing schemes in 2012 in some areas of the town aim to improve management standards in private rented accommodation and reduce antisocial behaviour.

Additionally, recent homelessness figures show that the issue in Blackpool is three times that of the national average per head of population (Blackpool Council Homelessness Review and Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018-2023).

Health and lifestyles

Blackpool has the lowest life expectancy across England.

Life expectancy for males in the town is the poorest in England at **74.1 years** compared to the national average of **79.4 years**. Life expectancy for females is similarly poor at **79.5 years** compared to **83.1 years** for England. The biggest contributory factors for both men and women locally are cardiovascular disease and cancer, as is the case nationally. Additionally, high rates of alcohol-related conditions, drug misuse and suicide are also important factors in attempting to explain low life expectancy in Blackpool [7].

There are high levels of alcohol related harm in the North West, with substance misuse prevalence being the worst in the UK. In Blackpool patterns of alcohol consumption varies depending on the area. The inner wards experience both high levels of deprivation and the highest prevalence of off licence premises, which is associated with higher levels of drinking. Alcohol mortality rates for males in Blackpool are the worst in the country and the alcohol related hospital admission rate in Blackpool is more than double than the national average [8].

Additionally, mental health is an increasingly important issue both nationally and locally. The 'Common Mental Health Disorder Profile' developed by Public Health England indicated that the prevalence of depression is significantly higher in Blackpool than the national average. In Blackpool in 2020/21, **19.8%** of the 18+ population were estimated to have depression compared to **12.3%** nationally[9].

Source:

[7] National life tables – life expectancy in the UK: 2018 to 2020, ONS (2021)

[8] Calculated by Public Health England: Population Health Analysis (PHA) team using data using data from NHS Digital - Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). Fingertips PHE(2021).

[9]Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF), NHS Digital. Fingertips PHE(2021).

Outcomes for young people

The challenging social and economic context impacts significantly on children's life chances.

8,935 **(34.1%)** of children aged under 16 in Blackpool are living in households below **60%** median income after housing costs. Which is higher than the national figure of **30.4%** and North West figure of **30.8%**.

The health of children is poorer across a range of indicators. Blackpool has the highest prevalence of smoking during early pregnancy in the country at **29.1%**. The prevalence of obesity (including severe obesity) among children in year 6 is at **25.1%**, higher than the national average of **20.4%.** There are also significant safeguarding needs with rates of looked after children the highest in England at a rate of 210 per 10,000 children (DFE, 2021).

In 2019/2020, **66.9%** of children in Blackpool reached the expected levels in Key Stage 2 compared with **65.3%** of all children nationally and 64.6% of children in the North West. Blackpool pupils perform below national levels at GCSE level, with the latest results in 2020/21 showing a lower proportion of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English and Maths GCSEs (**57.5%** compared to **72.2%** nationally).

Night time economy

The night time economy (NTE) in Blackpool is particularly vibrant with a very high number of licensed premises in the town centre.

Blackpool has the highest number of licensed premises in Lancashire with 2018 figures showing 1550 licensed premises. Almost half of all employment in Blackpool is driven by the NTE with a rate of **48.7%** in comparison to the NTE employment rate for England at **33.3%** (this includes all activity that feasibly operates at night). Although this industry has economic benefits for the town, the health and negative social impacts can be damaging. Tourists contribute a significant amount to the NTE especially during the summer which effects crime statistics, with them featuring as both victims and offenders. The latest figures prior to the Covid-19 pandemic estimate that 18.1 million visitors came to Blackpool, with over half of these recorded as staying visitors.

*Although the statistics referred to above are official statistics, it is important to note there have been changes in the Police recording systems and reductions in the time Police are able to investigate crimes. This came into force on 3rd April 2017 under Police & Crime Bill 2016. As a result of this change, crime figures have risen in all nationwide Police forces
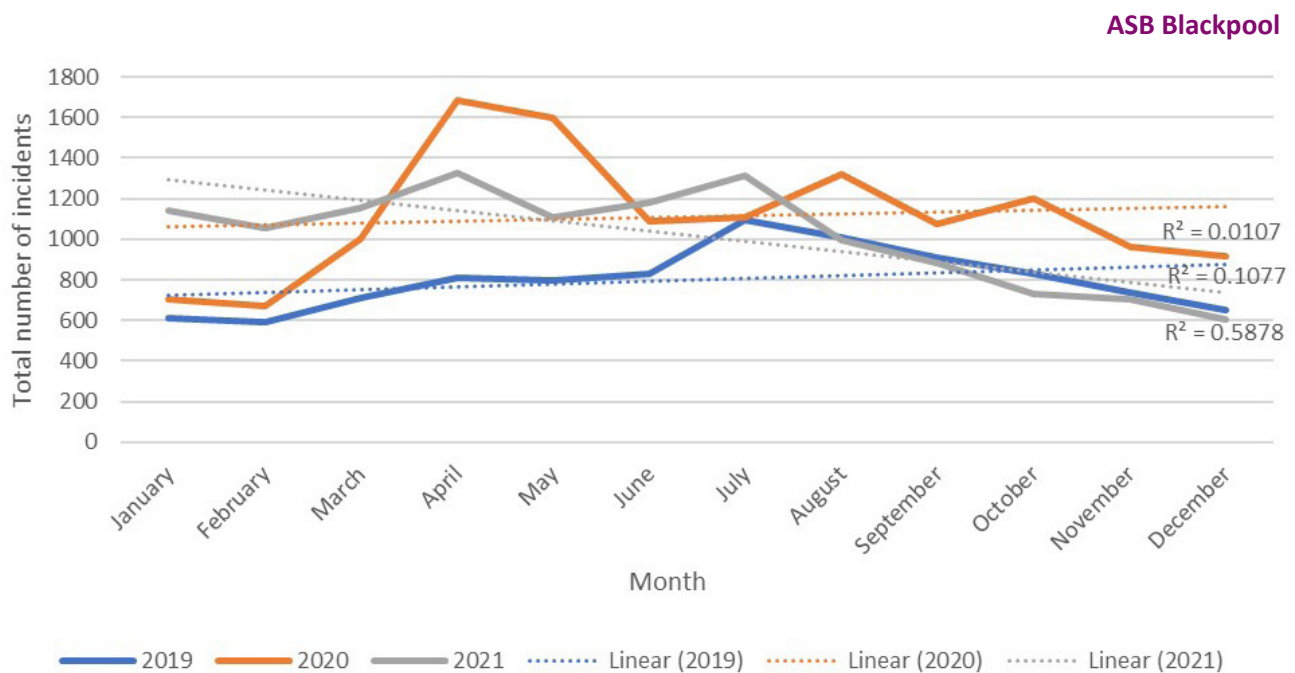
Crime overview

- **All crime:** There were 23,077 crimes recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 13% (+2,590) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 9% (+11,009) increase in all crime.

  COVID-19 restrictions/lockdowns during 2020 and part of 2021 caused crime to reduce to fewer opportunities. However, crime levels appeared to return back to pre-pandemic levels as of June 2021.

- **Alcohol-related crime:** There were 3,239 Alcohol related crimes recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 28% (+711) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 20% (+2,465) increase in Alcohol related crime.

- **Residential burglary:** There were 714 Residential burglaries recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was a decrease of -15% (-130) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a -12% (-688) decrease in Residential burglaries.

- **Drug offences:** There were 547 Drug offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was a decrease of -10% (-63) compared with the previous 12 months. In addition to this, possession of drugs has decreased by -8% (-25). Lancashire recorded a -4% (-125) decrease in Drug offences.

- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** CSE is not a specifically recorded crime category because it falls under a number of other offences, and as such it is difficult to establish specific levels. However, CSE in Blackpool remains a significant concern and therefore remains a priority.

- **Sexual offences & rape:** There were 902 Sexual offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 37% (+242) compared with the previous 12 months (caveat- some will be non-recent and historical). Rape offences increased by 45% (+97) and Sexual offences on children under the age of 16 have increased by 25% (+71). Lancashire recorded a 26% (+1,021) increase in Sexual offences and a 33% (+386) increase in Rape offences.

- **Domestic abuse:** There were 4,046 Domestic abuse offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 14% (+485) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 9% (+1,999) increase in Domestic abuse offences.

- **Violence against the Person (VAP):** There were 10,759 Violence against the Person offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 21% (+1,875) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 13% (+6,700) increase in Violence against the Person.

- **Hate crime:** There were 422 Hate offences recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was an increase of 21% (+72) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded a 6% (+157) increase in Hate crime.

- **Reducing re-offending:** The current reoffending rate for Blackpool (Jan 2019 – Dec 2019) is 25.9% which is slightly lower than the pan-Lancashire figure of 26.2%.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Overview

Monthly totals for ASB incidents in Blackpool from April 2019.

ASB Blackpool

There were 12,197 ASB incidents recorded in Blackpool during January 2021-December 2021. This was a decrease of -8% (-1,133) compared with the previous 12 months. Lancashire recorded an -11% (-9,508) decrease in ASB.

The above chart shows monthly totals for ASB incidents incorporating pre-pandemic figures (2019), due to covid-19 restrictions/lockdowns being in place during 2020 and part of 2021, this has had an effect on ASB levels.

Thanks to collaborative working across partner agencies and the easing of coronavirus restrictions, towards the end of 2021 (August onwards) the number of incidents recorded each month started to fall and are now below pre-pandemic figures.

Strategic Assessment of data

The Lancashire Strategic Assessment is a rigorous process which uses research and analysis to compile a long term picture of the issues and threats facing Lancashire as a county.

Unitary authorities, and districts then develop their own Strategic Assessment Local Profiles, which identify the threats that are then used to agree the priorities for the Community Safety Plan. Delivery plans are then developed accordingly to articulate the actions to be undertaken to address the priorities.

The strategic assessment uses the MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) tool to assess risk. The MoRiLE risk assessment process has been used to rank the various threats and issues identified.

The MoRiLE tool and the ONS CSSDT were both used to form the Lancashire Strategic Assessment and the Blackpool Strategic Assessment Local Profile.

Lancashire Profile

The 2021 Lancashire Strategic Assessment identified the following key risks and threats:

- Domestic Abuse
- Violence
- Exploitation – criminal and sexual
- Serious Organised Crime
- Road Safety

Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) Priorities:

In December 2019, the PCC, Andrew Snowdon, and New Chief Constable Chris Rowley, launched the 2021- 2025 Police and Crime Plan which sets the strategic direction for crime-related and policing services across Lancashire, including the response to regional and national threats.

There are five priorities within the Police and Crime Plan:

- Getting tough on Anti-Social Behaviour
- Disrupting and Dismantling Organised Crime
- Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Cracking down on Burglary and Robbery
- Targeting Dangerous Drivers

Blackpool Local District Profile:

The 2021 Blackpool Strategic Assessment Local Profile identified the following priorities:

- ASB
- Domestic Abuse
- Violence
- Road Safety
- Sexual Assault and Rape
- Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation
- Burglary and Robbery
- Serious and Organised Crime (County Lines, Modern Day Slavery/Human Trafficking and Illicit Trade)

The analysis provided in the 2021 District Profile for Blackpool and the Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2021, highlighted the following as threats and points of focus:

Vulnerabilities

As substantial contributory factors for child criminal and sexual exploitation, sexual offences, domestic abuse, violent crime and hate crime

- Children and young people are vulnerable to a number of crimes, including criminal and sexual exploitation and violent crime especially involving drugs

- Sexual offences such as rape, were identified as crimes of high risk using the MoRiLE methodology and high levels of harm using the ONS CSSDT

- The elderly population (65+ years), which is expected to increase, are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse, fraud, health related injury and antisocial behaviour

- Reports of domestic abuse are increasing, creating further demands on services

- Alcohol is a common factor in violent crimes, 34% of violence against the person offences in the town centre are alcohol related

- Almost one fifth of hate crime in Lancashire occurred in Blackpool

- Mental health has become an increasing demand on services and more collaborative approaches are being developed to deal with mental health and substance misuse (also known as dual diagnosis).

- County Lines features as a significant risk and threat in Lancashire

Drugs, alcohol and mental health

As substantial contributory factors for begging, residential burglary and antisocial behaviour

- Alcohol and drugs are common factors relating to antisocial behaviour

- Public perceptions showed that areas of significant concern were begging and drugs (including spice)

- Residential burglary was found to be a crime associated with high levels of harm

- Mental health is reported to be a factor in almost half of high risk antisocial behaviour cases

- Reduce re-offending

Serious Organised Crime

Linked to modern day slavery, human trafficking, illicit trade and drug dealing

- Prostitution in Blackpool is often linked to modern day slavery and pop up brothels

- Human trafficking has been identified as a risk across Lancashire using the MoRiLE methodology

- Activity associated with Serious Organised Crime (SOC) has been increasing in Blackpool, particularly with regards to County Lines, which mainly involves drug dealing

What the residents of Blackpool have to say

In line with the statutory requirement from the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, residents in Blackpool were consulted on the draft priorities for the community safety plan in order to ascertain if they agreed with the proposed priorities, or wished to suggest others.

Methodology

Questions relating to the Community Safety Partnership priorities were asked using three approaches- an online shared survey link, face-to-face interviews during a public engagement activity in Blackpool town centre and paper questions that were distributed in Blackpool Council's public facing buildings. The survey link was distributed via leaflets during the engagement week and shared on the council's social media pages, including Facebook and Twitter, throughout December and early January. The consultation was open for five weeks from 6 December 2021 to 9 January 2022.

Results

A total of 94 responses were received to the consultation, with 74 online responses, 14 face-to-face responses and 6 responses from paper questionnaires. The results of the survey showed that 97.8% of respondents ranked Violent Crime and Anti-social behaviour as very important or quite important priorities, followed by 95.5% who ranked Domestic Abuse, and Sexual assault and Rape as very important or quite important priorities.

	Very important	Quite important	Neither important nor unimportant	Quite unimportant	Very unimportant	Don't know/ not sure
Anti-social behaviour (Base = 91)	83.5% (76)	14.3% (13)	1.1% (1)	–	–	1.1% (1)
Child sexual exploitation (Base = 89)	79.8% (71)	11.2% (10)	3.4% (3)	2.2% (2)	–	3.4% (3)
Child criminal exploitation (Base = 89)	79.8% (71)	10.1% (9)	5.6% (5)	1.1% (1)	–	3.4% (3)
Domestic abuse (Base = 90)	73.3% (66)	22.2% (20)	4.4% (4)	–	–	–
Sexual assault and rape (Base = 89)	83.1% (74)	12.4% (11)	2.2% (2)	–	–	2.2% (2)
Violent crime [1] (Base = 91)	89% (81)	8.8% (8)	2.2% (2)	–	–	–
Serious and organised crime[2] (Base = 91)	75.8% (69)	17.6% (16)	4.4% (4)	–	1.1% (1)	1.1% (1)
Road safety [3] (Base = 93)	60.2% (56)	33.3% (31)	6.5% (6)	–	–	–

[1] Includes weapon enabled, domestic/youth/sexual and physical violence

[2] Includes county lines, modern day slavery and human trafficking/illicit trade

[3] Includes road traffic collisions, parking and speeding, nuisance motorbikes, highways obstructions and drink-driving 'Base' refers to the total number of responses for each question (Base = 94)

2022 – 2025 PRIORITIES

Drugs, alcohol and mental health

- Begging
- Residential burglary
- Antisocial behaviour
- Reduce re-offending

Serious Organised Crime

- Modern day slavery
- Human trafficking
- Illicit Trade
- Drugs with Harm

Vulnerabilities

- Violent Crime
- Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation
- Sexual Offences and Rape
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- ASB

Road Safety

- This area of work will be led by Highways and traffic Management Division, working in conjunction with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

Our local priorities were identified by the Local District Profile, which were then used in our public and stakeholder consultation exercise. The above priorities have been agreed by the Community Safety Partnership and the community. The priorities identified in this plan will be used to identify actions that will create a safer environment for residents and visitors to be evident in Lancashire.

The Community Safety Plan works towards supporting communities in line with the priorities and strategic approach adopted by Blackpool Council. In striving to retain our position as the UK's number one family resort, one of the council's priorities is to create stronger communities whilst increasing resilience, through delivering core services and partnership working in order to develop a better town.

In addition to these priorities, counter terrorism is identified as a point of further focus for the Community Safety Partnership on account of it being an area of national importance.

How we will address these priorities:

Currently there are a number of active multi-agency groups, which can be found on page 3, who are working in many of the priority areas and will further develop action plans over the life of the plan to address the priorities. In addition, there are plans to establish working groups to address highlighted priorities not already covered such as violence, burglary and robbery. It is important to note that where required, the analytical product victim offender location model is used to problem solve particular priorities.

An operational overachieving action plan covering the main issues from the various groups will be established in 2022/2023, which will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership.

Counter Terrorism

Although counter terrorism is not identified as a specific priority in this plan, it will remain a focus for the partnership as outlined in previous plans.

The current threat level for international terrorism in the UK is categorised at 'severe', which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. The terrorist threats which the UK now face are more diverse than ever before making the situation unpredictable and leading to potentially more frequent, less sophisticated terror attacks. In October 2010 the government published a National Security Strategy, CONTEST. This has been updated multiple times since and sets out the threats to the UK and the priorities for dealing with these.

On the 1st July 2015, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 came into effect. The Act places a duty on specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. The specified authorities are local authorities, people, prisons, young offender institutions, providers of probation services, schools, colleges, universities and NHS bodies.

The Specified Authorities must:

- Assess the risk of radicalisation in their area or institution

- Develop and action plan to reduce this risk

- Train staff to recognise radicalisation and extremism

- Work in partnership with other partners

- Establish referral mechanisms

- Maintain records and reports to demonstrate compliance

The four main areas of work identified in the most recent 2018 CONTEST strategy are:

- **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism

- **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks

- **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

- **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of terrorism attack

Further details are then provided on what each Specified Authority must do to comply with the Act.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

It is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct and oversee domestic homicide reviews.

The purpose of the DHR is to:

Establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;

- **Identify** clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;

- **Apply** these lessons to service responses including changes to inform national and local policies and procedures as appropriate;

- **Prevent** domestic violence and homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence and abuse victims and their children by developing a co-ordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that domestic abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity;

- **Contribute** to a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence and abuse;

- **Highlight** good practice.

The narrative of each review should articulate the life through the eyes of the victim (and their children) and talking to those around the victim including family, friends, neighbours, community members and professionals.

A successful DHR should go beyond focusing on the conduct of individuals and whether procedure was followed to evaluate whether the procedure / policy was sound.

- Does it operate in the best interests of victims?

- Could an adjustment in policy or procedure have secured a better outcome for the victim?

This investigative technique is sometimes referred to as professional curiosity. It is a thoroughly inquisitive approach to a review and impact on the tone of the report and the detail in the learning can be dramatically improved by adopting this mind-set.

DHRs are not inquiries into how the victim died or into who is culpable; that is a matter for coroners and criminal courts, respectively, to determine as appropriate. DHRs are not specifically part of any disciplinary inquiry or process.

The rationale for the review includes ensuring that agencies are responding appropriately to victims of domestic abuse by offering and putting in place appropriate support mechanisms, procedures, resources and interventions with an aim to avoid future incidents of domestic homicide and violence.

Partner support

Partnership working is at the core of the Community Safety Partnership. All statutory partners must work together to agree on outcomes and actions in order for the process to run effectively and for the priorities to be addressed.

How to contact the Community Safety Team

Email: communitysafety@blackpool.gov.uk