

CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, STREET SCENE AND NEIGHBOURHOODS – COUNCILLOR PAULA BURDESS

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Public protection including environmental protection, Trading Standards, licensing, food control, health and safety, housing and planning enforcement
- Community safety, CCTV, security and civil enforcement
- Highways and traffic management
- Street lighting
- Integrated Transports Services including adults, children and Rideability Community Transport Services and school crossing patrol
- Parking services
- Private Sector Housing Licensing/ Selective Licensing
- Street cleansing including trade waste, Household Waste Recycling Centre, Local Environmental Action Team and building cleaning

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1: The Serious Violence Duty

The UK Government introduced the Serious Violence Duty to ensure relevant services work together to share information, ensuring they collaborate, target their interventions and plan to prevent and reduce serious violence within local communities. In response to this requirement, we have worked with partners on a county-wide Lancashire Serious Violence Duty Strategy to be adopted by all Lancashire Local Authorities and Community Safety Partnerships including ourselves.

To support detailed planning, each district within Lancashire must also prepare its own district needs assessment, which Blackpool concluded in January 2023. The assessment drills further down into the local detail of the Pan-Lancashire Strategic Needs Assessment and includes a demographic overview of the district, epidemiology of risk and protective factors for violence in the district and a violent crime problem profile for the district.

The Lancashire Violence Reduction Network leadership board has considered data which describes the local picture of Serious Violence and agreed that this should include Homicide,

Knife Crime, Gun Crime, Assault With Injury, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, Domestic Abuse and Violence and Sexual and Criminal Child Exploitation.

Following an action planning workshop, a first draft was completed on 20 December 2023 to seek input and comments from all internal and external partners. These were incorporated into the plan and a special meeting of the Community Safety Partnership was held on 17 January 2024 to consider the plan, where all final input from partners was agreed to be included in the document by 26 January 2024.

The plan has four priority areas which are as follows:

- Prevention of serious violence;
- Enforcement;
- Cultural transformation and workforce development; and
- Evidence: data and evaluation.

Theme 2: Trading Standards - the illegal selling of vapes to underage children

A recent vaping test purchase operation in Blackpool resulted in 100% of the tested premises failing the underage sales test. Following this appalling finding, the Trading Standards team is taking additional steps to tackle this illegal practice. All operators of premises failing the test will be subject to intervention meetings and will be revisited within three months to ensure that they are operating legally. There are several enforcement options open to Trading Standards should businesses continue to fail the test, which ultimately could result in prosecution if the team is dissatisfied with the improvements or progress made.

The government is currently out to consultation regarding proposals to reduce youth vaping, which Blackpool Council has responded to, further details of which can be found in the Levelling Up - People report.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.