



**ARTICLE NO: 1A**

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2011/12  
ISSUE: 3 NOVEMBER 2011**

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**Article of:** Borough Solicitor

**Relevant Managing Director:** Managing Director People and Places

**Relevant Portfolio Holder:** Councillor I. Grant

**Contact for further information:** Mrs. J Brown (Extn 5024)  
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**SUBJECT: MINUTES OF LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – THEMATIC GROUPS**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1 To present to Members the notes/minutes of meetings of various LSP Thematic groups. I attach the following notes of the West Lancashire Local Children's Trust held 8 September 2011, minutes of the Better Environment Thematic Group (Natural & Built Environment) held 7 June 2011 and minutes of the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Thematic Group held 19 January 2011, 20 April 2011 and 6 July 2011.

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 To apprise Members of developments in relation to the Local Strategic Partnership's Thematic Groups. I attach the following minutes of the

## **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

3.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this article and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The article has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this article.

## **5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

1. Notes of West Lancashire Local Children's Trust Partnership 8 September 2011.
2. Minutes of Better Environment Thematic Group (Natural & Built Environment) 7 June 2011
3. Minutes of West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership Thematic Group 19 January 2011, 20 April 2011 and 6 July 2011.

# WEST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD MEETING



ACTION NOTES		PRESENT			
DATE:	8 September 2011	Angela Aspinwall-Livesey (Chair)	✓	✓	Joanne McGrath (JM)
		Greg Mitten (GM)	✓	✓	Mohammad Sarfraz (MS)
TIME:	2-5pm	Nighat Parveen (NP)	✓	✓	Ismail Karolia (IK)
		John Nelson (JN)	✓	✓	
VENUE:		Jonathan Hewitt (JH)	✓	✓	
Hillside School Shares Room, Egerton, Tanhouse, Skelmersdale		Louise Dawson (LD)	✓	✓	
		Jane Cass (JC)	✓	✓	
		Glenis Tansey (GT)	✓	✓	
		Richard Varey (RV)	✓	✓	
			✓	✓	
DISCUSSION ITEM		ACTION NOTES			BY
1.	<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>				
2.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	Carmel Forster (CF), Cllr Carolyn Evans (CE), Cllr Andrew Fowler (AF)			
3.	<b>NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING (JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> 2011) – ACCURACY</b>	Agreed			
4.	<b>NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – MATTERS ARISING</b>	1) Best Start Lancashire – £2m has been allocated across the county, focussed on families who are 'just coping'. Skelmersdale Cluster has had meetings and money has been allocated. Children's Centres are currently recruiting staff.  2) Reading has been identified locally as a priority in Skelmersdale for children.			
5.	<b>Early Intervention</b>	2) The trust Board will form the membership of the Early Intervention Steering Group			

	<p><b>3) Review of Terms of Reference</b></p> <p>A -The meeting frequency of the group will be as per the normal Trust Meetings, which will be coordinated in line with EI requirements.</p> <p>B - TOR to reflect that exceptional meetings will only be called if the work cannot be met within the normal meeting arrangements, due to some level of urgency required.</p> <p>C – The Trust Board will also act as the funding subgroup for the Early Intervention project</p> <p>D – A review of the Terms will take place in February at the board meeting.</p> <p>Approved with amendments</p> <p><b>Project Report (Resource Panel)</b></p> <p>Page 5 – Joanne to check with West Lancs Community High to address key vulnerable group in membership</p> <p><b>Gap in Service Form</b></p> <p>JM to put (where applicable) after ‘CAF number’</p> <p>JM to input ‘has issue been raised before’ and what efforts have been made before’</p> <p><b>CAF escalation form</b></p> <p>Approved</p> <p><b>Pier Panel TOR</b></p> <p>JM to include special schools in membership</p> <p>Frequency will be one a month for first 6 months, every two months there after</p> <p>Documents can be disseminated through the trust website and partnership networks.</p> <p>JM confirmed she will investigate any concerns raised through forms before bringing to panel.</p> <p>There is a need to ensure the community is able to engage in the processes, through cascading and marketing. JM could also present at CVS event on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>To be able to make the process clearer there could be examples of filled out forms and cases it could be used in, with realistic outcomes. JM to work with CVS to market to community networks.</p> <p><b>Project Updates</b></p> <p>There is an under spend in the attachment project; JM requested if this could be used as additional small pots funding. <b>(Agreed)</b></p>	JM
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		<p>JM will provide quarterly monitoring reports for the Board on the Attachment Project.</p> <p>Marketing for the project will take place before 31<sup>st</sup> October, with a launch planned by the provider. (Agreed)</p> <p>JM to forward EI project specification to Richard Varey.</p> <p>EI champions could become part of the wider partnership group. Provider needs to be clear that the project is Children's Trust Funded.</p> <p>JM will publish a list of the training dates available through the project.</p> <p>Next round of small pots to be allocated in October. Board suggested that small pots are targeted in areas under represented.</p>	
6.	<b>Attendance at the Children's Trust Conference on 27<sup>th</sup> September.</b>	<p>Attendees will be</p> <p>AAL (PM ONLY)</p> <p>JN (AM only)</p> <p>JH(PM only)</p> <p>GT</p> <p>JM</p>	
7.	<b>Action Plan</b>	Action Plan has been finalised, JH to send to IK and MS.	<b>JH</b>
8.	<b>Dates for Next Meetings</b>	<p>Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 2-5pm</li> <li>- 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2012, (including partnership meeting)</li> <li>- 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, 2-5 (to agree future dates at this meeting)</li> <li>- 17<sup>th</sup> July 2-5pm</li> </ul> <p>Annual Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10<sup>th</sup> February</li> </ul>	
9.	<b>LDAAT</b>	GT, JM and JC to take forward.	<b>GT, JM, JC</b>

10.	<b>LGBT report workshop</b>	Workshop to be held on 28 <sup>th</sup> September, 9-1 at the Investment Centre.  Requires representation from schools and other agencies, senior management. All to make recommendations on who to attend to IK.	<b>All</b>
11.	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Third Sector Lancashire is holding an event – Hearing on the commissioning of CYP services. West Lancs CVS to attend on behalf of the trust (GM)</li> <li>2) Feedback given on the youth Homelessness strategy. GM to remain the lead on this issue.</li> <li>3) WL CVS to attend launch of Lancashire Wide VCFS CYP consortium, Greater Together on 14<sup>th</sup> October.</li> <li>4) One Workforce Network event on 13<sup>th</sup> October. GM to attend as rep from the trust to provide Trust update.</li> <li>5) Partnership Agreement has been signed.</li> </ol>	<b>GM</b>  <b>GM</b>  <b>GM</b>  <b>GM</b>
12.	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2011- 2-5pm.	

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18/9/2011

## Better Environment Thematic Group of West Lancashire LSP

### Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Present: Richard Small (Chair) – Liverpool John Moores University  
Tina Iball – WLBC, Environment  
Lindsay Beaton – Wildlife Trust  
Steve Kent – WLBC, Leisure  
Joanne Hudson – LCC, Environment  
Dominic Carr – WLBC, Planning Policy

	Action
<p>1. <b><u>Introductions and apologies</u></b> RS welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from:</p> <p>Dominic Rigby – LCC, Countryside Dave Dunlop – Wildlife Trust Tim Graham – Wildlife Trust Gillian Whitfield – WLBC, Planning Policy Laura Gee – WLBC, Housing Pat Burgess – WLBC, Waste and Recycling Pam Brandwood – Edge Hill University</p> <p>Georgina Fellows from the Environment Agency has kindly agreed to contribute to the group via email and minutes but is unable to attend meetings due to pressure on staff resources.</p>	
<p>2. <b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b> The minutes of the last meetings were agreed to be a true record.</p> <p>Second Homes Fund update:</p> <p>The final report from Groundwork Pennine Lancashire regarding the West Lancashire Climate Change Programme was well received by the LSP Executive at their last meeting. This project successfully secured Second Homes Funding in 2009/10 and delivered workshops and advice to 29 target groups (schools and community groups) and provided 16 organisations with further advice on funding to implement identified actions. The value of the grants secured from this work totalled £82,421, far exceeding the £10,000 target.</p> <p>The group agreed the project has been a success and that a letter of thanks should be sent to Groundwork, with an invitation to consider scope for further work in 2011/12.</p>	<p>TI</p>

The interim report of the Community Food Growing project was also well received and highlighted the good work being done to increase the number of plots available and accommodate the very high demand.

The two funding bids submitted to the last round of the Second Homes Fund included the Wildlife Trust's application for works at Mere Sands Wood and the British Waterways application for the Sparks Lane picnic area. These bids have unfortunately been unsuccessful in this round, however the Executive felt that they are very worthy projects and would like to see them given an opportunity to be reconsidered this financial year. Notwithstanding this, allocation of the Second Homes Fund is currently undergoing a review so it may be some time before further clarity on the success of the bids is known.

West Lancashire Council is to produce a borough wide Sustainability Strategy to aid delivery of low carbon projects and opportunities across West Lancashire. The Strategy framework received initial support from Members this week and work with stakeholders is to start imminently. A draft Strategy should hopefully be ready for public consultation by the end of summer.

3. **ETG Action Plans 2011-12 and Progress Updates**

Please see Progress Report February 2011 to May 2011 for details of progress made over this quarter.

Other issues discussed include:

Joanne Hudson raised the issue that Lancashire County Council will be using action plans such as this to identify projects that tie in with their objectives for inclusion in their work programme. Therefore she would encourage members of the group to include aspirational actions that might currently have no resources or funding.

If members of the group have any projects or ideas not currently included in the action plans please contact Tina Iball.

All

Steve Kent informed the group of two new projects he would like to add:

1. **Douglas Linear Park:** proposals to develop a linear park between Tarleton and Hesketh Bank, on the West Lancs side of the river. The land is currently underused and the public access is not ideal. A working group has been set up, with great support from the Parish Councils, and a feasibility study undertaken but lots of further work is needed. Some funding has been allocated for phase 1 of the project which includes overcoming land ownership and access issues. This work is to start soon. It is hoped this can be developed more fully in subsequent years. This links in with work currently ongoing through the Core Strategy.



2. **Burscough Community Woodland:** proposals to develop a community woodland area on the landfill site at Platts Lane, Burscough. An OGM (Organic Growing Medium) working group has been formed to facilitate the large quantities of green waste that will be required and investigate the feasibility of a woodland scheme being implemented by 2015, if sufficient funding can be found. Funding has currently been secured for initial ground investigations. The benefits of the project are woodland creation, with associated carbon savings, public amenity and the re-use of green waste. The land is Council owned and the project is fully supported by the Parish Council. A second site at Mill Dam Lane may also be investigated at a later date.

4. **LDF Core Strategy Update**

Dominic Carr informed the group of the Council's work on the Core Strategy. This is an overarching document which sets out a vision of how we would like the Borough to look in 15 years. The Preferred Options document is currently out for consultation until the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

The document can be viewed [here](#) and your comments are welcomed. They can be submitted online or through the post. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the LDF team on [LDF@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@westlancs.gov.uk).

All

5. **Mere Sands Wood Management Plan**

Lindsay Beaton informed the group that the 5 year management plan for MSW is currently being revised and seeking stakeholder consultation.

The main questions being asked are:

- What is MSW's socio-economic role in the area? How high a priority should this be given in the management of the Reserve? Should we be aiming to change our socio-economic role?
- What is the primary value and purpose of MSW (e.g. reserve; connectivity; education)?
- The founding vision for MSW was that it should include examples of all types of habitat found in West Lancashire. Should we retain this as the vision for MSW? If it should change, how and why? What are the benefits of sticking with this vision?
- What role does MSW play in the ecosystems of the area?
- Should the purpose of the current management change?
- What are the primary habitats and species MSW should be managed for?
- Are there specific habitats / species/ features of MSW that are especially vulnerable and need focused attention?
- MSW is designated SSSI in respect of its geology. What more should we do to protect and promote the geological features of MSW?
- What historical features of MSW should we aim to preserve and promote?

The group discussed their opinions in response to these questions. The main points raised highlighted that MSW is seen as an oasis of high importance for wildlife which provides a very important landscape and example of a true nature reserve. MSW currently has lots of small habitats for a diverse range of species but maybe it should focus on it's main strengths i.e. water habitat and less so on others i.e. sand dune habitats. A focus could also be those species without the ability to move through expanding habitat and improved links with Martin Mere. Other values are in recreation and tourism and maybe there is scope for more partnership working with schools across the borough. However this requires funding for works such as improved visitor centre and overflow car parking.

If you would like any further information or have any comments or ideas please contact Lindsay directly on [lbeaton@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:lbeaton@lancswt.org.uk).

All

6. **Any other business**

No further items were raised.

7. **Date of next meeting**

TI to arrange electronically for Mid September.

TI

# WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

HELD: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Commenced: 5.30 pm

Finished: 7.15 pm

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## PRESENT:

Andrew Hill	-	WLBC
William J Taylor MBE	-	Chairman, WLBC
Dean Holden	-	Lancashire Constabulary
David Tilleray	-	WLBC
Graham Coulston-Hermann	-	Lancashire Constabulary
Steve Mahon	-	WLBC
Colleen Martin	-	LCC
Mary Lyons	-	NHS Central Lancs.
Steve Wilson	-	LF&RS
Cllr Greenall	-	WLBC
Robert Rushton	-	Lancashire Police Authority
Gareth Dykes	-	West Lancs. PACT
Louisa Armitage Parkinson	-	WLBC
Eleanor Maddocks	-	DV Support Services
Greg Mitten	-	West Lancs. CVS
Cllr Una Atherley	-	WLBC
County Cllr Aldridge	-	LCC
Mike Lock	-	Lancashire Probation Trust
Roger Merry	-	Ormskirk Bench
Helen Slee	-	Victim Support
Louise Cropper	-	Help Direct
Cllr Ashcroft	-	WLBC
Jan Tyrer	-	GMW

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Owens	-	WLBC
Barry Nolan	-	WLBC

## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Sam Jones, William Cropper, Bruce Jassi, Colin Buckley, Jannine Burke, Christine Coleman, Grant Murdoch, Gail Stanley, Faye Kellett, Mel Ormesher

## 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **4. PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING**

The Chairman provided the Partnership with a verbal update on the issue of Public Sector Spending.

The Chairman stated that it was currently difficult to provide an accurate update, as public authorities have not yet set their budgets. The Chairman advised that these are difficult times, which will require innovation to keep costs down whilst trying to ensure minimal impact against front line services public services. He continued by explaining that officers would respond by maximising on efficiency and exploring shared services options and developing partnership working where costs savings could be made. The Chairman emphasised however that it would then be down to elected members to take the difficult decisions of identifying where services need to be reduced or cut.

The Chairman provided an overview of the potential impact on CSP's, which in the past have received Government grants to support their work and provided the capital investment in CCTV as an example. He continued by stating that law and order remains a priority but the financial challenges still remain and at the next CSP meeting will have a clearer picture of the impact of spending reductions in this area. The Chairman added that we must avoid the risk of agencies returning to working in silos but cautioned this will be tempting for decision makers when considering costs.

Councillor Greenall supported the Chairman's comments adding that politically we will be faced with hard choices.

#### **5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Chairman advised partners that in previous meetings performance monitoring had taken up a substantial part of the meeting and added for this meeting would trial exception reporting only. The Chairman invited partner agencies to provide a verbal overview of their quarterly performance on this basis and highlighted as an introduction that performance across the board was stunning and remarked on the excellent reductions that had been achieved over the financial year against ASB and domestic burglary.

Dean Holden confirmed the reductions and added that across all categories we have seen significant improvement in performance against some very good baseline performance from the previous year. Dean thanked the Chairman for his comments and added that much of the reductions have been made possible through the support of the CSP and its partners. Dean highlighted the significant reductions achieved against domestic burglary, which have reduced by approximately 30% but cautioned that violent crime remains the main area for concern with regards to performance indicators and added that Domestic Abuse accounts for approximately a third of all violent crime figures which is an upward trend but remains difficult to police from a patrol point of view.

The Chairman acknowledged the good performance and added that domestic violence remains a double-edged sword with pressures for the police to both reduce violent crime but encourage the reporting of domestic violence offences.

Cllr Ashcroft raised concerns regarding criminality affecting the Northern Parishes and highlighted a number of incidents in Tarleton and Hesketh Bank, which have seen an increase in burglaries other than a dwelling. Cllr Ashcroft stated that he felt investment in CCTV in public areas and in ANPR in other areas would be impactful.

Dean acknowledged the increased in none dwelling burglaries and explained this was a likely consequence of displacement with offenders changing their tactics to reduce the risk of severe custodial sentences if caught. Dean added that proactive targeting has led to some positive results and added that these types of offences have shown a reduction. Dean continued by adding that the Safer Lancashire Board are looking at potential sites that could benefit from ANPR and that the Northern Parishes have been proposed for possible inclusion. Dean added that a bid has also been submitted to the West Lancashire LSP for funding to enable the police to equip all front line officers with body cameras, which will assist in tackling cross border crime.

The Chairman acknowledged that the Northern Parishes was the least connected area for CCTV. He added that the LSP funding for CCTV is primarily for the sustainable of the system but added that if funding is available from this pot for the extension of CCTV provision the Northern Parishes could be considered if supported by Police evidence.

In request to a question on police resources Graham Coulston-Hermann advised the Partnership that the constabulary currently has a freeze on recruitment as there maybe future funding cuts. He advised that Neighbourhood Policing and Response structures are under review but added that the impact in this area is likely to be less than was thought. Graham added that we would review current vacancies across the division once the review is completed.

Cllr Nolan stated that performance in his ward is currently very good and he is keen for this to be sustained.

Steve Wilson advised the CSP that a significant increase in deliberate primary fires has been recorded and this is directly attributable to wheelie bin fires. Steve advised that this issue would be highlighted with the Strategic Assessment as an emerging threat.

Dave Tilleray advised the Partnership that the Council is working closely with its colleagues in Fire and Rescue to address this issue and added that a meeting has recently being held and a robust action plan has been developed to tackle this issue.

Mike Lock highlighted the improved performance against NI 30, which has seen a 33% reduction in the first quarter of 2010/11, which is above target. Mike continued by providing an overview on key performance areas.

The subject of community payback was debated and Dave Tilleray advised the Partnership that a meeting has been arranged for the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011 between officers from the Borough Council and Lancashire Probation Trust to examine the potential for the development of a formal Service Level Agreement. Dave added that discussion with Chorley and Preston Council has taken place to assess the arrangements in these areas. Dave stated that fundamental steps will have to be taken to examine how this will impact on staff relations and consultation with the union will also have to take place.

Jan Tyrer advised the Partnership that GMW were awarded the contract for managing substance misuse services in Central Division on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. Jan highlighted that the service is currently receiving a massive amount of alcohol referrals. Jan advised the partnership that a sub contract is in place with Lifeline for delivering brief interventions and recovery. Jan added that Domestic voice is an area that the service is currently looking at developing and are conscious that they currently undertake more work with perpetrators than victims.

## **6 FUNDED INTERVENTIONS UPDATE**

Andrew advised the Partnership that a written progress report for funded interventions for 2010/2011 was enclosed in members meeting packs. Andrew advised that all interventions are currently on track and the Partnership expects to spend its full ABG allocation. Andrew added that £1,000 remained in the LPG pot and partners were currently drawing up potential bids.

Andrew provided the group with a brief overview of the Domestic Abuse Christmas Campaign stating that there are early indications of reductions in offences during the Christmas period, which historically sees a seasonal spike in these types of offences. The campaign was supported by a press release and promotional literature and Louisa added that the campaign also linked in with the Divisional Police lead campaign entitled Operation Harmony. Lou thanked colleagues for all their support in the delivery of the campaign.

Andrew advised that the next Task and Time Group developed through the Local Priorities Group would look at Domestic Abuse issues in West Lancashire. This is in response to its high profile in the West Lancashire Strategic Assessment and its impact on violent crime performance.

Cliff provided a brief overview of the progress made by the Motorcycle Nuisance Task & Time Group. Cliff advised that the LPG had authorised the purchase and erection of Section 59 signage and a K barrier to support police activity in key areas associated with high levels of motorcycle nuisance. The campaign was supported by the production of a motorcycle nuisance leaflet and press release. Other multi agency activities included joint visits by the police and Trading Standards to all of the petrol station managers in Skelmersdale to promote responsible retailing. Early indications show that there have been significant reductions in motorcycle nuisance during January and the group will meet at the end of January to fully assess the campaigns impact.

## **7 THE POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL**

Chief Inspector Dean Holden, Lancashire Constabulary, provided a brief verbal summary on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The Bill covers five distinct policy areas: police accountability and governance; alcohol licensing; the regulation of protests around Parliament Square; misuse of drugs; and the issue of arrest warrants in respect of private prosecutions for universal jurisdiction offences. The proposed bill can be accessed on the link below:

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill \(new window\)](#).

Colleen Martin stated that there was still some debate to be had over how this reform will be managed within a two-tier authority. Colleen added that the Police and Crime Commissioner who will hold a crime reduction grant would manage future community safety funding. ABG grants will go directly to the Police and Crime Commissioner and this will impact on community safety delivery. Colleen added that officers are currently looking at several proposals.

## **8. FACE THE PEOPLE**

Andrew Hill briefed the CSP on the planned agenda and subject matter for this year's Face the People event, which will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 at 7pm in the Ecumenical Centre, Skelmersdale.

Andrew advised that the event would be themed on anti-social behavior and feature three presentations, which will cover the areas of prevention, detection, prosecution, diversionary activities and the criminal justice system. The event will include two joint presentations to demonstrate to the community that agencies are working together to tackle ASB, which would best reflect the ethos of partnership working in West Lancashire. A third presentation will be delivered on the work of the Lancashire Youth Offending Team. Andrew advised that invites have gone out to partner agencies, councilors and the event will be advertised in the local press and on the councils website. Andrew requested Councillors promote the event in their local communities.

## **9. BREAKING THE CYCLE GREEN PAPER**

Mike Lock, Mike Lock, Probation Service Area Director introduced this topic and delivered a summary on the key elements of the Green Paper entitled 'Breaking The Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders.' The Green Paper sets out plans for fundamental changes to the criminal justice system and the full document can be accessed on the link below:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm79/7972/7972.asp>

## **10. IDENTIFYING THE PERPETRATORS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Dave Tilleray introduced the agenda item identifying the Perpetrators of ASB and provided the Partnership with a brief background on the subject matter, which were debated at the Councils Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The debate centred on the issue of individuals being named in a

council report, which are held electronically, who have been successfully prosecuted and the appropriateness of keeping these named individuals in the public domain. Dave advised that this issue was referred to the CSP for debate and a decision regarding formal policy and invited comments from Partners agencies.

The Chairman supported the view that the names of the individuals who have been prosecuted will already be in the public domain and highlighted that the Borough Council have always been very balanced in the way we publicise peoples names in relation to crimes.

Councillor Greenall supported The Chairman's comments and added that part of the sanctions is the publication of named individuals who commit criminality and therefore the information automatically becomes public knowledge. This view was supported widely by members of the CSP and Steve Mahon advised that this approach is encouraged the in the paper written by Louise Casey entitled Justice Seen, Justice Done.

Mike Lock stated that offenders need to be brought to the attention of the public but added that there also has to be a continued focus on the rehabilitation of offenders.

The debate concluded that the Partnership support are supportive of the policy of publicising the names of individuals in a reasonable and balanced way who are prosecuted, which is the approach advocated by Louise Casey.

## **11. DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

Andrew Hill introduced this agenda item stating that the draft Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment was included within the CSP Meeting pack. Andrew added that the document, which is still in draft form, was included on the agenda for endorsement by the CSP. Andrew added that a number of amendments had been requested which included reference to the growth of Edge Hill University and the subsequent impact on the Town Centre Night Time Economy as an emerging threat and the issue of public finance and its potential impact on CSP's.

The West Lancashire Strategic Assessment document and process was endorsed by the CSP subject to the inclusion of the additional information noted above. It was agreed that the draft assessment would be sent out to partners for a short consultation period before the final draft is produced.

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

Mike Lock, Probation Service Area Director provided the CSP with a brief verbal progress report on the plans for the implementation of Integrated Offender Management in Southern Division.



Mike stated that there are delays around the funding and team structures in relation to funding but added that the plan is in place. Mike added that there is a South Lancashire IOM briefing planned in March 2011 to enable practitioner to better understand the principles of IOM. Mike advised that the workshop to support the development of the Reducing Re-offending strategy has been held and officers will meet to write up the findings and complete the document. Mike stated that the group will be focusing on the criminogenic needs of offender and added that we will be looking at involving the third sector and substance misuse services more in this area of work.

### **13. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES**

Dean Holden provided the CSP with an overview of the objective of the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRAC), which are a similar model to the DV MARAC's. Dean advised that they have been created following the introduction of ASB minimum standards and the need to assess and manage the most vulnerable victims of ASB. Dean requested support from partner agencies for the West Lancashire ASBRAC adding that there was currently less attendance than the Partnership envisaged. Steve Mahon stated that ASBRAC's are a very useful format for managing ASB and vulnerable victims and added that the work continues outside of the meeting and provided partners with a recent example of a successful outcome.

Dean advised the partners that although repeat ASB callers are an indication of possible vulnerability he highlighted that it is sometimes that people that are too scared to call who are the most vulnerable and the ASBRAC process will aim to identify these individuals and put support mechanisms in place.

### **14. MULTI AGENCY BONFIRE PERIOD INITIATIVE 2010**

Steve Wilson provided a brief verbal report on the multi-agency bonfire initiative held in November, which produced unprecedented reductions in deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour during this seasonal period. Councillor Aldridge praised the work of the Skelmersdale Fire and Rescue Team and the initiative, which was a great success. The Chairman stated that the effort that Lancashire Fire and Rescue put into prevention is very commendable and added that West Lancashire was one of the first areas to support this approach. Eleanor Maddocks requested that her thanks be recorded to the LF&RS for their support to the Women's Refuge during the period of bad weather.

### **15. IDVA FUNDING 2011/12**

Eleanor Maddocks provided the position with an overview of the current picture for IDVA funding for the next financial year. Eleanor advised the CSP that the Government have announced the potential for 4 years of matched funding but bids must be submitted before the end of February 2011.

Colleen advised the group that the Home Office have relaxed the criteria on what constitutes matched funding and this could now potentially include value in kind and added that it would be better if matched funding could be identified

over the 4 year period. Colleen added that a meeting would take place on Friday to discuss the funding issue with potential bidders within Lancashire to look at the best deal for the Lancs. The Chairman advised Eleanor to speak to officers with respect to next year's budgets.

The Chairman emphasised the issue of finance and the very difficult decisions, which members will have to be make when identifying our priorities for 2011/12. Colleen added that officers are working hard on trying to identify matched funding or resources to enable the Home Office funding to be accessed. It was emphasised however that the date for submissions for funding is before the date that Local Authorities set their own budgets and therefore makes applications at this stage very challenging.

Greg Mitten stated that he appreciated the effort of partners in trying to access funding but added that he gets the clear message that domestic abuse is a key priority and stated that we therefore need to ensure the LSP understands this area is a key priority for the CSP when considering funding applications.

#### **16. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

Councillor Nolan request information on new legislation announced for fast tracking tenant responsible for ASB. Steve Mahon advised that he is aware of new legislation on this subject and advised that he would provide a briefing note to Councillor Nolan.

The Chairman raised the issue of the challenging weather period we endured during December 2010. He stated that lessons had been learned from the previous year and although the response is still not perfect staff within the borough and across the County put in more and more effort and resources.

The Chairman advised the CSP that due to financial constraints we would no longer be in a position to provide a buffet at future CSP meetings.

#### **17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business raised.

#### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 52 Derby Street.

# WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

HELD: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Commenced: 6.00 pm

Finished: 7.45 pm

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## PRESENT:

Andrew Hill	-	WLBC
William J Taylor MBE	-	Chairman (outgoing), WLBC
Sue Swift	-	Lancashire Constabulary
David Tilleray	-	WLBC (Chairman)
Sam Jones	-	LDAAT
Steve Mahon	-	WLBC
Mel Ormesher	-	LCC
Mary Lyons	-	NHS Central Lancs.
Steve Wilson	-	LF&RS
Cllr Greenall	-	WLBC
Robert Ruston	-	Lancashire Police Authority
Gareth Dykes	-	West Lancs. PACT
Andy Hewitson	-	LF&RS
Eleanor Maddocks	-	DV Support Services
Faye Kellet	-	Safer Travel
Dorothy Shields	-	Probation
John Fleet	-	Community Member
Roger Merry	-	Ormskirk Bench
Lee Ormandy	-	Trading Standards
Cllr Ashcroft	-	WLBC
Jan Tyrer	-	GMW

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Owens	-	WLBC
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## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

William Cropper, Bruce Jassi, Greg Mitten, Cllr Una Atherley, Christine Coleman, Grant Murdoch, Gail Stanley, Louisa Armitage-Parkinson, Mike Lock, Graham Coulston-Herrmann, Stewart Williams, Shirley Johnson, Teresa Fox

## 3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CSP CHAIRMAN

Andrew Hill provided the Partnership with a brief summary of the process that was agreed with the Strategic Review Group for the appointment of a new Chairperson for the CSP.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that we had received one nomination for the role, which was Mr David Tilleray, Assistant Director Community Services and the Chairman added that his nomination had received wide support.

The nomination was supported by the CSP and the outgoing Chairman stated that David Tilleray has an extensive knowledge of the community safety agenda and is very partnership oriented. The Chairman continued by adding that throughout his 10 years in the role, the CSP has done a sterling job and he thanked partners for their efforts and support. He continued by adding that it was his view that in these challenging times the Home Secretary is not always in tune with public opinion with the public wanting more police and a more proactive approach for tackling offenders and bringing them to justice.

The outgoing Chairman continued by adding that we have achieved excellent reductions against crime and the fear of crime and thanked the Council for its support to the CSP. The outgoing Chairman also commended the wider community safety achievements and highlighted the progress made locally by LF&RS in both its significant improvements against performance measures and their contribution to wider partnership objectives.

David Tilleray in his capacity as the new Chairman of the CSP stated that we have an excellent partnership but added that we must now rise to the challenge of getting every ounce of value from the Partnership. The Chairman continued by thanking the Partnership for supporting and endorsing his nomination and appointment as CSP Chairman.

#### **4. ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING PRESENTATION**

The Chairman, David Tilleray introduced Lee Ormandy from Trading Standards and advised that Lee would be delivering a presentation on the theme of illegal money lending. It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated with the minutes.

Cllr Iain Ashcroft asked how wide spread the issue is in West Lancashire and what kind of response do we have locally to the problem. Lee advised that loan sharks will operate across the Borough but will be more prevalent in urban areas and advised their impact on small businesses is a worrying trend. Lee continued by adding that there is no recorded increase in their numbers as they are very territorial but there will be a potential increase in victims in the current financial climate.

Chief Inspector Swift advised that the Partnership has set up a Task and Time Group to look at the issue in more detail and added that one of the key challenges is to identify the loan sharks and gather evidence against them. Sue added that the Police strongly suspect that loan sharks do operate in West Lancashire but cautioned that we need to raise public awareness on the

subject and gather community intelligence. Sue provided an overview of Operation Credit which has been set up in response to the issue.

Cllr Ashcroft stated the importance of Trading Standards engaging with the local Parish Councils and John Fleet recommended that Trading Standards highlight the issue in the community newsletter 'Home Front News'. Lee Ormandy welcomed these recommendations.

## **5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

## **6. PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING**

The Chairman provided the partners with an opportunity to give a verbal update on the issue of Public Sector Spending and its impact on their services. The Chairman began by highlighting the savings that the council must make over a 3-year period beginning next year. The Chairman stated that whilst officers are given the task of putting options forward the difficult decision on making cuts rests with the Council.

Dorothy Shields advised the Partnership that the Probation Service have lost a significant part of their budget which will affect staffing resources but added that the service had made cuts early to reduce future impact. Dorothy added that the service would face a major review in July 2011. Dorothy concluded by highlighting a number of changes affecting the senior probation management structure.

Cllr Greenall highlighted to the Partnership that a couple of posts that support the CSP have been funded through the ABG grant and from other agencies. He continued by stating that decisions on funding for posts should not be left to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour as these decisions affect people's lives.

The Chairman supported Cllr Greenall's comments and requested that where external funding is concerned the CSP is given as much notice as possible, especially when it impacts on funding posts.

Eleanor Maddocks highlighted to the Partnership the significant reductions in funding faced by the Women's Domestic Violence Service. Eleanor stated that to date they have lost approximately 30% of their budget that equates to approximately £150,000 and added that they are currently struggling to provide a service.

Sue Swift provided an overview of the anticipated changes to the policing structure across the Division and its impact on West Lancashire Policing. Sue added that the police would be moving locally to a single operating centre, which will be Skelmersdale Police Station. Sue added that the Police Estates Team is undertaking the review of Police Stations and buildings and this work is currently ongoing with no key decisions taken to date.

## **7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Chairman invited partner agencies to provide a verbal overview of their quarterly performance and highlighted as an introduction that year-end performance against key CSP targets was excellent.

Sue Swift provided a detailed overview of the Police performance figures against agreed targets and advised that we have seen excellent reductions across nearly all of the categories. Sue continued by stating that we have seen significant improvement in performance against some very good baseline performance from the previous year.

Sue thanked the CSP for its support and added that the CSP and Local Priorities Group have been instrumental in helping to meet and exceed targets. Sue added that the one exception target was Assault with Injury, which we just missed out on.

The Chairman acknowledged the excellent performance and added that even the standstill figure against violence was good in comparison to the wider national picture.

Sue continued by providing the Partnership with an overview of planned police operations aimed at sustaining the good performance and tackling key crime threats including violent crime, cross border crime and burglary. A full summary of the performance figures was contained in members meeting packs.

Cllr Ashcroft raised the issue of CCTV and supporting technology in helping to fight crime and whether or not the Police felt it made a positive contribution to their work.

Sue Swift responded that the Police are very supportive of the use of CCTV as a tool for tackling crime and developing community confidence. Sue continued by stating that CCTV is also an invaluable asset in helping to detect and deter crime and added that the Police are supportive of the Councils continued investment and commitment to CCTV in West Lancashire. Sue highlighted other technologies including ANPR, which assists in helping to detect crime and act as a deterrent to cross border criminals. Cllr Ashcroft added that he recognised the value of CCTV in combating crime and ASB and added that he would like to see more investment in CCTV in the Northern Parishes.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that the CSP has received funding through the Local Strategic Partnership to upgrade the local CCTV system and it is anticipated that limited funding will remain from this pot to commission some new cameras in the Borough. The Chairman added that this will need to be done in partnership with the police to ensure it is an evidenced led process and within the framework national CCTV guidance.

Sue Swift advised the Partnership that the LSP has also funded a CSP bid led by the Police for the funding of body cameras for operational police staff. This

will help support officers in gathering evidence and tackling issues including cross border crime and violent crime.

Steve Mahon provided the Partnership with an overview of the performance figures for the ASB Team. Steve continued by highlighting to the Partnership the change in recording practices by the Police for ASB which will now be broken down into just 3 categories entitled Personal, Nuisance and Environmental.

Steve Wilson echoed the earlier comments of William Taylor and added that West Lancashire is now considered a model of best practice across the County with double-digit figures for reductions for deliberate secondary fires. Steve cautioned however that fires, which are directly attributable to wheelie bins continue to be a key threat which is reflected in the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan. Steve advised the CSP that he acknowledged the Chairman's proactive approach to the issue and recognised partner contributions but stated that the issue remains a key local threat.

Cllr Greenall commented that clearly there was significant action ongoing to tackle the issue and asked was it still a problem. Steve advised that there have been 10 incidents so far this month and although there has been significant work done in key areas the problem will continue to move. The service will still need a full picture over 1-2 years to help identify a pattern. Steve added that the issue is specifically a Skelmersdale issue with some historic problems around the storage of bins. Steve advised that when a specific perpetrator is caught and prosecuted he would be seeking some positive local publicity.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that the Council is working closely with its colleagues in Fire and Rescue to address this issue and thanked Steve for his commitment and strong intention to tackling this issue.

The Chairman advised that we had received apologies from Young Peoples Services and noted that their performance information was contained in the meeting pack.

Eleanor Maddocks provided an overview of the performance for IDVA service. Eleanor advised that there had been a slight increase in referrals on quarter 3 with a total of 118 referrals to the service over the past financial year.

Dorothy Shields referred partners to the Probation report that was circulated prior to the meeting and preceded by providing the CSP with an overview of the report. Dorothy highlighted that the current rate of reoffending in West Lancashire is below the County average. Dorothy also highlighted that a significant amount of good preventative work is carried out by the local team, which is not reflected in the statistics including the work carried out supporting MAPPA and MARAC arrangements.

Jan Tyrer provided the partnership with an overview of performance for Greater Manchester West. Jan advised that the number coming through the criminal justice system is currently quite low. Jan advised that the current pathways have been identified as intensive by custody staff and discussions

are ongoing to improve the picture. Jan added that Mags O'Neil has now been appointed as the new GMW area manager for West Lancashire. Jan continued by providing an overview of the performance figures.

## **8 FUNDED INTERVENTIONS FIANL REPORT 2010/11**

Cliff advised the Partnership that a written progress report for funded interventions for 2010/2011 was enclosed in members meeting packs. Cliff further stated that the Partnership has spent its full ABG allocation and added that all of the funded interventions have contributed to assisting the CSP in meeting the agreed 2010/11 targets. Cliff continued by highlighting a number of successful initiatives including the motorcycle nuisance campaign and added that full details were contained in the funding plan report.

Cliff also provided an update on the work of the Domestic Violence Task and Time Group stating that the group has met twice. Cliff highlighted a number of key actions that are currently being undertaken by the group, which included researching current national and regional campaigns that could be rolled out locally. Cliff also highlighted the work undertaken by the group to engage local schools to raise awareness and the development of a focus group led by Eleanor Maddocks to address the reasons why domestic violence is underreported.

## **9 FUNDED INTERVENTIONS UPDATE 2011/12**

Andrew Hill provided the CSP with an update on the subject of Area Based Grant Funding for 2011/12. Andrew explained that LCC is looking at introducing more accountability against ABG allocations to CSP's. Andrew continued by providing an overview of the funding allocated to West Lancashire against the funding plan that was produced and endorsed by West Lancashire CSP.

West Lancashire CSP was asked to prepare a draft-funding plan based on a 30% reduction against last year's allocation. A funding plan endorsed by the Strategic Review Group was put forward for a total of £49,060. To date, the Safer Lancashire Board have agreed funding to West Lancashire CSP in the amount of £32,000 and we await confirmation of this funding, which will fund 6 of the proposals within the plan. Two of these proposals to support diversionary activities which included the local Brightsparx campaign will be supported once assurance has been gained that it does not duplicate mainstream or children's trust provision. It was indicated that two of the proposals put forward in the funding plan will be included in the work by the Communications sub group of the SLB.

The remaining proposals will be subject to further discussion to determine if the activity should be supported through mainstream service planning/delivery and this will be led by the thematic leads for the SLB. If these proposals are considered by the themed lead as added value then they will be discussed for consideration at the May 2011 SLB meeting.



## **10 DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-12**

The Chairman introduced this agenda item and Andrew Hill provided a brief overview of the duty to have in place a Community Safety Partnership Plan. The key changes for the 2011/12 plan were highlighted and Andrew described the plan as being 95% complete with some further contributions currently being developed by partner agencies including YOT. The Chairman acknowledged the hard work that had gone into the production of the document and thanked partners for their support.

The West Lancashire Partnership Plan for 2011/12 was endorsed by the Partnership.

## **11 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONSULTATION EXERCISE**

Andrew Hill provided the group with an update on the ASB consultation exercise. In July 2010 the Home Secretary announced a review of the many new tools and powers introduced since 1998 for dealing with anti-social behaviour. The consultation document entitled 'More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour,' outlines the findings of that review, and puts forward some proposals for radically simplifying and improving the toolkit.

The closing date for the consultation is the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011 and to read the document in full click on the link entitled: [More effective responses to anti-social behaviour - PDF version of the consultation \(PDF file - 374kb\)](#)

The Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group that West Lancashire CSP is represented on is leading on developing a consistent countywide response.

## **12. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES**

Andrew Hill advised the CSP that the refreshed West Lancashire Domestic Violence Strategy was sent out in the meeting pack. A draft of the refreshed 2007 document was sent out for consultation on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and colleagues were invited to feed any observations, comments or amendments back prior to this meeting.

Cllr Greenall highlighted the importance of tackling this very serious issue and introduced a discussion on what actions are taken against perpetrators of domestic violence. Sue Swift advised the Partnership that not all domestic incidents that the police respond too are serious assaults but added the police deal with all incidents in a professional manner and take action appropriate to the offence committed.

Roger Merry provided the CSP with a brief overview of how the magistrate's court operates and highlighted that the bench can only sentence on the offence on which a person is charged. Roger assured the CSP that the Ormskirk Magistrates Bench are well trained on DV related issues and take incidents that come before the bench very seriously.

The refreshed West Lancashire CSP DV Strategy was endorsed by the Partnership.

## IDVA FUNDING

Eleanor Maddocks advised that the service is due to receive funding that equates to 3/12ths of a £20k allocation from the SLB. This will allow the service to fund a part time IDVA service for 3 months up to end of June 2011. The post has previously operated as a full time position.

The Domestic Violence Support Service has used funding reserves for the IDVA to be full time during April 2011. Eleanor advised that the service which will need to move to part time will not be in a position to continue to support the same number of victims. Eleanor highlighted to the partnership that we have already had 2 DV related murders here in Lancashire this month alone.

Eleanor advised the CSP that it is not the responsibility of the Women's Domestic Violence Service to fund the IDVA adding that this responsibility rests with the CSP and SLB.

Mel Ormesher advised the CSP that the funding bids to the Home Office for IDVA provision were oversubscribed nationally. Mel advised that further funding will follow but it will be nowhere near the level of provision anticipated. Mel stated that £180k of ABG monies for supporting DV was allocated to the SLB for commissioning.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REVIEW

Andrew Hill introduced this agenda item and provided the Partnership with an overview of the new requirement on CSPs to hold an inquiry if there is a DV homicide. This requirement under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 came into force on 13 April 2011.

Andrew advised the CSP that a draft paper written by Chief Inspector Sam Mackenzie has recommended that a sub group of the SLB be established with the designated statutory partners forming the quorate group. This group whilst permanently constituted would only need to meet as and when a relevant case occurred and was referred. The relevant CSP Chair would be responsible for convening the panel.

This approach is currently being considered by CSP Chairs across the County footprint.

### **13. FACE THE PEOPLE**

Andrew Hill provided the CSP with a summary of the evaluation of this years Face the People event, which took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 in the Ecumenical Centre, Skelmersdale. .

Andrew advised that the event, which was themed on anti-social behavior, was attended by 105 people with a higher proportion of local residents than during previous events. Andrew advised the CSP that minutes of the event are available on the Council website. Andrew continued by advising that the event was well received with very positive feedback given. The only negative

comments were in relation to the acoustics and parking. John Fleet advised the CSP that he was unable to attend the event but had received some very positive comments from community members that had attended.

Andrew concluded that the duty to hold the event is likely to be repealed in 2011/12 and will bring the subject back to the CSP for further discussion when we know more. Andrew added that the funding element of this years funding proposed plan contained an allocation for local community engagement, which was not supported by the SLB.

**14. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

There were no community safety issues raised.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The group discussed moving the time of the CSP meeting slightly back to give colleagues the opportunity to have a meal prior to meeting, however, it was agreed that future meetings should continue to be held at 6pm.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 52 Derby Street.



# WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

HELD: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Commenced: 6.00 pm

Finished: 8 pm

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## PRESENT:

Andrew Hill	-	WLBC
David Tilleray	-	Chairman WLBC
Stuart Williams	-	Lancashire Constabulary
Geoff Hurst	-	Lancashire Constabulary
Steve Mahon	-	WLBC
Bruce Jassi	-	Lancashire Police Authority
Mel Ormesher	-	LCC
Mary Lyons	-	NHS Central Lancs.
Rachel Walker	-	LF&RS
Faye Kellet	-	Safer Travel
Dorothy Shields	-	Probation
John Fleet	-	Community Member
Roger Merry	-	Ormskirk Bench
Cllr Ashcroft	-	WLBC
Cllr Hopley	-	WLBC
Jill Bradley	-	West Lancashire CVS
David Johnnie	-	Trading Standards
Cllr Atherley	-	WLBC

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Owens	-	WLBC
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### Special Agenda Item – Open to all West Lancashire Councillors

#### 1. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF POLICE STATIONS INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Partnership received a presentation from Chief Superintendent Stuart Williams on the consultative process for the proposed closures of Police Stations in Southern Division. The Estates and Front Counter Review consultation exercise commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 and will run for 12 weeks.

Stuart provided the Partnership with an overview of the background to the proposed closures and the savings that must be made by Lancashire Constabulary. It was agreed that an electric copy of the presentation entitled 'Implications of Force-Wide Organisational Reviews for West Lancashire' would be sent out to CSP members.

It was noted that the CSP Chairman, David Tilleray had delegated authority to respond on behalf of Council members. The Chairman agreed to collate responses from members of West Lancashire Borough Council to the consultation exercise in consultation with the Leader, Councillor Ian Grant.

It was also agreed that Cliff Owens would act as the single point of contact and collate responses on behalf of individual CSP colleagues who wish to provide a responses to the consultation exercise via West Lancashire CSP

The Chairman thanked Stuart for an excellent and informative presentation.

## **CSP Business Meeting**

### **2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed colleagues to the meeting and requested that his thanks to Councillor Greenall for his role as portfolio of Community Safety be noted. The Chairman also welcomed Councillor Hopley, the new portfolio holder for community safety to the CSP meeting and West Lancashire's new Borough Commander Geoff Hurst, whom the Chairman stated has made an excellent start to his new role.

### **3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from:

William Cropper, Greg Mitten, Christine Coleman, Louisa Armitage-Parkinson, Mike Lock, Shirley Johnson, Teresa Fox, Andy Moss, Eleanor Maddocks, Jan Tyrer, Sam Jones

### **4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **5. SAFER LANCASHIRE BOARD AND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Chairman introduced this new standing agenda item and advised the Partnership that it was appropriate that feedback was provided from strategic groups that the CSP is linked to including the Safer Lancashire Board (SLB) and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The Chairman advised that the 2011-12 Community Safety Agreement has been produced on behalf of the SLB and will provide a focus around four key themes:

1. Protect and support vulnerable people
2. Change attitudes and behaviours
3. Reduce alcohol and drug misuse
4. Reduce reoffending

Theme leads have identified areas of work to be developed across the partnership against each priority. A copy of the document can be accessed by clicking on <http://www.saferlancashire.co.uk/2011/>

The Chairman highlighted the decisions made around the shortfall of funding for IDVA's and MARAC's across Lancashire and advised the Partnership that funding from the SLB has been allocated to each of the CSP areas. The funding will match the previous allocations received from the Home Office. It was noted however that matched funding still needed to be identified by CSP's to resource full time IDVA positions. The Chairman advised that funding has been secured from the West Lancashire LSP to bring the West Lancashire post as close as possible to a full time equivalent.

The Chairman stated that the SLB received a report from Colleen Martin on the subject of Multi-Agency Strategic Hubs (MASH). The SLB decided not to accept the recommendations and requested more work be done on this topic. The Chairman stated that he would feedback on future discussions on this subject.

The Chairman provided an update from the West Lancashire LSP on 2<sup>nd</sup> Homes Funding and highlighted the funding agreed to support the purchase of police body cameras. The Chairman added that work was ongoing to overcome some IT difficulties in this area before they can become operational. The Chairman also highlighted the work being undertaken by LF&RS on the Raising Aspirations initiative which is being led by John Buck.

The Chairman updated the group on the LSP funding awarded to the Council to upgrade and strengthen the CCTV camera network, stating that work was well underway and is progressing towards the tender stage in conjunction with plans to move and redevelop the existing CCTV suite.

Councillor Ashcroft raised his concerns regarding plans to develop Multi-Agency Strategic Hubs and specifically asked if any decisions had been made regarding the likely location of the hub.

Stewart Williams advised the Partnership that there have been a number of proposals but none of which have been fully agreed and the paper submitted to the SLB requires more detail. Stuart further advised that at this stage it is envisaged the proposed MASH's would take a problem families focused approach. Stuart added that an economy of scale approach was being looked at and the location would be less local than a single borough but this was still under debate.

## **6. PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Chairman invited partner agencies to provide a verbal overview of their quarterly performance.

Geoff Hurst provided a detailed overview of the Police performance figures against agreed targets and advised that we have seen good reductions across nearly all of the categories. Geoff stated that we have seen significant

improvement in performance against some very good baseline performance from the previous year. This included good reductions against violent crime figures and an increase in domestic violence related detections.

Geoff continued by providing the Partnership with an overview of planned police operations aimed at sustaining the good performance and tackling key crime threats including violent crime, cross border crime and burglary.

Geoff further highlighted the significant reductions against criminal damage offences which were achieved from positive work from Neighbourhood Policing teams in conjunction with CSP partners. A full summary of the performance figures was contained in members meeting packs.

The Chairman stated that performance remains impressive and passed on his thanks to the police for their hard work and asked partners to consider if we are doing enough to promote successful outcomes in the media and to the community.

Councillor Ashcroft advised that through his parish council they produce a newsletter which could help communicate CSP messages.

Steve Mahon provided an overview of performance on behalf of the ASB Team stating that the team are currently looking to encourage reporting of ASB to ensure we don't miss vulnerable victims. Steve advised the Partnership that a recent successful information day was held to link in with a nationwide promotion of supporting people with disabilities who may be vulnerable to ASB and hate crime. Steve stated that the team have introduced a new IT recording system to enable them to share ASB reports with the police and increase the chances of vulnerable victims being identified.

Rachel Walker provided an overview of performance on behalf of LF&RS stating that the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter performance has been positive. Rachel advised that the service has been focusing on reducing accidental dwelling fires and proactively targeting lone residents and parents with dependent children. Rachel highlighted the positive work being undertaken in local schools to reduce deliberate fires with an approach which was considered very impactful. Rachel concluded by thanking the council and police for their support on reducing deliberate fires which has led to better recording and stronger partnership working.

Andrew Hill provided a brief overview of the Environmental Protection performance figures stating that overall performance is good. Andrew provided the group with a description of the new indicator 'formal cautions in lieu of prosecution' which involves taking action without the element of a criminal record.

Dorothy Shields provided an overview of performance on behalf of Lancashire Probation Trust. Dorothy stated that violence against the person constitutes the greatest area of convictions for those under statutory supervision in West Lancashire. Dorothy continued by stating that NI 30 shows a 54.3% decrease in offending which she added demonstrates the effectiveness of the West



Lancashire PPO Group. Dorothy continued by providing an overview of the performance report which was contained in the meeting pack.

Performance information was also provided by Young Peoples Services, LDAAT and Discover Drug and Alcohol Services.

## **7. FUNDED INTERVENTIONS UPDATE AND QUARTER ONE PROGRESS REPORT**

Andrew advised the Partnership that a written progress report for funded interventions for quarter one was enclosed in members meeting packs. Andrew confirmed that all interventions are currently on track.

Andrew advised that the Partnership have been allocated £10,000 funding from LDAAT of which £2,000 has been allocated towards Freshers Week activities. The remaining funding will be possible be pooled with LDAAT funding to the Children's Trust to maximise its impact in the Borough. Andrew also confirmed that to date we have received no confirmation from the PCT regarding the funding they contribute to the Domestic Violence Coordinator Post. This post is currently part funded by the Council and the remaining funding will be underwritten by unallocated CSP funding if the PCT decide to withdraw their commitment to the post and end the Service Level Agreement with the Council.

Andrew continued by providing the group with an overview of the outputs achieved so far by the Domestic Violence Task and Time Group.

## **8. FRESHERS WEEK**

Andrew advised the group that planning for this years Freshers Week is progressing positively with a multi-agency action plan agreed. Andrew added that the initiative will be enhanced this year with the involvement of the Street Pastors who will be patrolling the Town Centre on additional days through the two week period. Andrew also thanked LDAAT on behalf of the CSP for approving the £2,000 funding to support this years activities.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT**

The following documents which were developed by Mike Lock on behalf of the South Lancashire IOM Board were included in the Partnership meeting pack for information and endorsement: -

- South Lancashire Reducing Re-offending Board Terms of Reference
- Implementing Revolution for Adult Offenders in South Lancashire Document

Both of the above documents were endorsed by the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership.

## **10. RURAL WATCH**

Geoff Hurst provided the Partnership with an overview of the Rural Watch scheme which is managed by Lancashire Constabulary and has previously received funding from West Lancashire CSP. Geoff advised the CSP that there was a recognised threat to the rural areas from cross border criminality with a history of burglaries and non-dwelling burglaries with expensive farming machinery being targeted. Geoff stated that corporately it has been identified that there was a need to widen the scope of Rural Watch to look at these key threats. Geoff explained that the scheme will be further widened to look at wildlife crime and other crime types and added that Sue Swift will act as the divisional SPOC. Geoff concluded by stating that he would update the CSP when and where appropriate.

## **11. GRAFFITI ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTES**

Faye Kellet provided the CSP with a brief overview of the continued level and threat of criminal damage to bus shelters, particularly in Skelmersdale. Faye advised that the problem is exasperated by significant underreporting with only 12 incidents recorded so far for the year. Faye advised the Partnership of the types of proactive action which has taken place to impact on this issue including targeted clean up initiatives involving Safer Travel, the council and CSP partners. Faye also highlighted the positive education work being undertaken by Safer Travel officers in local schools and the new posters which will be placed on shelters to help boost reporting.

Faye concluded by stating that reported incidents should be directed to the Safer Travel Unit adding that they won't impact on police statistics. Geoff Hurst offered Faye assistance to extrapolate the information to help determine the current level of the graffiti problem which can also be masked by criminal damage incidents.

## **12. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

There were no community safety issues raised.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised the Partnership that the Skelmersdale Street Pastors scheme has been launched and has officially gone live.

## **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 52 Derby Street.



**ARTICLE NO: 1B**

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2011/12  
Issue: 3 NOVEMBER 2011**

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**Article of:** Assistant Director Community Services

**Relevant Managing Director:** Managing Director (People and Places)

**Relevant Portfolio Holder:** Councillor A Fowler

**Contact for further information:** Mr M Tasker (Extn. 5242)  
(E-mail: [michael.tasker@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:michael.tasker@westlancs.gov.uk))

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**SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1 To inform Members of the Council's response to the Health and Safety Executive Consultation Document 'HSE proposal for extending cost recovery', (attached as Appendix 1).

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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recently published a Consultation Document 'HSE proposal for extending cost recovery' – CD235.

2.2 This consultation set out the HSE proposal to revise the Fees Regulations, to reinstate existing fees and to extend the range of activities for which HSE recovers costs.

2.3 The HSE put forward its proposal for extending cost recovery, following health and safety inspections of workplaces, which identify material breaches of health and safety law.

2.4 In order to be able to extend such cost recovery, HSE proposed new legislation which will place a duty on HSE itself to recover costs for certain regulatory interventions.

2.5 This current legislative proposal to extend cost recovery only applies to HSE and will not place a duty on Local Authorities to recover cost nor grant them the power to cost recover. However, that said, HSE stated in the document that it was keen to hear the views of Local Authorities and that, depending on the

feedback received as a result of the consultation, the proposals could be adapted to enable Local Authorities to cost recover for regulatory activity.

- 2.6 If this proposed legal change, of allowing HSE to extend cost recovery, was also applied to Local Authorities, Councils would then also have a legal duty to cost recover, therefore it would not be a discretionary “power” that each Local Authority could apply if they so wish. Given the apparent differing views in the Local Authority community, HSE felt that to impose this duty without formal consultation would be inappropriate.
- 2.7 The consultative document was consulting on how charging would be enacted in HSE, not whether it will or will not. The document itself sought general and specific views on the proposals for cost recovery and how it would operate, as well as asking for any other specific relevant comments not already covered in the document.
- 2.8 The document also posed specific questions for Local Authorities about whether they would wish to have a legal duty (non-discretionary) to operate a fee for a cost recovery scheme. Councils were also asked for estimates of costs of establishing such a scheme.

### **3.0 ACTION TAKEN**

- 3.1 Following discussions with the Portfolio Holder, details of the consultation document were circulated to all Members, who were asked for any comments so that these could be incorporated into the response process.
- 3.2 Responses were received from two Members and these details were used in formulating the final response to the consultation document.
- 3.3 Work was also undertaken with the other Local Authorities in Lancashire to assess the HSE proposals, as they had regional and national implications, as well as more local ones.
- 3.4 Following this and further consultation with the Portfolio Holder, a response from this Council was sent to HSE. A copy of this response is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.5 The response indicated that there is agreement with the principle of recovering costs from businesses who do not comply with health and safety law and that compliant businesses would pay nothing. However, we had to say we would not wish to have a legal duty (non-discretionary) to operate a fee for intervention cost recovery scheme, at this stage, because some important issues were not yet clear.
- 3.6 Such issues include the need for the trigger level of ‘material breach’ or ‘serious material breach’ to be made clearer and we suggested the trigger level related to the service of prohibition and improvement notices only. Also, we considered there was a need for an intervention cost recovery scheme to have been successfully piloted in both the HSE and Local Authority-enforced sectors before implementation.

- 3.7 It was also considered important that cost recovery levels are as simple as possible, clear and transparent and not dependent on the subjective decision of an individual officer.
- 3.8 Other key points in the response included:
- It was very difficult to accurately assess estimated costs provided in the document.
  - The importance of ensuring a level playing field for all businesses.
  - The impact on small businesses needs very careful consideration.
  - It was difficult to assess the effect of the proposals on the relationship between enforcement agencies and businesses.
  - Local authorities currently undertake a wide range of other regulatory services, some even at the same time as health and safety enforcement, where there is no cost recovery of the type proposed.

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 4.1 The Council's Health and Safety Enforcement Service has a significant impact on the health, safety and welfare of residents, businesses and employees within West Lancashire and contributes significantly towards improving the health of the local communities.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Financial and resource implications for the Council, as an employer, are likely to be very minimal or none. The implications for the Council, as an enforcing authority, are very difficult to assess at this stage since the consultation document primarily relates to HSE enforcement.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## **Appendices**

1. West Lancashire Borough Council – Response to HSE Consultation Document – ‘HSE proposal for extending cost recovery’.

**Health and Safety Executive**

**HSE proposal for extending cost recovery**

**Completing this questionnaire**

You can move between questions by pressing the 'Tab' / 'Shift-Tab' or 'Page Up' / 'Page Down' keys or by clicking on the grey boxes with a mouse. Please type your replies within the rectangular grey boxes or click on the square grey boxes to select an answer (eg 'Yes' or 'No').

**Respondent's details:**

<b>Name:</b>	Michael Tasker
<b>Job title:</b>	Commercial Safety Manager
<b>Organisation:</b>	West Lancashire Borough Council
<b>Email:</b>	michael.tasker@westlancs.gov.uk
<b>Street:</b>	Robert Hodge Centre Stanley Way
<b>Town:</b>	Skelmersdale
<b>Postcode:</b>	WN8 8EE
<b>Telephone:</b>	01695 585242
<b>Fax:</b>	01695 585126

**Size of organisation:**

Choose one option:

Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 9 employees <input type="checkbox"/>
10 to 49 employees <input type="checkbox"/>	50 to 249 employees <input type="checkbox"/>
250 to 1000 employees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1000+ employees <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-employed <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Confidentiality**

<p>Please put a cross in the box if you do not wish details of your comments to be available to the public. (NB if you do not put a cross in the box they will be made public. This takes precedence over any automatic notes on e-mails that indicate that the contents are confidential.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>What is your type of organisation:</b>	
Choose one option	
Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Local government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National government <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-governmental organisation <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-departmental public body <input type="checkbox"/>	Trade union <input type="checkbox"/>
Charity <input type="checkbox"/>	Trade association <input type="checkbox"/>
Academic <input type="checkbox"/>	Consultancy <input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the public <input type="checkbox"/>	Pressure group <input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

If 'Other' please specify:
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**In what capacity are you responding:**

Choose one option:

An employer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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An employee	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Trade union official	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Health and safety professional/Safety representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Training provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**1. If you do not agree with the proposals outlined in this consultation document for implementing the Government and HSE Board policy of cost recovery please offer reasons for your disagreement and suggest an alternative proposal for delivering cost recovery?**

There is agreement with the principle of recovering costs from businesses who do not comply with health and safety law and that compliant businesses would pay nothing.

However, we would have to say we would not wish to have a legal duty (non-discretionary) to operate a fee for intervention cost recovery scheme, at this stage, because some important issues are not yet clear.

Such issues include the need for the trigger level of 'material breach' or 'serious material breach' to be made clearer and would suggest the level related to the service of prohibition and improvement notices only. Also, for the need for an intervention cost recovery scheme to have been successfully piloted in both the HSE and Local Authority-enforced sectors before implementation.

It is important that cost recovery levels are as simple as possible, clear and transparent and not dependent on the subjective decision of an individual officer.

**2. Were you clear about how the cost recovery proposals would operate?**

Yes No **If No please explain the reason for your answer.**

The trigger level of 'material breach' or 'serious material breach' needs to be made clearer.

If there are inaccuracies on the HSE Database of Premises, only premises on that database are likely to be inspected (with the potential recovery of charges) as compared with premises which may be under the radar and not be on the database. Cost recovery could therefore be inequitable and target the more legitimate businesses.

**3. Do you agree with the extent of the regulatory activity for which HSE would recover its costs?**Yes No **If No what regulatory activities should HSE recover costs?**

It is important to ensure a level playing field for all businesses. In the current proposals, HSE is likely to be inspecting only certain identified higher risk premises, where HSE could recover costs, whereas other higher risk premises may not be inspected and therefore less likely to be subjected to recovery of costs.

**4. Do you agree with the proposals for when these costs would be incurred?**Yes No

**If No, please explain the reason for your answer.**

We consider there is a need for the trigger level of 'material breach' or 'serious material breach' to be made clearer and would suggest the level related to the service of prohibition and improvement notices only.

This would be much clearer for both businesses and enforcing authorities. It would also still enable 'the polluter pays' principle to be implemented, be much easier to administer and would concentrate on the more serious breaches. It would enable Local Authorities to implement a cost recovery regime, with much reduced administration and process costs, bearing in mind that Local Authority-enforced premises are generally likely to be smaller businesses. It would also enable a simpler and an equitable way forward to charging across the board in both HSE and Local Authority enforced sectors.

**5. Do you agree with the model used for setting the hourly rates for cost recoverable work?**

Yes

No

**If No, please explain the reason for your answer.**

Costs for enforcement work by HSE have been estimated in the Impact Assessment, using an hourly rate that will be the same across HSE for all staff involved in cost recovery work. This may not be accurate in all cases due to variation in levels of staff being used.

The amounts charged by Local Authorities are likely to be less than those charged by HSE. In addition, there is likely to be more variation in the amounts charged by Local Authorities due to the variety in the type of staff used for inspections and enforcement action and salary variations from one Local Authority to another. Businesses will very quickly identify the lack of uniformity and are therefore likely to have concerns about fairness.

A pilot scheme involving the HSE and the Local Authority-enforced sector would

assist in providing a more accurate assessment of costs, including hourly rates.

It is important that cost recovery levels are as simple as possible, clear and transparent and not dependent on the subjective decision of an individual officer.

**6. HSE will not use cost recovery to drive intervention approaches. Other than clearly stating this policy and the continued application of HSE's Enforcement Management Model and Enforcement Policy Statement, how else do you think that HSE can reassure duty holders it will not use cost recovery to drive its intervention approaches?**

When health and safety officers are currently undertaking health and safety enforcement interventions, the response from businesses is hopefully still one of co-operation. This relationship could be negatively affected if a charge was made for those interventions and subsequent actions.

However, if the 'polluter pays' principle is only used in the most non-compliant businesses, this may reassure duty holders that HSE and local Authorities will not use cost recovery to drive its intervention approaches. Such 'most non-compliant businesses' could include those businesses on whom prohibition or improvement notices are served.

**7. Do you agree with the two level dispute process outlined in this consultation document?**

Yes

No

**If No, what alternative system would you propose to ensure a practical, fair and transparent dispute process?**

**8. Do you agree that Containment Level 3 and Containment level 4 containment laboratories should be exempt from fee for intervention for a short interim period until the SRF is implemented?**

Yes

No

**If No, can you explain why you believe they should not be exempt?**

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**9. Do you agree with the proposal that HSE recovers full costs in relation to Boreholes, irrespective of material breach?**

Yes

No

**If No please explain the reason for your answer.**

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**10. Do the assumptions made in the impact assessment look reasonable in relation to the estimates made for:**

Familiarisation costs	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cost of processing invoices	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**10a. What are your estimated costs for familiarisation?**

Very difficult to accurately assess.

A pilot scheme involving the HSE and the Local Authority-enforced sector would assist in providing a more accurate assessment of these costs.

**10b. What are your estimated costs for processing invoices?**

Very difficult to accurately assess.

A pilot scheme involving the HSE and the Local Authority-enforced sector would assist in providing a more accurate assessment of these costs.

**11. Are there any costs or benefits not detailed in the impact assessment**

which HSE needs to consider?

Yes

No

**Please provide additional details.**

Costs for enforcement work by HSE have been estimated in the Impact Assessment. The amounts charged by Local Authorities are likely to be less than those charged by HSE.

In addition, there is likely to be more variation in the amounts charged by Local Authorities due to the variety in the type of staff used for inspections and enforcement action and salary variations from one Local Authority to another. Businesses will very quickly identify the lack of uniformity and are therefore likely to have concerns about fairness.

**12. The impact assessment details risks and uncertainties. Which of these are most likely to be realised? Please provide your views/comments.**

Potentially many of them.

Especially, risks and uncertainties involving with Local Authorities and the differences between the type of businesses enforced by the HSE and those by Local Authorities. Local Authorities have a greater percentage of small and medium size enterprises (SME's).

**13. Do you think there are any other risks or uncertainties HSE need to consider in the impact assessment?**

Yes

No

**Please provide your views/comments.**

Most health and safety enforcement action by Local Authorities involves small businesses, a different scenario to the size and type of businesses currently involved in being charged.

There is the risk that disproportionate costs may be put on small businesses.

Estimates in the Impact Assessment are based on the HSE Database of Premises. Therefore, the accuracy of the estimates will very much depend on the accuracy of the database, which may not be up to date.

**14. Are you satisfied with the conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment related to this consultation document?**

Yes

No

**If no what conclusions are you concerned about?**



**15. Are there any additional factors which you believe should be taken into account in the impact assessment?**

Yes

No

**If yes what additional factors need to be taken into account?**

A pilot scheme involving the HSE and the Local Authority-enforced sector would assist in providing a more accurate assessment of what, if any, additional factors need to be taken into account.

The impact on small businesses needs very careful consideration.

**16. Do you have any specific comments on cost recovery not covered by the questions above?**

Yes

No

## Local Authority section

Please only answer the questions in this section if you are responding on behalf of a local authority.

**Are you responding on behalf of a local authority?**

Yes

No

**17. Would your Local Authority wish to have a legal duty (non-discretionary) to operate a fee for intervention cost recovery scheme?**

Yes

No

**Please explain the reason for your answer.**

There is agreement with the principle of recovering costs from businesses who do not comply with health and safety law and that compliant businesses would pay nothing.

However, we would have to say we would not wish to have a legal duty (non-discretionary) to operate a fee for intervention cost recovery scheme, at this stage, because some important issues are not yet clear.

Such issues include the need for the trigger level of 'material breach' or 'serious material breach' to be made clearer and we would suggest the level related to the service of prohibition and improvement notices only. Also, for the need for an intervention cost recovery scheme to have been successfully piloted in both the HSE and Local Authority-enforced sectors before implementation.

There are also a number of other practical issues of concern in the implementation of such a scheme by Local Authorities, as outlined in the consultative document, which would require addressing before any implementation:

- Although the scheme has the potential to bring income into a Local Authority, the costs of administering the charge and any following-up will significantly reduce the actual income.
- It is unclear what would happen to income generated by the scheme. If income was not to come directly to the Local Authority, it would not be possible to easily offset the income received against the costs of the enforcement action.
- The scheme is currently being used by the HSE for certain large and very high risk premises only. Use of the scheme for other premises under their enforcement control has yet to be tested and proved to be successful, although it is understood a pilot scheme is due to be introduced by the HSE.
- Most health and safety enforcement action by Local Authorities involves small businesses, a different scenario to the size and type of businesses currently involved in being charged.
- When officers from Local Authorities are currently undertaking health and safety enforcement interventions, the response from businesses is hopefully

still one of co-operation. This relationship could be negatively affected if a charge was made for those interventions and subsequent actions. However, the 'polluter pays' principle may mean that charging may be appropriate in the most non-compliant businesses. Such cases could include those businesses on whom prohibition or improvement notices are served, i.e. where the most serious material breaches are found.

- When officers from Local Authorities are undertaking health and safety enforcement interventions, the response from some businesses can be to challenge the need for certain health and safety legal standards. If businesses were charged for enforcement, there could be the perception (wrongly) that such enforcement by a Local Authority was affected by the need for income generation.
- The Consultation Document identifies that, in the future, HSE will only be inspecting higher risk premises. The definition of 'higher risk premises' in both the HSE and Local Authority enforcement sectors is currently under discussion, so it is not currently clear what effect this will have on the Local Authority enforcement role as regards inspections. Consequently, it is therefore difficult to estimate the effect on Local Authorities charging for their enforcement work and the type of inspections they will be undertaking.
- Costs for enforcement work by HSE have been estimated in the Impact Assessment. The amounts charged by Local Authorities are likely to be less than those charged by HSE. In addition, there is likely to be more variation in the amounts charged by Local Authorities due to the variety in the type of staff used for inspections and enforcement action and salary variations from one Local Authority to another. Businesses will very quickly identify the lack of uniformity and are therefore likely to have concerns about fairness.
- One area of the Consultation Document is proposing cost recovery where there is 'material breach' of health & safety law which results in an improvement notice, prohibition notice, electronic mail or a letter. In another part of the Document a reference is made to '**serious** material breach'. The trigger level for recovering costs could therefore be confusing. Any confusion would be minimised by the definition of 'material breach' of health & safety law meaning enforcement action which results in an improvement notice or prohibition notice only.
- The HSE already have existing systems in place for cost recovery which would need adapting only. However, Local authorities currently do not have such systems in place and greater setting up costs and resources would therefore be involved, at a time when major service reductions are taking place in all Local Authorities to achieve cost savings.
- If Local Authorities were to recover costs in a similar way to the HSE, with Local Authorities having a greater percentage of small and medium size

enterprises (SME's), there is concern that SME's would be placed under greater relative financial pressure by having to pay disproportionate costs. This would be in conflict with existing Local Authority work in working with businesses in line with the Total Business Concept.

**18. Assuming your Local Authority is required to implement cost recovery, are the HSE estimates in the impact assessment an accurate representation of what would happen in your Local Authority with reference to:**

**a) the proportion of visits that would result in finding a material breach?**

Probably not, due to the different type and size of businesses being inspected by Local Authorities.

**b) the estimated cost recovery rate?**

No – probably reduced.  
Local Authorities are likely to be charging less than HSE due to salary differentials. Also, Local Authorities deal with a much higher percentage of smaller businesses, where the amount charged to a business is likely to be less and where the rate of recovery is likely to be less.

<b>c) if the estimates are not correct, what estimates do you feel HSE should use in these areas when estimating LA costs?</b>
Very difficult to achieve, due to the variation of premises from one Local Authority to another and the variety of levels of inspectors used. Much more work would ne required to achieve accurate estimates.
A pilot scheme involving the Local Authority-enforced sector would assist in a more accurate assessment of costs.

<b>19. What do you expect to be the costs of establishing a cost recovery scheme? Please give separate estimates for:</b>
<b>a) training of inspectors</b>
Difficult to estimate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The time needed per officer (with varying levels of experience and approach)</li> <li>○ The number of officers (A high proportion of part-time staff may lead to a greater number of officers requiring training, as compared with officers who are mainly full-time).</li> <li>○ The costs of officer time due to the variety of salaries in different levels of enforcement officers.</li> <li>○ The ease with which a significant change in approach and culture of many inspectors could be achieved.</li> </ul>
<b>b) internal communication efforts</b>
Areas to be covered by the phrase 'internal communication efforts' is unclear and therefore cannot be estimated.
<b>c) process and system testing</b>

Very difficult to estimate:

- Computer software changes
- Changes to work procedures and Quality Assurance systems
- Differing invoicing systems being used by different organisations

**d) changes in computer systems**

Very difficult to estimate as major changes would be needed to computer software systems, relating to:

- Processing of interventions and inspections data.
- Premises details and actions stored on database.
- Recognition of additional fields such as time spent, enforcement action taken, costs, inspector involved, etc.

These changes would be much more significant, from a computer software point of view, than the recent implementation of the new national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, which in itself presented and continues to present significant IT challenges.

**e) setting up an invoicing system etc**

Difficult to estimate in the current financial climate due to Administration Section resources being significantly reduced and therefore the availability of such staff for such additional work would present challenges in itself, apart from the actual costs. A complex system would be needed if such invoicing would be undertaken automatically.

**f) annual running costs for a cost recovery system?**

Although a cost recovery system could be incorporated into a corporate cost recovery system, it is very difficult to estimate in view of all the above-mentioned issues.

**20. Do you have systems in place that will allow your Local Authority to accurately record the time spent on regulatory interventions to allow invoice generation?**

Not at present.

In theory, systems could be put into place but would require significant changes to:

- Computer software systems
- Distinction between time for inspection, advice, investigation, administration, enforcement, etc.
- Invoicing procedures
- Financial procedures

**Are there any further comments you would like to make on the issues raised in this consultation document that you have not already responded to in this questionnaire?**

Although there is agreement with the principle of recovering costs from businesses who do not comply with health and safety law and that compliant businesses would pay nothing, there are a number of concerns about the implementation of the scheme for the Local Authority–enforced premises and businesses.

Many of these concerns are outlined earlier in this response. However, there are also others which have not yet been addressed. These are as follows:

1. Estimates in the Impact Assessment are based on the HSE Database of Premises. Therefore, the accuracy of the estimates will very much depend on the accuracy of the database, which may not be up to date.
2. If there are inaccuracies on the HSE Database of Premises, only premises on that database are likely to be inspected (with the potential recovery of charges) as compared with premises who may be under the radar and not be on the database. Cost recovery could therefore be inequitable and target the more legitimate businesses.
3. Local Authorities also currently undertake a wide range of other regulatory services, some even at the same time as health and safety enforcement. These include:
  - Food safety
  - Licensing
  - Environmental protection
  - Public health
  - Animal welfare

There is no cost recovery, in these areas of regulatory work, of the type currently

being proposed for health and safety enforcement work.

Businesses are very likely to be concerned by these inconsistencies and to confused when presented with a bill for the health and safety element of an inspection but not for the other elements of the type described above. There are likely to be questions from businesses during an inspection to ask whether questions being asked are 'under health & safety' (i.e. potentially chargeable) or e.g. 'under food safety' (i.e. not chargeable).

4. Significant behavioural change is going to be necessary from inspectors, employers, managers, business organisations, administration teams, etc. upon the implementation of a cost recovery scheme.

5. In the Impact assessment document in Policy option 6, the preferred option, it states "... several uncertainties remain in our estimates. Although it is not currently possible to quantify these uncertainties, they are most likely to have a downward impact on the level of costs recovered". Therefore the estimates are likely to over optimistic.

6. Concerns have been expressed that some businesses will be less likely to report accidents under RIDDOR due to the risk that an investigation / inspection may lead to cost recovery. There is already concern that many RIDDOR events go unreported.

7. If a cost recovery scheme was implemented for Local Authorities from 1 April 2012, this would not give sufficient time for the reconfiguration of all processes, procedures and systems, especially computer systems, which would be required.

8. A pilot scheme involving the Local Authority-enforced sector would assist in a more accurate assessment of costs and would provide a valuable and considered assessment of many of the issues raised in the Consultation Document and in Local Authority concerns.

Many of the concerns highlighted could be eliminated or significantly reduced by clarifying the trigger level at which a 'material breach' has taken place. If this were to be if a prohibition or improvement notice was served, as compared to also including letters and e-mails, this would be much clearer for both businesses and enforcing authorities. It would also still enable 'the polluter pays' principle to be implemented, be much easier to administer and would concentrate on the more serious breaches. It would enable Local Authorities to implement a cost recovery regime, with much reduced administration and process costs. It would also enable an equitable way forward to charging across the board in both HSE and Local Authority enforced sectors and provide a level playing field for businesses.



**Is there anything you particularly liked or disliked about this consultation?**

The addition of the Local Authority perspective has complicated the Consultation Document and it is not clear whether the document is aimed primarily at duty holders or other stakeholders.

The Consultation Document is confusing in that Paragraph 2.1.2 states that "...fee for intervention would only apply to the activity undertaken by HSE and would not apply to the activity undertaken by Local Authority officers". The paragraph then goes on to state "This proposal is not finalised and using this consultation HSE is continuing to seek the views of Local Authorities"

Paragraph 3.3.3 then states "In the light of the consultation responses, and subject to the necessary legislation, the proposals could be amended to enable Local Authorities to recover the costs of their interventions from as early as April 2012".

The Consultation Document is consulting on how charging will be enacted in HSE, not whether it will. However, the consultation about the Local Authority role seems to be mainly whether to charge or not and if so, when. The playing field needs to be level for all businesses where enforcement takes place.

**Please send your response by 14 October 2011 to:**

Cost Recovery Consultation  
Health and Safety Executive  
6.4 Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside L20 7HS

Tel: 0151 951 5955

Fax: 0151 951 3363

**E-mail:** [costrecoveryconsultation@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:costrecoveryconsultation@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire**





**ARTICLE NO: 1C**

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2011/12**

**ISSUE: 3    NOVEMBER 2011**

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**Article of:    Assistant Director Community Services**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Forshaw**

**Contact for further information: Mr A Hill (Extn. 5243)  
(E-mail: a.hill@westlancs.gov.uk)**

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**SUBJECT:    TRANSFER OF PRIVATE SEWERS TO UNITED UTILITIES**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0    PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1    To advise Members of the changes set to take place in October 2011, with respect to Private Sewers.

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## **2.0    BACKGROUND**

2.1    Since the recognition that good sanitation was needed to prevent the spread of disease, legislation has contained powers to ensure that adequate drainage is installed and maintained for properties. The use of this legislation has been invested with Local Authorities for decades.

2.2    A simple way to understand the legislation is to consider that whoever gains the benefit of the drainage pipe work, up to the point where it enters a public sewer, has at least some responsibility. It may be helpful to look at some definitions in relation to drains and sewers at this point:

- Drain – this is generally the pipe work for one property.
- Private sewer – this will be where at least 2 drains converge and therefore serve more than one property
- Public sewer – this is a sewer vested in a sewerage undertaker and is generally the sewer “in the middle of the road”. It also includes the sewers for properties built before 1937.

2.3    Sewerage Undertakers have responsibility for the maintenance of public sewers. The responsibility for private sewers and drains rests with the householder or householders who are served by the pipe work. The Council therefore currently encourages/requires single householders or groups of householders to unblock

or maintain their pipe work accordingly. In order to expedite the works after appropriate legal action has been ignored, the Council can undertake the works itself, via a contractor, and make the appropriate recharges.

2.4 Last year the Environmental Protection team were involved in 153 drainage complaints, although this has been as high as 219 a few years ago. Some of these complaints involve one property and are resolved by the owner after advice from ourselves. Some involve multiple properties who refuse to co-operate and require legal action and sometimes court action to chase payment. Thus, whilst the Council has no responsibility for unblocking drains itself and does not have the staff to do so, it does however, have a duty to ensure that foul sewerage is not prevented from reaching the appropriate treatment works.

2.5 It is sometimes confusing for householders to accept that they are jointly responsible for pipe work which can, in some cases, stretch for some distance away from their property. For some it is difficult to understand that they even have responsibility for pipe work below and on their property.

### **3.0 2011 CHANGES**

3.1 From the 1<sup>st</sup> October, sewerage undertakers (United Utilities (UU) for us) will take on the responsibility for private sewers, lateral drains and pumping stations. This actually equates to a 75% increase in the total length of the wastewater network UU will be responsible for.

3.2 Not all pipe work is transferring to UU. Customers will still be responsible for:

- Private drains within the property boundary
- Existing surface water sewers that drain direct to watercourses
- Land drainage and highway drainage
- Privately owned sewerage treatment works and pipes connected to them
- Privately owned septic tanks and cess pits
- Large “multi-occupier” commercial sites
- Private sewer and/or lateral drain owners who appeal against the transfer.

3.3 Diagrams, which compare existing and future arrangements are included at appendix 1. Colour versions have already been widely distributed by UU and can also be found at [www.unitedutilities.com](http://www.unitedutilities.com).

3.4 UU has been investing in new equipment for unblocking sewers and putting in place the internal structures to deal with the changes. They have also commenced the publicity work surrounding the issue and Members may have already received communications by post. There is also extensive information on the UU website.

### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR WLBC**

4.1 It can clearly be seen that some of the responsibility for drainage is shifting away from WLBC. Officers currently provide an excellent service for residents in assisting locate where pipe work is blocked, encouraging and where necessary enforcing, the unblocking of drains and private sewers. It is anticipated that the initial investigation work for most drainage complaints will move to UU.

- 4.2 However, due to the rural nature of the Borough there are relatively large numbers of properties served by septic tanks or cess pits. In addition, every property will still have a drain within the curtilage of their property.
- 4.3 In reviewing the workload regarding drainage it was estimated that the current workload equated to approximately 0.1 f.t.e. This work is shared out between staff and thus, given that some of the work will still remain with us, the overall impact will not be huge. It is envisaged that in larger authorities staff will transfer via the TUPE regulations to UU. However, this will not be the case for us.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTS**

5.1 United Utilities are supporting the changes as they feel it will be good for customers and will:

- Remove the unfair burden on customers currently served by these pipes.
- Provide much greater clarity on ownership and responsibilities
- Ensure the cost of maintenance will be distributed more fairly across the customer base

5.2 From October 1<sup>st</sup> customers will contact UU if they suspect a drainage problem and if private or public sewers will be unblocked and maintained by UU. If, after their initial investigations, UU have established that only the drain serving one property is affected, it is envisaged they will advise the householder accordingly and pass on the details to ourselves.

5.3 It is worth pointing out that from 2014, there is expected to be an increase in water rates to support this work and change in legislation.

## **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

6.1 Proper drainage assists in preventing diseases spread by bacteria and pathogens. The issue links to one of the community strategy objectives as follows:

To improve health outcomes, promote social wellbeing for communities and reduce health inequalities for everyone (**improved health for all**).

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this article.

## **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.”

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### **Background Documents**

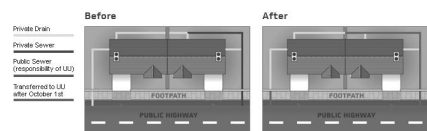
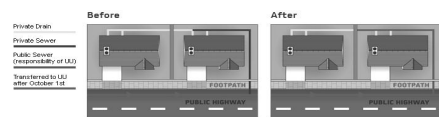
There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

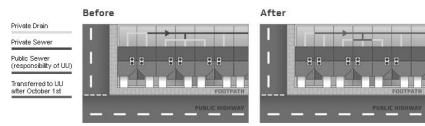
The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Diagrams showing sewer and drain responsibility.



Appendix 1







**ARTICLE NO: 2A**

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2011/12**

**ISSUE: 3    NOVEMBER 2011**

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**Article of:    Assistant Director Community Services**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director People and Places**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Hopley**

**Contact for further information: Mr A Hill (Extn. 5243)**

**(E-mail: [a.hill@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:a.hill@westlancs.gov.uk))**

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**SUBJECT:    ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN WEST LANCASHIRE**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0    PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

1.1    To advise Members of the performance of the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) and the results of the continued good partnership working with Lancashire Constabulary (the constabulary).

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## **2.0    BACKGROUND**

2.1    The Home Office describes anti-social behaviour (ASB) as "any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages another person's quality of life". The Tenants Standards Authority stated that ASB "from graffiti and litter to noisy neighbours and racial abuse – can be annoying and stressful for tenants and at worst ruin people's lives".

2.2    West Lancashire Borough Council originally set up the ASBU in 2000 and incorporated it into the Multi Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) team in 2003. The team consists of two full time equivalent posts.

2.3    The team predominantly deals with ASB issues involving Council tenants, but, as part of the MAPS team, are ideally placed to involve, or be involved with, other partner agencies with ASB issues. Non Council tenant issues are generally investigated by the police.

## **3.0    ASB IN WEST LANCASHIRE 2010/11**

- 3.1 The Estate Management Team (EMT) tend to deal with the initial element of the complaint and pass on the issue if a further, more involved response is needed. During the year April 2010 to March 2011, the Council's EMT responded to 186 cases of "low level" nuisance and ASB. If, after following their procedures, the EMT have not resolved the matter, it is passed on to the ASBU. Almost fifty per cent of the complaints the EMT dealt with (186) were passed to the ASBU (90). A further 10 cases were referred by other sections of Housing Services. However, due to reduced staffing and increasing administrative work, the ASBU do prioritise this work in accordance with agreed priorities.
- 3.2 In addition to this, 483 complaints concerning neighbour noise (including barking dogs), were responded to by the Environmental Protection Team. Some of these will be referred via the EMT, as they are tackled jointly.
- 3.3 Lancashire Constabulary received 6854 complaints about anti-social behaviour in West Lancashire during this time. Once again, some of these will be duplicated with other agencies and as such it is difficult to put an exact figure on the scale of the problem within West Lancashire.
- 3.4 During this period, the ASBU took both formal and informal action to deal with ASB. The achievements include:
- *10 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts signed*
  - *2 Notices of Demotion issued*
  - *13 Notices to Terminate Introductory Tenancies issued*
  - *16 Notice of Intention to Seek Possession of a secure tenancy issued*
  - *7 Evictions carried out for anti-social or criminal behaviour (the highest since the unit was established)*
  - *4 Tenancies relinquished after proceedings were commenced*
  - *3 Anti Social Behaviour Injunctions (ASBIs) obtained*
  - *1 formal Undertaking secured*
  - *1 ASBO amended to include wider prohibitions*
  - *Carried out 145 'warning visits' and delivered 73 warning letters.*
- 3.5 Not all our successes can be shared with the wider community in the Borough, either through reporting restrictions or in the interests of the safety of certain individuals. However, where possible, we do seek to publicise the outcome of our cases, not to 'name and shame' but to encourage other people to come forward and work with us to tackle anti-social behaviour and to let our residents know what is being done on their behalf. Major successes this last 12 months have been:
- In November 2010 the Skelmersdale Advertiser ran a story concerning a tenant of Beechtrees, Digmoor. He had been evicted from his council flat after council staff and police discovered dogs being kept in appalling conditions in the tenant's first floor council flat. One of the animals was a pit bull type dog, a banned breed. A clear message was sent out that the rules about not keeping unsuitable animals in council flats will be enforced.
  - In January 2011 the Skelmersdale Advertiser was able to publish details of a two-year ASBI (anti-social behaviour injunction) the ASBU had secured against 30 year old male, formerly of Beechtrees, Digmoor. A Judge at Wigan County

Court made the order, which banned the male from a large area of Skelmersdale after he had assaulted a female council tenant.

- In April 2011 two council tenants accused of racial abuse gave an undertaking in County Court not to engage in or threatening to engage in, threatening behaviour and specifically not to use racist language.
- The ASBU, Police colleagues in the MAPS team and MENCAP West Lancs developed and delivered a training course around tackling Hate Crime directed at learning disabled people. Some 80 Carers, social workers and other professionals working with these vulnerable members of the community attended the training courses in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk. The aim of the training was to give an understanding of how seriously the Council and Police take this subject and to explain to professionals how these offences can and should be reported and what will happen as a result. The feedback from those attending the training was extremely positive with 100% of attendees saying they were satisfied or very satisfied with the course. The initiative culminated in an event at the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale in June which was covered in the Advertiser newspaper in July 2011.

#### **4.0 OTHER WORK**

- 4.1 During the year the ASBU worked with Housing Services to ask our tenants and service users what they thought of the way the Council dealt with ASB. Officers attended Housing Services' first Tenants Conference in October 2010. This was part of a year of wide ranging consultation about how we work that saw us introduce a satisfaction survey and agree what type of anti-social behaviour our residents want us to prioritise. Our officers attended the Service Improvement Groups along with tenants and Housing Services staff to discuss how better to meet the needs of service users.
- 4.2 In 2010 – 2011 ASBU staff worked closely with their colleagues in Housing Services to plan the shape of ASB elements of the new IT system for housing management. Officers contributed to the design of the software and were trained on how to use it to maximise our efficiency. The system was introduced in April 2011 so next year's report will cover the first year of operation but early indications are positive. For example we are now able to share with our partners at Lancashire Constabulary daily information on reports of ASB. It is intended that this will lead to an early identification of vulnerable victims of ASB and the delivery of appropriate responses.
- 4.3 The ASBU works very closely with Lancashire Police and has built up a model of partnership working which is effective and delivers results for our tenants. They also work with other partners such as the Probation Trust, Fire and Rescue and Youth Offending Team. This maximises the value of the resources the Council commits to the Unit and it is planned to continue this partnership approach over the next 12 months. It is understandable that people are concerned about anti-social behaviour and we acknowledge this. The hard facts though indicate that last year was another year when the number of reported cases in West Lancashire actually fell. The figures for 2010 to 2011 show a reduction in the number of reports, down by an impressive 14.5% (Figures from the Community Safety Partnership, Local Priorities Group report April 2011). Of even more

significance is that this follows on from a reduction in the number of reports the previous year too.

## **5.0 ASB IN FOCUS**

5.1 The tragic case of Fiona Pilkington in the autumn of 2009 has helped to put ASB in context. Miss Pilkington killed herself and her 18-year-old daughter after over 10 years of abuse from a gang of teenagers who lived in the same street. The stress and anxiety of her position is said to have substantially contributed to the decision she made.

5.2 Following this case, the Home Office instructed Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to adopt minimum standards for dealing with ASB. Work was undertaken to standardise these across Lancashire and ours were published on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The standards have previously been reported to Members and are available on the Council's website.

5.3 In addition to these minimum standards, several other elements of work have been undertaken to ensure ASB victims do not slip through the net. These include:

- ASB is now a standing item of the agenda of the CSP Local Priorities Group (LPG)
- ASB Police data is published each month for the LPG, including repeat callers and problem locations
- ASB data for the Council is now collated and sent to the constabulary.
- An ASB officer attends the team meetings of the Environmental Protection Team. In addition the Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager covers both these teams which aids consistency.
- The LPG has encouraged LCC Youth involvement staff to undertake activities for young people at ASB problem times
- The constabulary have re-trained their call handlers to try to identify vulnerable victims
- There is now a pan Lancashire ASB officer working group
- Multi-agency risk assessment conferences for ASB have now commenced to discuss high priority ASB cases
- Council and Police Officers in the MAPS team worked with representatives from the voluntary sector to develop and deliver training for people working with the Learning Disabled. This focuses on how carers and professionals working in this field can help recognise and report crime and ASB suffered by these vulnerable members of society
- The Council's policy on ASB has been reviewed

5.4 As a result it can be easily demonstrated that far more partnership working takes place around ASB within the LPG than previously.

## **6.0 RESULTS**

6.1 In addition to the knowledge that we now have a far more robust approach to ASB on paper, there are also some pretty impressive Police statistics to demonstrate the improvements that have been made. During the last year there

was a 16.4% reduction in ASB calls to the Police in from Skelmersdale. The corresponding figure for Ormskirk and Burscough was an 11.6% reduction. Across the Southern division as a whole, the figure was a 10.3% reduction. From April to the end of July there has been a 25% reduction for West Lancashire compared to last year. Since April this year there has been a fall of 10% across the County and this equates to 14,087 less victims. Appendix 1 details the actual breakdowns.

## **7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

7.1 Reducing ASB can lead to a reduction in the stress levels and an improvement in the living conditions of residents

## **8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no significant financial resource implications arising from this article.

## **9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

9.1 This item is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers as a result of this report.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

*Appendix 1 – ASB figures*

*Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment*



Corporate Analysis  
**MONTHLY RESULTS**

Select Area:

Select Class:

MONTH	This Year	Last Year
April	2,146	2,146
May	1,969	1,969

**MONTHLY RESULTS BY AREA**

Select Display → Monthly

Select Area:

Current Display: Police Area's

Click button to view Po

Select Class:

MONTH	Southern Division			Chorley CSP			West L	
	All Anti-Social Behaviour	All Anti-Social Behaviour	% of All ASB	All Anti-Social Behaviour	All Anti-Social Behaviour	% of All ASB	All Anti-Social Behaviour	All Anti-Social Behaviour
April	1,786	1,786	100.0%	558	558	100.0%	549	549
May	1,356	1,356	100.0%	405	405	100.0%	428	428
June	1,473	1,473	100.0%	469	469	100.0%	487	487
July	1,500	1,500	100.0%	495	495	100.0%	477	477
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
January								
February								
March								
YTD	6,115	6,115	100.0%	1,927	1,927	100.0%	1,941	1,941
MONTH	South Ribble CSP			0				
	All Anti-Social Behaviour	All Anti-Social Behaviour	% of All ASB					
April	679	679	100.0%					
May	523	523	100.0%					
June	517	517	100.0%					
July	528	528	100.0%					
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
January								
February								
March								
YTD	2,247	2,247	100.0%					





<p>1.</p>	<p>Using information that you have gathered from service monitoring, surveys, consultation, and other sources such as anecdotal information fed back by members of staff, in your opinion, could your service/policy/strategy/decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy) disadvantage, or have a potentially disproportionately negative effect on, any of the following groups of people:  <i>People of different ages – including young and older people</i>  <i>People with a disability;</i>  <i>People of different races/ethnicities/ nationalities;</i>  <i>Men; Women;</i>  <i>People of different religions/beliefs;</i>  <i>People of different sexual orientations;</i>  <i>People who are or have identified as transgender;</i>  <i>People who are married or in a civil partnership;</i>  <i>Women who are pregnant or on maternity leave or men whose partners are pregnant or on maternity leave;</i>  <b>People living in areas of deprivation or who are financially disadvantaged.</b></p>	<p>There is not considered to be any disadvantageous effects on these groups - the aim of the service is to attempt to resolve serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues. Residents who are suffering from ASB, would therefore benefit from any improvements made.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>What sources of information have you used to come to this decision?</p>	<p>Officers have some knowledge of the people in the area and are aware of persons who fit into the groups quoted in Question 1.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><i>How have you tried to involve people/groups in developing your service/policy/strategy or in making your decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy)?</i></p>	<p>The ASB team works with tenants and has undertaken work to encourage reporting in specific e.t.g's.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><i>Could your service/policy/strategy or decision (including decisions to cut or change a service or policy) help or hamper our ability to meet our duties under the Equality Act 2010? Duties are to:-</i>          Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;          Advance equality of opportunity (removing or minimising disadvantage, meeting the needs of people);          Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it.</p>	<p>It will help.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><i>What actions will you take to address any issues raised in your answers above</i></p>	<p>Continue as before.</p>