

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

Statement from: Councillor B Young, Executive Councillor for Community Safety, People Management and Legal

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Safer Communities

Lincolnshire County Council's Safer Communities Service has been working to formalise and strengthen its partnership and collaborative working arrangements with Lincolnshire Police. The changes include a jointly signed memorandum of understanding, structural changes to the team management and locations to allow for closer working and shared office space. The new arrangements commenced on the 1st July and see closer working across Trading Standards, Community Safety, Alcohol Licensing and Crime Prevention. The benefits of creating this Safer Together partnership include: better information and intelligence sharing, improved analysis of threat, risk and harm, using resources more effectively and better use of the combined powers and authority of each organisation. For example, police licensing officers are working alongside trading standards teams to help each other tackle the illicit and illegal sale of alcohol including sales to young people under the age of 18.

Community Safety

As another school year comes to a close I am pleased to be able to report that more Stay Safe Days have been delivered in Lincolnshire's secondary schools than last year. 94 whole day sessions across 45 schools have been delivered to help children stay safe by giving them age appropriate information and guidance on healthy relationships, alcohol and drugs, anti-social behaviour, road safety, fire safety and how to stay safe online. The feedback from the young children is extremely positive with over 80% of them stating it will positively help them to make the right choices in the future.

Trading Standards

Trading Standards teams continue to act upon intelligence of fraud, rogue trading and illicit tobacco. Following a high number of consumer complaints a number of garages offering car servicing have been part of a test purchase project to check on work carried out and prices charged for work done. A high rate of failure has been found and court proceedings are now under way.

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Apprenticeships

As at the end of July 2019, the total number of apprenticeships is 165, of which 70% are being delivered by local training providers.

The first cohorts of Commercial Procurement and Supply Apprentices have commenced their training with the CIPS Corporate Services Ltd; this is a 2 year programme that involves 10 candidates.

Ofsted recently inspected our in-house apprenticeship provision along with 16 – 19 provision and Adult Learning Provision. Ofsted gave a 'Good' rating to the effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching and learning, outcomes for learners, 16 to 19 study programmes, adult learning programmes and apprenticeships. Personal development, behavior and welfare were rated 'Outstanding'

As of 1 April 2019 levy paying organisations were able to transfer up to 25% of their levy to eligible employers directly. To date the Council has transferred £84.5k into the Adult Care Sector to support 27 employees undertaking adult care apprenticeships in Lincolnshire.

LEGAL SERVICES

At its meeting on 8 May 2019 the Executive gave approval in principle to the establishment of a company for the purpose of seeking a licence from the Solicitors Regulation Authority to provide legal services.

The purpose of the company is to allow Legal Services Lincolnshire (LSL) to provide its services to bodies other than the County Council and the District Partners. It will in particular allow LSL to offer services to its partners when they deliver their functions through new types of entity such as companies.

Work is now continuing to establish the company and in consultation with the Solicitors Regulation Authority to draft the necessary applications to obtain a licence.

The matter will come back to Scrutiny and the Executive for final approval in the autumn.

In the meantime LSL's efforts to develop the next generation of in-house lawyers continues.

On September 16 the Council's first trainee solicitor for some years will qualify as a solicitor after two years of training. The individual has expressed a wish to stay at the Council and has been appointed to a post within the service.

Alongside this, stronger ties with the University of Lincoln Law Department are being pursued with LSL becoming involved in both their student mentoring scheme and work placement initiatives.