

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

**Statement from: Councillor B Young, Executive Councillor for
Crime Reduction, People Management, Legal**

Crime Reduction

I continue to engage constructively with senior police officers and the Police & Crime Commissioner. I have attended meetings of the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership and have joined the Police and Crime Panel.

Earlier this week, I met with the head of the Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service which continues to demonstrate good performance against the required Youth Justice Board measures. There is an on-going reduction in the number of first time entrants which mirrors regional and national trends. There has been a noticeable increase in the use of alternative restorative outcomes used by the Police such as Community Resolutions and a Community Justice Panel pilot to deal with minor offending has been launched by the Police in the south of the county. The reduction in statutory Court outcomes is also evidenced by the closure of the Youth Court in Spalding and the movement of the Lincoln Youth Court to a fortnightly sitting. Custody rates for young people in Lincolnshire remain low and this demonstrates a positive relationship with the Court and the ability of the YOS to provide credible and robustly enforced community sentencing options. A county wide health needs assessment is currently being undertaken between the YOS and Public Health to evaluate the health needs of the YOS client group and inform future resources.

In April 2013 the full cost of young people remanded into custody was transferred to the local authority which was highlighted as a potential financial risk if not appropriately managed. There has been positive work with partner agencies to minimise the use of custodial remands and Children's Services are continuing to recruit specialist Remand Foster Carers to enable the Courts to use viable alternatives. The emphasis on early engagement and prevention is shared by key partner including the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner who provides YOS funding. Referral pathways to identify young people at risk of offending are being expanded and already include the Police, Probation and Troubled Families. This will be extended further into partnership with ASB teams and schools where appropriate. It is envisaged that due to changes in youth justice practice the prevention work will increase significantly but this has the opportunity to generate savings for all agencies in the longer term.

There are undoubtedly funding and resource challenges for the future with funding settlements likely to be reduced in 2014-15 by the Youth Justice Board/Ministry of Justice. There is also a recognised future threat to multi agency working due to the pressures exerted on partner agencies. The current Transforming Rehabilitation agenda has put the future of the Probation Service into doubt and they remain a key partner for youth to adult transitions.

I should like to pay tribute to the Community Safety work of Supt Phil Vickers who has been seconded to the County Council by Lincolnshire Police for the past two

years. Supt Vickers returned to the Force on 9 September and is succeeded by Supt Mark Housley. I have known Supt Housley for many years and look forward to working with him in his new role.

People Management

People Management Services are part of the current competitive dialogue for Future Delivery of Support Services. Employees will be formally consulted on restructuring proposals in October that are designed to align management and operations with future needs.

Legal

I continue to meet regularly with Lincolnshire Legal Services. We are currently discussing how best the service might be developed.