

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2014

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

CRIME REDUCTION

There has been a reduction in crime figures generally for 2013/14, particularly in the area of burglaries from dwellings where there have been 235 less victims. Thefts from and of motor vehicles have also seen 341 fewer victims. However, increased figures for shoplifting and theft of petrol from filling stations continue to give concern.

Lincolnshire Police have detected nearly 32% of crimes, which is an increase of 2% on the previous year, and have also issued 1,577 Restorative Justice resolutions.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership has conducted a strategic analysis of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and wider issues such as community cohesion, technology and environmental that might impact on crime. The analysis has allowed the partnership to identify its priorities for 2014/15, which are Alcohol and Drug Harm, Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse, Re-Offending and Road Safety. These priorities are the same as 2013/14. Each priority area is governed by a strategic management board which is tasked with putting in place clear outcomes-based objectives and a delivery plan.

Other themes and areas of risk, which will form part of the objectives for the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, include child and adult safeguarding, sharing of information and intelligence, improving communications, organised crime, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, hate crime and 'legal highs'. All these issues will be developed, and some will be incorporated into existing priorities, ie hate crime will be adopted within the ASB Strategic Delivery Group. With other areas of risk work, we will continue to develop and improve our understanding in order to inform the appropriate strategic intervention.

YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

At this point there is no clear indication on the funding settlement for Youth Justice from the Ministry of Justice for 2014/15. The overall reduction in young people sent to custody has enabled some custodial units to be de-commissioned, which has generated savings. However, briefings from the Youth Justice Board suggest a funding reduction to Youth Offending Services of between 2% and 10%. The LCC proportion of the YOS budget has been agreed, and included an overall 4% budget saving. This was recently presented to the Community & Public Safety Scrutiny Committee. In addition, the service is currently in discussion with the PCC to secure existing funding linked to substance misuse and prevention.

The YOS is actively working with partners in Health, Police, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Board and Trading Standards to gather intelligence and minimise the impact of New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs). It is hoped that this will ensure a consistent message is conveyed to make young people aware of the dangers of this emerging issue.

Lincolnshire YOS has commenced a procurement process to look at the provision of a dedicated mentoring service for young people aged 8-18 in Lincolnshire. This will provide an extensive bank of volunteers to support young people in promoting pro-social behaviour and undertaking positive activities to divert them from crime and anti-social behaviour. It will also provide a credible exit strategy once the YOS intervention is withdrawn.

In 2013 the Lincolnshire YOS responded to the Government's Transforming Custody consultation, and the outcome of that consultation has just been published. This proposes a much stronger focus on education and skills within custody and ensuring plans for resettlement are enhanced. This includes a proposal for Magistrates to take a formal role in reviewing young people released from custody to ensure agencies and business partners support their integration into the community. These plans also include the proposal to build a new 320 bed unit in Leicester and amalgamate young people from other units in order to reduce the overall cost of custody.

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Terms and Conditions

Senior management are continuing to work on completing the modernisation of Council employment terms and conditions. Unfortunately, the Trades Unions have withdrawn from formal negotiations, and we will be consulting employees direct. We remain open to continuing discussions with Trades Unions if they change their position.