

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 SEPTEMBER 2012

Statement from: Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for Health, Housing and Community

Councillor Big Society Fund

I am really pleased to report that up to August a total of £182,571 has been provided by Members to community groups through 411 awards. Based on the total amount awarded, this equates to £543 per day and £16,567 awarded per month. Amongst the variety of organisations supported were 175 community groups, 100 Town & Parish Councils and 88 registered charities.

I look forward to Councillors continuing this high level of achievement for their communities as we move into the final half year of the current scheme.

The Lincolnshire Funding Portal

The Lincolnshire Funding Portal is a new website being provided by Lincolnshire County Council. It is an online hub of funding information for the community and voluntary sector in Lincolnshire.

Community groups, charities, parish councils and social enterprises can find information about local and national grant schemes. With easy to use filters, users will be able to quickly identify which sources of funding they are eligible to apply for. The website will also build up a picture of the types of funding groups are searching for.

The Lincolnshire Funding Portal is a fantastic example of providing the tools and information needed by many organisations to help them deliver community projects.

A flyer with further information and the website address (www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fundingsearch) has been placed in every Members' pigeon hole.

The Big Society Strategy

Our draft Big Society Strategy was issued for a 12-week consultation in May this year using focus groups and a survey to obtain views on our ideas. The work is being overseen by a project board and 11 focus groups have been held to obtain detailed views and experiences from people already involved in our Big Society and the wider public. Almost 80 people took part with strong support for the concept of a 'bigger society', but with reservations about the current document, which will be redrafted to reflect the public's views.

Almost half of survey respondents agree with us that the Big Society already exists in Lincolnshire. However, there is more to be done, and the most common reason reported for not volunteering was a lack of time.

The findings of the engagement work are being analysed at the moment and a revised strategy will be presented to Executive in October 2012.

Lincolnshire Armed Forces Community Covenant

6 grant applications were received for the first Lincolnshire deadline of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Community Covenant Grant Scheme. One of these has been put forward to the National Panel and the remainder will be worked up in more detail. The next deadline that councillors may wish to bring to the attention of community groups is 1 November 2012.

HealthWatch

The consultation on how to deliver the national changes that will move our Local Involvement Network into Lincolnshire HealthWatch ended on 1 August. The finding will inform the specification for the local HealthWatch support organisation as the Council has the commissioning lead for this service in Lincolnshire.

Further information will be available throughout the transition (until 1 April 2013) at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/healthwatch.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Following the royal assent to The Health and Social Care Act 2012 there will be a legal duty on local authorities to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy from April 2013. I am delighted to say that, as an early adopter of the power to form a Health and Wellbeing Board, Lincolnshire is well ahead of the game.

The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board has commended a strategy for Lincolnshire to the Executive and the NHS Lincolnshire Board this month so we can 'hit the ground running' on 1 April 2013.

All of the details of the Strategy, and the process that created it, are on the Lincolnshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board website at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/JHWS.

Payment by Results Drug and Alcohol Programme

Our role as a national pilot site for payment by results based services for people with drug and alcohol problems has come to fruition. We have had the first set of results for this innovative approach to services and, whilst still early days, signs are very promising.

Excellent Ageing

Programme Update

The work with the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board, on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), has continued. The JWHS public consultation finished at the end of June 2012 and consultation feedback relating to the Older People theme was reviewed at July's Excellent Ageing Steering Group meeting. No changes have been made to the draft agreed by the Board in March. Final agreement of the JHWS will be in September 2012.

A paper was tabled by the Sponsor at the July Steering Group considering the future of Excellent Ageing beyond March 2013. There was an overwhelming consensus that the 'Excellent Ageing brand' should continue and that further consideration was needed to understand what this might mean. Further discussions on progressing the next steps will take place at the next Steering Group meeting.

Projects Update

The Central Team are working with project leads to support delivery and the transition into 'business as usual'. Project closure reports have been produced for the following projects: Hot Meals in Schools, Helping Older People back to Work and Intergenerational Working; these will be signed off by the Steering Group at their next meeting.

The primary focus of activity since April has been the community mapping exercise which looks to identify communities of older people at risk of isolation. Phase 1 of this work was completed in early August. Following analysis of statistics and data, eight wards were identified as potential target areas. These were Horncastle, Roughton, Holbeach Town, Weston & Moulton, Long Sutton, Chapel St Leonards, Old Leake & Wrangle and Heckington Rural. A series of visits have been made to each of the wards to identify any potential issues or gaps in the provision for older people. The findings have been considered by the Wellbeing in the Community Working Group and a report with their recommendations will be tabled at the next Steering Group meeting.

Youth Offending Service

In March this year Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service underwent an independent inspection by HMI Probation. Inspectors found that the "Youth Offending Service is working to high standards and it is a reflection of the commitment and professionalism of the management and staff, particularly during a period of change." Our inspection scores were consistently much higher than both the regional and national averages, specifically; 79% for 'Safeguarding Work'; 72% for 'Risk of Harm to Others'; and, 85% for 'Likelihood of Re-offending'.

We are also measured by three National Performance Indicators, which again demonstrates consistent high performance. For example, the Re-offending measure, at 27.5%, places Lincolnshire 9th best in the country. The other two measures again demonstrated high performance in keeping the proportion of young people being sentenced to custody low and our performance in reducing the numbers of first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System was 'good', reflecting positive work with partners in Children's Services and the Police.

The Youth Offending Service is currently recruiting three Early Intervention and Prevention Workers who will assess and deliver interventions to Young People subject to Police Reprimands, Final Warnings and other pre-court interventions. They will be responsible for managing a caseload of young people, working with them and their parents/carers to find positive outcomes for both the young person and the victim using the principles of restorative justice.

Lincolnshire Sports Partnership

Lincolnshire Sports Partnership continue to develop and deliver our 2012 Legacy programmes, both those unique to Lincolnshire and those being driven by National partners. We are working with a range of partners both from the third and public sector on a number of other projects that will be seen as legacy programmes from the 2012 Games.

The Torch Relay proved to be a huge success across the county with thousands seeing the torch in local communities and at the overnight stop in Lincoln. Many of the people nominated by LSP carried the torch with pride both in the county and further afield. The day started with 1600 young people taking part in the Lincolnshire School Games at three sites in the uphill area of the city. Many stayed and enjoyed the evening celebration as the torch came to the city.

The number of people signed up to the Sports Maker programme, providing sports volunteers, continue to grow. 50 volunteers supported the Egyptian Paralympic team as they held their pre-games training camp in the county. As part of the camp we worked with a number of facility providers and commercial companies to ensure the best possible experience for the 55 visitors. The partnership worked with the Egyptian Olympic Committee to secure a £25,000 grant to enable them to visit and enjoy both sporting and cultural events during their stay.

Athletes from the Lincolnshire Elite Athletes Programme (LEAP) competed for TEAM GB at the Olympic Games – Kate Hayward and Mel Marshall are both on LEAP – and another 5 at the Paralympics.

We are working with the Lincolnshire Supplementary Schools Forum to launch a multi sports event with community club and volunteer engagement in September, when all the groups will come together in a county sports day.

We still continue to develop and deliver our 2012 Legacy programmes including

Lincolnshire programmes:

- The Lincolnshire Elite Athlete Programme (LEAP)
- Silver Spirit
- Quest for Gold
- Behind the fence –opening up facilities to be used for sporting activities in local communities
- Sports Library

National Programmes

- Sportivate
- School Games
- Sports Makers
- Community Games
- Local leaders