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County Offices Newland Lincoln LN1 1YL

15 April 2014

#### Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be held on Friday, 25 April 2014 at 10.00 am in Committee Room One, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

Tony McArdle Chief Executive

## <u>Membership of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</u> (19 Members of the Council and 6 Added Members)

Councillors J D Hough (Chairman), B Adams (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, Mrs J Brockway, J P Churchill, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, R J Hunter-Clarke, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, Mrs C A Talbot, S M Tweedale, L Wootten, R Wootten and Mrs S M Wray

#### Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman, Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright

Parent Representatives: Mr C V Miller, Mrs E Olivier-Townrow and 1 Parent Governor Representative Vacancy

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA FRIDAY, 25 APRIL 2014

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9	<b>Childhood Obesity - Progress Report following Director of</b> <b>Public Health Annual Report 2012</b> (To receive a report from Richard Cumbers, Programme Manager, Public Health, which brings the Committee up to date in connection with the serious problem of childhood obesity)	141 - 152
10	<b>Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work</b> <b>Programme 2014</b> (To receive a report from Tracy Johnson, Scrutiny Officer, which provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider its Work Programme)	153 - 162

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**Please note:** for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

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## Agenda Item 3



#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 7 MARCH 2014

#### PRESENT: COUNCILLOR JOHN DUNCOMB HOUGH (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors B Adams (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, J P Churchill, S R Dodds, A G Hagues, J R Hicks, R J Hunter-Clarke, B W Keimach, C R Oxby, Mrs S Ransome, Mrs L A Rollings, Mrs N J Smith, Mrs C A Talbot, S M Tweedale, L Wootten, Mrs S M Wray and T M Trollope-Bellew

#### Added Members

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman, Mr P Thompson and Mrs G Wright

Parent Representatives: Mrs E Olivier-Townrow

Councillors: D Brailsford attended the meeting as an observer

Officers in attendance:-

Debbie Barnes (Executive Director Children's Services), Stuart Carlton (Assistant Director of Children's Services), Linda Graham (Commissioning Officer), Jo Kavanagh (Head of Service Families Working Together), Andrew McLean (Head of Service - Children's Commissioning), Sally Savage (Assistant Director Children's Services), Dave Thompson (Pupil Referral Unit), Andrea Brown (Democratic Services Officer) and Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer)

#### 74 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J Brockway, R Hunter-Clarke and R Wootten.

Apologies were also received from Mr C V Miller (Parent Representative Added Member) and Dr E van der Zee (Parent Representative Added Member).

Councillor T M Trollope-Bellew was in attendance as replacement member for Councillor R Wootten, who was attending a civic function in his capacity as Chairman of the Council.

#### 75 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of Members' interests were made at this stage of proceedings.

#### 76 <u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</u> <u>SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2014</u>

The Chairman proposed two amendments to the minutes, as follows:-

To correct a typographical error in paragraph seven, second to last sentence being amended to read 'Public Health'; and not Public Help; and

To provide further detail on page eight, bullet point two, reference to Page 118 being amended to read: 'It was noted that worklessness not only put a strain on resources because of direct costs relating to benefit payments, but that there was also considerable loss of revenue from the lack of tax and National Insurance contributions.'

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 13 February 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the amendments noted above.

#### 77 FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services, which provided an update on the progress of Lincolnshire's response to the Troubled Families' Programme and invited the Committee to consider and comment on the contents of the report.

Jo Kavanagh, Head of Service – Families Working Together, introduced the report and referred members to papers tabled which provided further updated information to that provided in the published report and relevant issues were highlighted.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- Feedback received from the Executive Support Councillor for Children's Services following attendance at the launch of the Housing Strategy was positive. The key discussion points at the launch had focussed positively about the journey, prior to the launch, over the previous 18 months and the collaborative working across relevant teams. The national speaker had suggested that Lincolnshire was a leading figure in this particular area.
- 58 referrals to the service had been made so far. Of those referrals, 41% had returned home, 29% were in supported accommodation, 15% stayed with parents, as the cases had been resolved immediately, and a small proportion were staying with friends through "Friends Arrangements".
- The target for working with people to find a resolution was in the region of eight weeks, however Families Working Together would remain involved with the family until other provision had been arranged.
- Although not noted in the report, as the information provided was at the request of the Department for Communities, it was confirmed that traveller families and ethnic minorities were also able to access these services, and

have done. It was agreed to provide a breakdown of groups accessing services to members following the meeting.

- Members requested details of case studies to provide information regarding good practice and how frontline workers deal with such cases. It was confirmed that case studies were available and these would be circulated outwith. An invitation was also extended to those members who would like to see the process first hand.
- No specific guidance had been received from the Families Working Together programme about how to apportion the funding. As Lincolnshire wanted a different approach, a larger proportion of families meeting the criteria now have access to a range of other services.
- Shared learning was undertaken through secondments between teams. For example, the Youth Offending Service had a huge proportion of their caseload linked to Families Working Together therefore four members of their staff were seconded to the FWT team in order to strengthen links.
- Any claims made were now subjected to detailed scrutiny by the DLC and the team currently had 36 claims being currently scrutinised. In addition to this external audit, internal scrutiny arrangements were also in place to ensure compliance.
- Families in need were supported whether a funding/monetary claim could be made or not.
- All staff were trained in safeguarding issues and all families linked to safeguarding could be provided should that be requested. Information sharing was clear in localities due to colocation of different teams and the increased understanding of each other's roles as a result. There was also a mechanism in place for escalation and joint visits undertaken where uses were raised as a concern by more than one team.
- It was confirmed that all Practice Supervisors were leads on Signs of Safety and this was working well. Audit processes were also in place as well as systems to ensure ease of accessibility to result data. Staff were also trained in using the police computer system so information sharing had improved considerably as a result.
- There were a limited number of key workers in the County and, in order for them to work with families to the intensity level required (8-10 hours per week with one family), a caseload of 8-10 was a suitable level for each key worker. Members were asked to consider that this caseload was based on a family which could potentially have more than one child or differing issues so complexity was also a factor when allocating cases.

#### RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

#### 78 PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 3 3013/14

At this point of the meeting, the Chairman took the opportunity, on behalf of the Committee, to welcome Sally Savage to Lincolnshire County Council in her position as Assistant Director Children's Services.

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which provided key performance information for Quarter 3 2013/14 relevant to the work of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Stuart Carlton, Assistant Director for Children's Services, introduced the report and circulated a further update in relation to Performance Indicator NI068 which provided detail regarding the percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to an initial assessment. The figure included details about the number of assessments completed as a result of referrals. It was reported that the national indicator would be phased out by the end of the year as it was no longer required.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- PI 2023SC (Page 28) it was difficult to manage Child Protection Plans with a target as this was determined by the number of referrals received which could vary considerably on a monthly basis. Additionally, a child protection conference which includes a number of siblings could also increase the figures. It was felt to be useful to have a target figure as a benchmark but noted that this was an indicator which was regularly debated.
- Despite the number of complaints received in schools being included within the report, it was noted that these were for the school to deal with directly. However, should a complaint relate to a specific member of staff and their suitability to work with children, the Local Authority would look at the issues raised through Children's Social Care. If found that any member of staff had acted inappropriately, the case would be investigated fully.
- Child Protection Plans were complex and, although it would appear that a child had been removed from a plan and then put back on, in some cases, the child had moved out of county for the period where they appeared not to have a plan. It was acknowledged that work was ongoing to develop ways to ensure consistent and accurate reporting of this indicator.
- Sally Savage, Assistant Director Children's Services, had been appointed predominantly to work with partners to ensure there was an overarching senior position in the authority for children's commissioning, bringing together the local authority, public health and the Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- Common themes for referral were neglect and domestic abuse/violence issues rather than anything specifically unique to Lincolnshire although Members acknowledged that these reasons do vary over time.
- Two compliments to the Scrutiny Committee had been reported and officers were asked to provide the detail of those compliments, if possible.
- A suggestion was made that the Committee may be able to, in some way, support the complaints process. Advice was given that the complaints process was outlined through a statutory process and, if the Committee were to be included in that process, this could be perceived as not following the process as required legally.
- The complaints process in schools was felt to be particularly daunting for parents and additional support could be required through the process, as it could be extremely stressful. Although there was an appointed School

Complaints Officer to provide support and advice both to schools and parents, Members suggested that it may be helpful to publicise this for parents also.

- System problems remained a concern for the Committee as input errors were resulting in inaccurate reporting. The new system was expected to be more intuitive and easier to navigate, reducing the amount of error. It was hoped this new system would be in place by January 2015. Members were reassured that data cleansing would continue to be undertaken to ensure that data was correct.
- Social Workers undertake a number of unannounced visits but find that families were not in. It had been suggested that tablets would be beneficial so that they could input data whilst waiting for families, etc, to return. Unfortunately, the current ICS system was unable to be accessed via this method. Judith Hetherington-Smith, Chief Information Officer, and Simon Oliver, Head of IMT, were being consulted on ways to rectify this and to make remote access of systems easier for Social Workers.
- PI CS108 (Page 40) The ePEP system had now been upgraded and, although this should be assisting staff, frustrations with the new upgrade and required training had initially made this more difficult.
- The majority of referrals made to the ombudsman were relating to Home to School Transport, of which there had been no "findings of fault". In relation to referrals made to the ombudsman on Post 16, national guidelines were to be followed, on two year programme, which made it difficult to provide reassurance to parents. One finding of fault against the Local Authority had been made which would be presented to the Committee in due course.
- Members were reassured that a number of pieces of work were ongoing around bullying issues.

#### RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

#### 79 <u>LINCOLNSHIRE SAFEGUARDING BOARDS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP</u> <u>UPDATE</u>

The Chairman of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, Councillor Ron Oxby, provided an update on the progress of the Sub-Group.

Having met on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014, Councillor Oxby had been elected as the Chairman of the Sub-group as Councillor Pat O'Connor was unable to continue as he was no longer a member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

A presentation had been received relating t the changes of the Ofsted inspection framework, following which ten questions were agreed to form the basis for scrutinising the work of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adult Board. Each meeting of the Sub-Group would consider two or three of those questions to assess the performance of the two boards.

Andy Morris, newly appointed LSCB Business Manager, also attend the meeting and highlighted the LSCB had been carrying out an internal review of children's safeguarding and had discovered certain processes around auditing of serious incidents required further attention. Having revised its business plan, the LSCB had also created a performance framework which the Sub-Group also considered, as noted in the minutes.

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Group was scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> April where it would be considering the outcomes from a recent case review, an item of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and the first three questions from the Ofsted Framework:-

- 1. Can you provide evidence that you coordinate the work of partners in helping, protecting and caring for children and adults in Lincolnshire?
- 2. What are the mechanisms in place to monitor the effectiveness of your arrangements?
- 3. How do you know the multi-agency training in safeguarding is effective?

During discussion, it was confirmed that the issue requiring further attention was in relation to auditing. It was explained that under the new Ofsted framework, Safeguarding Boards were expected to undertake their own audits in addition to those already taking place. As a result, a process was ongoing to appoint an audit officer to undertake this requirement.

#### RESOLVED

That the verbal update provided, in addition to the draft minutes of the meeting of the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Boards Scrutiny Sub-Group, held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014, be noted.

#### 80 SOLUTIONS 4 - OFFICER AND MEMBER FEEDBACK

Dave Thompson, Solutions 4 Manager, gave a presentation to the Committee which detailed the transition of the Lincolnshire Teaching and Learning Centre (LTLC) from Lincolnshire County Council as an independent maintained school and had been undertaken in a way to ensure that LCC could meet its statutory duties for children not in full time education.

The presentation also asked Members to consider the role of Solutions 4 in meeting the needs of pupils excluded or at risk of exclusion in Key Stage 4.

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- It was reported that there were currently 400 "other authority" Looked After Children in Lincolnshire, some of which were looked after by Solutions 4.
- The referring authority was now being challenged as a child would not be accepted into the county without the appropriate funding being apportioned to the child.
- Funding was received from Central Government based on the October count.

- The Local Authority were not in a position to refuse to a child in to the county but there was a responsibility to have the relevant health and education plans in place. Legislation which would include this had not yet been finalised so discussions with other authorities was being held tentatively at present.
- If a child was resident in Lincolnshire, even if they were from out-of-county, but placed with foster carers for example, the local authority was legally obliged to provide an education for that child.

The Chairman invited Committee Members, who had visited Solutions 4 facilities, to update the Committee with their experiences.

- Councillor Mrs Ransome advised that she had visited two centres and had been impressed with both. Bridge House was found to be academically orientated while Opportune Engineers were more "hands on". Staff and children had embraced her and were enthusiastic in telling her what they do at the centre. Councillor Mrs Ransome asked the Committee to note her concern about the short notice of the notification that funding had been received. It was felt that the security of staff in these centres was essential as to lose them would be detrimental to the children.
- Added Member, Mr Rudman, had visited the Gelder school and found it to be outstanding despite some of the pupils having been excluded from more than one establishment within the county. Mr Rudman had been made to feel very welcome and had been provided with some background details of the pupils, some of which were from very dysfunctional families. It was stressed that the centre tried to provide a safe environment for the pupils and then look at the education element.
- Councillor Churchill visited Opportune Engineers and stressed that these children are challenging but have the ability to succeed. The issue for this centre was that the funding was not available to heat the building and it appeared that there was considerably less spent on the upkeep of these facilities. Councillor Churchill advised that she was scheduled to visit Gelder also.
- Councillors Wootten had been warmly greeted when they visited Bridge House in Boston, who catered for 40 pupils aged 14 to 16. Core subjects were taught to students and most students were expected to gain either a B or C result. Pupils were very much included and they felt that it was an excellent facility.
- Councillor Aron visited Build a Future in Horncastle where he found the staff to be very enthusiastic with some excellent ideas for the future. Funding was also an issue at this centre and he felt the building was also an issue.
- Councillor Dodds also visited Build a Future in Horncastle and felt that the relationship between students the staff seemed rigorous and strong. There was an informal atmosphere but it was clear that there was a mutual respect between staff and students. Transport was an issue especially for post 16 children and Councillor Dodds asked that post 16 travel solutions be seriously considered. She was also concerned regarding capacity at the centre and whether the local authority should be giving consideration to increasing work with these schools as she felt the financial implications of doing so would far exceed the moral and financial cost of allowing these children to fail.

- Added Member, Mrs Olivier-Townrow, visited the Gelder Group and had been extremely impressed with the centre and the children there. Two teachers were with a group of six children but she felt that there was a real challenge to provide the variety within the curriculum for only two teachers. Having talked to pupils individually, they had hinted at the frustration of being actively involved in workshops. Subsequently, Mrs Olivier-Townrow had contacted a production company who offered to undertaken some workshops and to provide bursaries also. Mrs Olivier-Townrow felt that this was something which could be further developed.
- The Chairman advised he had also visited Build a Future in Horncastle and, like Councillor Dodds, raised the issue of transport problems for Post 16 pupils. The other issue raised had been budgets.

In response to Members' comments, the following points were noted:-

- In terms of the buildings, health and safety reviews were carried out every 12 weeks and all premises met the minimum legal requirements.
- LCC had changed the transport arrangements in relation to taxis to revert back to 12 month leases for transport. Work was currently ongoing with taxi firms to ensure that they were working directly with Solutions 4 but with support from LCC.
- Concern remained that if there was no assurance of funding flow, the centres would continue to be unable to make significant capital investments. Solutions 4 had written to the providers to advise that funding had been extended for a further year but agreed that a plan of less than three years was not acceptable.
- As long as standards were maintained, there was a plan to roll the contracts on for an additional year and that LCC intended to reprocure Solutions 4 under a framework arrangement for providers but acknowledged that this would need to be longer than on a yearly basis. Members were reassured that funding arrangements were currently being considered although advised that the capital issues raised had not been.
- There was a dedicated grant available from the DfE, of which the majority was spent on the sufficiency of places available. All other issues raised would be considered in the reprocurement.
- Although facilities were made available by the individual providers, Solutions 4 managed the centres overall. The six week deadline was a target, an aspiration, to move pupils out of the system but it was acknowledged that this was not always possible but it gave both Solutions 4 and the pupils a target to work to. Once the children embarked on courses, it was difficult to find a mainstream school providing that particular course. Bridge House, for example, had qualifications in line with mainstream schools.
- At the Gelders Centre, it was reported that there are currently six highly complex students who could have been placed in out-of-county placements at a cost in excess of £100k per placement. It was felt, therefore, that by providing facilities such as these in-county, it would save the authority money.

Councillor Mrs C A Talbot asked that it be noted that she was personal friends of staff at Hillcrest Early Years Academy in Gainsborough.

Councillor B W Keimach also asked the Committee to note that, in relation to a Solutions 4 provider and their ongoing discussions with West Lindsey District Council, he was a District Councillor with WLDC.

In summary, the Committee requested the local authority to consider longer contracts to give more certainty for providers, address the issue of transport including taxis and transport provided directly by providers, general funding and the potential to increase the daily costs.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the presentation and updates be noted.

At 12.55pm, Councillor B W Keimach left the meeting and did not return.

#### 81 <u>TAKE-UP OF EARLY EDUCATION FOR LESS ADVANTAGED 2 YEAR</u> OLDS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services, which provided the Committee with a comprehensive overview of the take up of free early education places for two year olds in Lincolnshire.

Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services, introduced the report on behalf of Geraldine O'Neill, Lead Consultant (EYE).

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The hourly cost of Early Years Providers had been agreed by a working party in consultation with the voluntary and maintained sectors to work out the average voluntary charge. This is something continually under review via the Lincolnshire School's Forum and is an issue which continues to be refined.
- An individually assessed approach to providers was taken and, through risk assessment, decisions could be taken to move children should a provider prove unsuitable following that assessment.
- There was an inclusion fund so that, for example, an 18 month old child with a significant disability was accessing a pre-school, this would be dealt with by the Birth to Five Service through a similar process to statementing although this was not formal or statutory.
- Looked After Children (LAC) numbers were low and work was ongoing to monitor the exceptions for these children.
- Regarding geographical spread, in rural areas, child care remained a challenge but work was ongoing with childminders to provide better support and to help them become registered to provide early education.
- Funding was available for 40% but there was a commitment to increase that figure. The other 60% would be for the parents to decide if they want to pay for it, although as soon as the child has their third birthday they would be

eligible for 15 hours free. Vulnerable children were given priority and it was expected, depending on additional funding, that there would be a waiting list.

- Detail regarding the number or providers available in Lincoln would be provided after the meeting, following a concern that their appeared to be considerable less providers to places in comparison to other areas in the county. It was thought that places were taken by paying parents which could mean the additional funding may not be required.
- Ofsted used to provide ratings as did the Birth to Five Service, however Ofsted removed that ability. Previously, the local authority had the ability to remove a childcare provision should they have a lower rating than Ofsted but this had now changed.
- Following a query regarding the inclusion of traveller and ethnic minority families, all two year olds within the county were logged with the Participation Worker who would discuss the offer within families.
- It was suggested to hold a workshop around this item, possibly through Councillor Development.

#### RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

#### 82 <u>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK</u> <u>PROGRAMME 2014</u>

A report by the Scrutiny Officer was considered, which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider its work programme for the coming year.

There were no amendments to the published work programme, although Members were asked to note a potential report for the September meeting relating to a proposal for a new primary academy in North Hykeham (submission to Secretary of State of results and evaluation process to identify an operator), which was yet to be confirmed.

A SEND reform project, which was a council priority project, had formed a stakeholder group to inform, engage and help co produce the reforms set out in the Children's Bill Draft Code of Practice. The Stakeholder Group had requested two representatives from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to sit on that group. The group met on a monthly basis, usually at Grantham College, the next meeting being scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 10.30am.

Councillor J R Hicks advised he would represent the Committee on this group. No other volunteers were identified but further information would be circulated to the Committee to give those not present the opportunity to volunteer.

#### RESOLVED

That the Work Programme, as set out at Appendix A, be agreed.

#### 83 CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

#### RESOLVED

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended

#### 84 <u>LEAVING CARE - COMMISSIONING REVIEW</u>

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services.

Andrew McLean, Head of Service – Chlidren's Commissioning, and Linda Graham, Commissioning Officer, introduced the report, explaining the details behind the content of the report.

#### RESOLVED

- 1. That the report be noted.
- 2. That the recommendations to the executive be supported.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm

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**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 April 2014
Subject:	Sensory Education and Support Service

QTHI – Qualified Teacher of Hearing Impaired Children QTVI – Qualified Teacher of Visually Impaired Children QTMSI – Qualified Teacher of Multi-Sensory Impaired Children ESCO – Early Support Care Coordination TAC – Team Around the Child OOC – Out of County LAC – Looked After Children CIN – Child in Need
CIN – Child In Need CP – Child Protection

#### Summary:

SESS – The Sensory Education and Support Service

#### Core Offer

The Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) is funded through the central Designated School Grants and offers county-wide support and specialist teaching to children with a sensory impairment (Hearing Impairment (HI), Visual Impairment (VI) and Multisensory Impairment (MSI) from birth to school leaving age. SESS aims to ensure that young people with a sensory loss gain access to their educational environment and make progression in order to raise aspirations and maximise their development.

SESS has extensive experience of working in homes, early years settings and schools and can offer bespoke assistance to children, families and school staff, ensuring consistent involvement throughout a child's education. Highly skilled qualified teachers and specialist sensory support staff provide support to a significant number of children with a sensory impairment in Lincolnshire.

#### Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the contents of the report.

#### 1. Background

#### Children and young people

The service supports 400 children per month on average, with an approximate spread of 250 HI children, 110 VI, 40 MSI – these numbers reflect the national prevalence of sensory impaired children. Referrals are generally received from Health or Education agencies, requiring only a medical diagnosis/confirmation of the sensory loss. SESS does not operate a waiting list and immediately allocates cases with contact made the same week to the family to advise of the name of the allocated teacher. Following an assessment, reports are submitted to the family and child and all other involved parties as agreed with the family. If assessed as requiring further work by the service, a Planning Meeting is arranged with the family and key partner agencies to discuss the assessment, agree support levels, targets, outcomes and the reviewing mechanism. Birth to five year olds are monitored using the Early Years Foundation Protocol and school age children are supported alongside the National Curriculum using specialist testing and assessments as required for the particular sensory loss.

#### Case examples

VI children with significant sight loss have increased within the service and often require a team of 3 teachers and support staff to support the child and school staff. The recent increase in funding enabled a much needed enhancement to VI teaching staff who provide essential Braille teaching within the schools. A recent year 7 child suffered a drastic deterioration to his sight and within a week the team were able to respond and provide assessments and training for staff and ensure the child's reading materials were modified to ensure access.

A VI child registered blind moved to Lincolnshire in 2012 at Year 1 and has been receiving weekly school visits from a team of 4 VI staff teaching Braille, mobility, independence and supporting school staff and the family. Teaching staff supply teaching materials in preparation of lessons and the SESS VI Technical Resource Officer modifies to Braille, whilst the QTVI prepares work a week in advance to teach the child outside of the classroom to help her understand concepts before they are introduced. This young lady is successfully integrated in her local primary school, fully accessing her educational environment and becoming proficient in Braille at age 8.

HI children are now routinely screened before leaving hospital through the National Newborn Hearing Screening Programme and SESS works collaboratively with ULH to provide a 24 hour response to parents with a newly diagnosed baby and then a 24 hour face to face contact to provide on-going support. QTHIs very often follow the education life of children from birth to school leaving age depending on their hearing loss and education needs. Please see the HI case in Appendix F – County News Article p 6.

#### The Voice of the Child

Children contribute to every SESS teaching sessions by adding comments to the SESS contact sheets, they are also invited to add comments to the annual service questionnaire sent to families and SESS works hard with schools to ensure the full participation of pupils in Education Reviews and Individual Education Plan Reviews.

SESS works closely with the Council's contracted service, SILCS (Sensory Impairment Lincolnshire County Services), providing social care support to children and adults across Lincolnshire with a sensory impairment. SILCS and SESS have worked together to provide social support to children and families and through consultation of what families wanted in county now provide quarterly information of news around the county and provide social outings to date that have included: very well attended PGL activities, bowling, Easter and Christmas parties and in April 2013 we jointly facilitated a multi-agency 'Sensory Showcase' day providing workshops for parents, activities for children and the chance to meet with all the professionals in county involved in sensory impairments support in one place. The day closed with a DVD of children filmed around the county detailing their experiences and aspirations. The day received 100% positive feedback.

#### <u>Criteria</u>

A number of children with mild hearing and/or sight loss do not meet the SESS criteria of support but with classroom management and information sheets for schools and parents these children can be supported without the SESS service. For this group of children and with parental consent, SESS keeps details of the child and family and will issue an annual letter to the school setting and home to ask if there have been any changes and advise how to refer if required.

The service support levels are set against the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP) criteria, these levels will help agree a plan of work for the academic year. Assessments and teaching takes place through the year and staff attend and contribute to annual reviews, IEPs, transition plans and statement requests.

Following a SESS teaching/support session, contact sheets are completed to inform the child/school/parent/carers of the work undertaken, by whom and contact details and where age appropriate the child is encouraged to contribute their feedback.

#### Training for school settings

Training from SESS for school setting staff is a key element of the work to help prepare and cater for the sensory impaired child; SESS delivers a substantial amount of bespoke training to school settings around the county to equip and empower staff. Pupil awareness sessions are also delivered to help the child's peer group understand the pupil's needs, for example why the child wears hearing aids, why a child uses a cane in school and how to support the child.

#### Staffing establishment and roles

#### X1 Team Manager

X1 FTE Senior Teacher (QTHI and QTVI) Lead for HI

X1 FTE Senior Teacher (QTHI and QTVI) Lead for VI

X1 FTE Senior Teacher (QTHI and QTVI) Lead for Early Years HI and VI

X9 FTE QTHI (x2 funded to train from the increased service budget)

X3 FTE QTVI (x2 funded to train from the increased service budget) X1 FTE QTMSI

X2 FTE Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants – for school age pupils (funded through the increased service budget).

X2 FTE Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants – for birth to five (funded through the increased service budget).

X1 Education Rehabilitation and Mobility Officer for VI children

X1 Technical Resource Officer for VI children (funded through the increased service budget).

#### Designated School Budget

The service receives a Designated School Grant budget which was increased by 30% in 2012/13 to increase staffing levels to meet need. Lincolnshire is one of the very few Local Authorities to have invested in their education sensory service and was recently commended in the House of Commons.

The increase in budget enables the service to recruit:

- X2 QTHIs and provide training
- X2 QTVIs and provide training
- X4 Specialist Teaching assistants and provide training in BSL and Braille
- X1 Technical Resource Officer and provide training in specialist ICT and Braille.

The increase in budget followed concerns that teachers were not able to respond to the intensive teaching packages of support required for many children to work towards the key service objective of narrowing the educational gap.

Since the increase, teachers' caseloads have decreased to on average 25 children per caseload; an Early Years Team has been established identifying all 0-5 years children, their needs and support packages and provides a termly report for senior meetings to inform provision mapping. Through this work we have been able to provide most young people and their families with weekly support work, support parents with diagnosis, signpost to support service, work closely with the ESCO service to ensure good care coordination and inform strategic management decisions regarding expected provisions for the future. For example, the year 2015 will see a higher than usual cohort of young children with significant hearing loss starting schools. The Early Years team is able to support families in education establishments and secure good transition planning. <u>Equipment</u>

The service provides the specialist equipment required by children to access their educational environment such as:

Braille BSL Teaching Radio Aids IPads Sensory Toys Magnifiers Hearing Receivers Hearing Transmitters

The equipment is regularly monitored and training delivered. An inventory of all equipment is kept in service and the budget ensures the regular updating of equipment to ensure optimum access for the child.

#### SESS Staff Training

All staff are trained to the mandatory requirements, all teachers must hold a teaching qualification and the post graduate QTHI, QTVI or QTMSI qualification. All Teaching Assistants have training or are currently being trained in BSL and Braille.

The service delivers free training to school setting staff at Horncastle College x1 year in October for staff with children with a sensory impairment in the school. The training is generally oversubscribed and year on the service adds additional days. The VI and HI days help colleagues understand about what it is to have sensory loss, what that means in the school setting and what colleagues can do to help support the child. 100% positive feedback is received.

All SESS staff receive regular supervision, appraisals link to the annual service delivery plan, case audits take place and reports are read and authorised by the senior team.

Termly meetings take place alongside INSET days and training planned at the beginning of each academic year.

Staff details their case load details in each supervision sessions and children OOC, TAC/ESCO/CIN/CP/LAC/privately Fostered are detailed as a priority of discussion and evidence required pertaining to educational progress and developments within in their care.

All staff have completed mandatory training requirements for LCC and Children's Services and specialist training specific to the requirements of this staff group are identified within the staff appraisals and training provided through the service training budget.

#### Collaborative working

SESS does not operate in isolation and requires excellent working partnerships with the child, family, schools, support groups, health and education.

Each teacher covers a locality area and has built close links with partner agencies in the area. Many teachers initiate TAC and ESCO service and ensure full participation with colleagues to ensure families receive a coordinated and holistic approach to the care of their child.

#### Strategic Developments

The senior team work closely with groups such as the CHSWG (Children's Hearing Services Working Group) a national group held locally between Health/Education/Support groups to look at the local need and listen to parents/carers young people and plan for meeting need.

Equally the locally heath-led strategic group for eye care in Lincolnshire works to ensure a robust multi-agency approach to meeting the eye care needs of adults in children in county.

SESS forms an intrinsic component to these groups and has led on some significant areas such as the joint testing clinics and the eye care pathway developments.

The service is currently reviewing with partners the Hearing Enhanced Support Resources in school, which currently operate from three schools – discussions are currently being considered to consolidate this provision to one primary and one secondary joining with Speech and Language to ensure better service provision.

#### Service Development Plan

An annual plan is agreed and delivered by the Senior Team at the beginning of each academic year and every member of staff takes an area of responsibility to work to deliver for the year. The key areas and responsibility are agreed and shared with the whole team and then monitored through termly supervisions and appraisals. For 2013/14 the three main areas of focus were:

- Targeting provision and narrowing the gap
- Early support
- Developing leadership roles across the staff cohort

#### SESS Aspiration week

At the end of this academic year, one of the senior teachers is focusing on resilience in children with a sensory loss and is facilitating a day for children and young people around the county to meet together to share and showcase their achievements, skills and talent – from children able to tie their shoe laces for the

first time, independently managing audiology equipment to successfully gaining a place at University or in Jade Etherington's case – wining Silver and Bronze at this year's Paralympic games. Jade was supported by SESS and her family remain involved with the service, sitting on interview panels for recruitment of new staff and contributing to DVDs telling their stories for other families to hear.

#### 2. Conclusion

SESS successfully supports 90% of children and young people with a sensory loss within their local mainstream school and ensures access to their educational environment. The increase in budget in 2012/13 has enabled the service to focus on early preventative work ensuring children in the early years receive intensive support to help them begin their school career at expected levels; last year a significantly sight impaired young man successfully began at Cambridge University at the same time a pupil with a profound hearing impairment began his placement at Oxford University.

However, whilst we are aware of our impact on positive outcomes, we constantly review how we can continue to better our service. In 2014/15 we will focus on enhanced hearing resources in county and aim to reduce our out of county placement. Lincolnshire out of county placements are comparable with neighbouring authorities however we are not complacent and are already discussing efforts to reduce this number.

'The support we have received from SESS has been 'outstanding'. We could not have managed without the technical advice and training that the service has provided for our staff and perhaps even more importantly it has been delivered with a real understanding of the constraints placed on teachers within a classroom situation'. – Stephen Tapley, Head Teacher, Isaac Newton Primary School

'The service has been a fantastic support to myself, my son and his primary and future secondary school. Their involvement has been life changing for my son and he now gets the support he needs.' - Parent

#### 3. Consultation

#### a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

#### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report						
Appendix A	Service Delivery Intents – 2013/14					
Appendix B	SESS Leaflet					
Appendix C	HI Leaflet					
Appendix D	VI Leaflet					
Appendix E	MSI Leaflet					
Appendix F	County News Article p6					

#### 5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Michelle White, who can be contacted on 01522 553368 or michelle.white@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Strategic Intent	Strategic priority	Objectives	Responsibility	Success Criteria	Monitoring	Timescale	Resources
1. Enhance coordinated early support to develop robust, safe, timely,	Continue to ensure all new cases are introduced with a multi- agency planning meeting.	Parties are clear of SESS involvements and agreements are made regarding process and targets.	All staff	Parties are clear of SESS involvement.	Supervision – check against each case	Immediately and on-going	
efficient support.	For cases of concern/issue reintroduce a planning meeting to review provision	To quickly address any areas of concern and a resolution reached.	All staff	Issue is dealt with quickly, reduced complaints	Supervision	Immediately and on-going	
	All TAC/ESCO/CIN/CP/LAC cases are identified clearly on caseloads and our multiagency contribution is clear and attendance and contribution at all meetings is evidenced	Robust support to this vulnerable group of young people is in place	All staff	Care packages are successful	All cases that fit this criteria are recorded in supervision and accurately recorded on caseloads	Immediately and on-going	
	Continue to develop the Early Years service for HI/VI/MSI, working closely this year with the local Children's Centres, further embedding the service within the	Providing a holistic approach to the service, sharing information and developments and	Carole Wood lead/Early Tears Team	Greater joined up working with linked partner	Senior meetings/ CW to feedback full term a report	March 2014 – meetings with Children centre Managers	

multiagency framework	working together to develop support plans for families.		agencies		has been completed	
Early Years work to report provision mapping.	To help plan for future provision.	Carole Wood/Michelle White	Ability to forecast need effectively, reduce out of county requests	A regular update/report at each senior meeting		
Ensure each visit/contact is purposeful and is best use of resources.	Each contact provides a positive outcome that can be measured to evidence the impact of our involvement.	All staff	CYP benefit from correct provision	Supervision		
The provision levels set and recommended are maintained.	CYP's needs are met as agreed	All staff	CYP/families are seen as agreed and provision delivered to ensure outcomes	Supervision – monitor with new caseload supervision template/ Feedback form service questionnaires		

Good robust communication with families/cyp/schools/multiagency partners.	Key stakeholders feel valued informed and have positive relationships with the service where they feel equally able to challenge and explore for the benefits of the cyp.	All staff	Strong positive relationships - reduced complaints	Supervision Relationships	
Work with partner agencies, particularly Health to develop an Early Support pathway for children newly diagnosed with VI.	To ensure support at the earliest opportunity.	Sally / Malloy/Michelle White VI lead and VI Team	CYP's development progresses	Feedback to Senior Meeting	March 2014 – Review
Develop an auditing process to monitor the effectiveness of our work.	Ensure unity of the service and address any areas of concern quickly with an identified resolution.	Michelle White and Senior Team	Robust casework	Senior Team Meeting	March 2014 – Review
Develop SESS packs of information to be shared with families/colleagues/schools	Professional, informative literature	To be identified	Informed families	Report to Senior Team for sign off	October 2013

Develop a support programme for the 2 new QTMSI teachers.	Ensure our 'partner' colleagues are supported and develop positive relationships with the service and begin to plan how together we can best serve cyp with MSI in county, thus reducing pressures for our current MSI service.	Kathryn Taylor QTMSI	Strategy of delivery	Carole Wood to oversee and report to Senior Team	October 2013
Continue to share practice with like services in other counties; ensure learning is reciprocated with partner agencies within and external to LCC.	Share knowledge with like services and enhance learning of partner agency colleagues to develop a greater understanding and thus better response to this area of work in Lincolnshire.	Senior leads	Increased service knowledge	Senior meetings/Team Meetings	On-going
Provide named links to our key	Greater	To be	Raised	Supervision/	October

	partner agency colleagues	communication and understanding of roles.	confirmed	awareness of cases/ Specialisms	Performance Management	2013
	Further develop the CHSWG with key agencies and involve families	Work towards a meaningful body that begins to develop a strategic plan of delivery of HI services for cyp and their families in Lincolnshire. 'The Hearing Care Strategy Plan'.	Jane Hladun/Carole Wood/Michelle White	Positive changes to service	Senior Meetings	March 2014 Review
2. Better targeting provision in order to narrow the gap	Ensure caseloads are reviewed and recommendations of intervention are correct.	With an increased workforce and reduced caseloads, intervention should be at its optimum and thus learning.	All staff	Greater success of progress for CYP	Supervision – ensure this is checked at the first supervision	October 2013
	Cases of concern raised within the multiagency setting and with parents at the earliest opportunity and agreed targets set to address concerns	To readdress the concerns and agree to a resolution to ensure progress	All staff	lssues resolved – reduced complaints, reduced out of county requests	Supervision/in contact with families and professionals	Immediately and on-going

				1	
Agree realistic targets with CYP/parent/carer/school settings/partner agencies and track progress at regular review dates.	Good communication of SESS objectives and the ability to focus provision quickly should there be concerns regarding targets being met.	All staff	Accessibility and the ability to achieve	Supervision and independent self-monitoring of caseload	Immediately and on-going
Evaluate the current 'partnership' HI settings against National Standards	Better understand areas of need and how to address this to ensure CYP's needs are being met.		High standard of ERP in county	Senior Team	December 2013 report
Develop a new partnership HI Enhanced Resource Provision with Ruskington Chestnut street Cof E primary School	Provide a partnership model of excellence that will provide intensive specialist support to address learning gaps and develop cyp to move further towards the mainstream setting and their continued schooling.	Michelle White and Jane Hladun	CYP achieving and progressing as anticipated	Senior Team meetings	Spring 2014 term - open

	Ensure supervision sessions detail a focused review of caseloads and interventions discussed regarding cases of concern and ensure follow up in subsequent supervisions.	Cases are on target and interventions in place to address areas of issue; staff feel supported and assured of actions.	All staff	Pupils achieving	Supervision	Immediate and on going	
3. Establish key leadership areas at all levels to ensure best use of resources and the ability to provide outstanding service to the CYP in Lincolnshire	To ensure the service is up to date and informed in all aspects of the service provision key skills areas	To deliver excellent provision	All staff to identify with their support supervisor the agreed key area of specialism, how this will enhance service delivery and how this will be delivered	Immediate access to up to date information; CYP offered current highly skilled provision to aid learning.	Supervision and Performance Management	Review March 2014	

To enhance staff leadership skills through subject development and through Performance Management and peer observation and mentoring between staff to share expertise and build confidence in developing others	To provide a confident workforce, developing strong support relationships within the service and a strong learning environment.	All staff	Confident leads across the service	Supervision and Performance Management	Set out in October Performance Management and Review March 2014	Possible training in some areas
Senior staff to develop a strong performance management/appraisal structure and review targets regularly in supervision and at a 6 month review	met and	Senior Team	Effective Performance Management with successful outcomes for CYP	Supervision/ Performance Management/ Senior Meetings	October Performance Management and Review March 2014	
Support and develop new staff in their roles	Develop skilled new staff who feel valued and part of a strong team delivering a high standard of service.	All staff/Identified mentors and support supervisors	Qualified /skilled staff	Supervision Team Meetings Senior Meetings		

## Where and when is the service available?

- Children can be referred to the Sensory Education and Support Service by parents, Health professionals, early years settings and schools. Schools will need to obtain an initial assessment from a Health professional and parental consent prior to referring a pupil to the service (unless the service is already in place).
- The Service is available during term time only.

## Praise for the Sensory Education and Support Service

As a school, we feel 100% confident that when the (Sensory Education Service) teacher is involved the assertment of the problem will be rigorously investigated, liaiting with other agencies, sharing information to ensure the ery best outcome for the child. Parents are always full involved at all stages. Training opportunities and support for staff have been excellent enabling them to gain conclusion, knowing that there is always help at the end of the telephone.' - V Cox, SENCO, and all staff at Holton le Clay Infant School

'The support we have received from the sensory impaired service has been 'outstanding'. We could not have managed without the technical advice and training that the service has provided for our staff and perhaps even more importantly it has been delivered with a real understanding of the constraints placed on teachers within a classroom situation.' - **Stephen Tapley, Head Teacher, Issac Newton Primary School** 



'The input and training which we as a school have received has been second to none.' - **Caroline Bibby, SENCO, Sir Francis Hill School** 

'...Without this service our children would not have reached anything like their full potential. I am happy to recommend this service to any colleagues with Hearing Impaired children.' - Nick Redfern, Head Teacher, Redwood Primary School

'The service has been a fantastic support to myself, my son and his primary and future secondary school. Their involvement has been life changing for my son and he now gets the support he needs.' - **Parent** 

'Knowing the school can turn to the Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) for support and information is what will make it a little easier for us to let our daughter attend a mainstream school which might not be an option if there was no TOD.' - **Parent** 

Further information can be obtained from the Team Manager

Tel: 01522553368 E-mail: SESS@lincolnshire.gov.uk

# Sensory Education and Support Service





# What service can we offer you?

The Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) offers support and specialist teaching to children with a sensory impairment and aims to ensure that young people with a sensory loss gain access to their educational environment and make progression in order to raise aspirations and maximise their development.

Sensory Education and Support Service team has ensive experience of working in homes, early years tings and schools and can offer bespoke assistance to didren from birth to school leaving age, ensuring sistent involvement throughout a child's education. hyly skilled qualified teachers\* in the Sensory Education and Support Service provide support to a significant number of children with a sensory impairment in Lincolnshire.

The following services are available to Lincolnshire County Council Maintained Schools, Academies and Early Years Settings on a needs led basis:

#### Support for Children and Young People

- Direct Teaching
- Communication support including British Sign Language, Braille teaching, Touch Typing and Auditory/Oral teaching delivered by trained specialist teachers
- A dedicated Children's Education and Mobility Rehabilitation Officer for visually impaired children
- Specialist Early Years and School Years Teaching Assistants
- A Resource and Technical Officer for visually impaired children



## Support for Teachers, Other Professionals and Parents/Carers

- Specialist assessment and analysis of sensory support needs
- Advice, guidance and help to parents/carers in delivering support strategies
- Training for teachers and support staff working directly with pupils with sensory support needs on using specialist equipment, developing appropriate teaching resources, and supporting and monitoring progress
- Advice on suitable cost effective equipment that will meet individual needs and aid access to learning. This includes loan of equipment
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of specialist equipment
- Advice on access arrangements and special considerations for external examinations
- Bespoke and general advice and training for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs), Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs), Govenors and all other staff (individual or small groups).

\*All Sensory Education and Support Service qualified teachers also hold a further mandatory qualification that ensures assessment and support quality is of a nationally recognised standard.

We support families, early years settings and schools to give children with hearing impairments the opportunity to aghieve their full potential alongside their friends.



Further information can be obtained from the Team Manager

Tel: 01522 553368 E-mail: SESS@lincolnshire.gov.uk



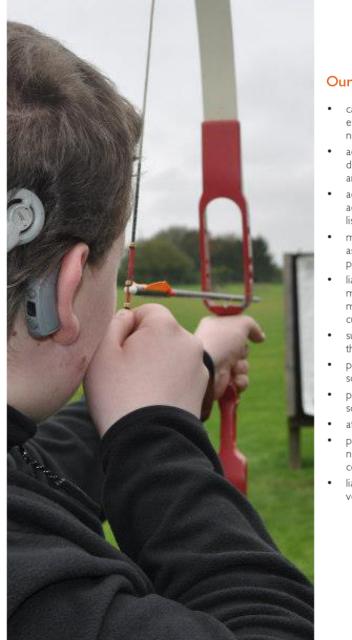
The Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) includes a team of qualified teachers who are Qualified Teachers of Hearing Impaired children, Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants and School Years Teaching Assistants who have been trained to support children with hearing impairments of all ages, in a variety of settings.

# hat do we do?

We upport pre-school children at home and in early year's settings monitoring and promoting the development of functional hearing by providing on-going advice to parents on what toys, equipment and strategies to use to develop attention and listening skills, and all forms of communication. We can also advise and support early years staff so that they can provide a stimulating environment and appropriate activities for the child.

#### We support primary and secondary school children

planning for the child's transition into the school setting with parents and teachers. Our support includes advising and liaising with school staff to ensure that the child can access the curriculum alongside their peers by using their preferred communication mode and specialist equipment, including hearing aids, cochlear implant processors and FM radio hearing aids.



#### Our continuing support includes:

- carrying out functional hearing tests and interpreting and explaining the results to parents, the special educational needs coordinator, class teacher and other professionals
- advising on any necessary specialist equipment and demonstrating its best and safe use to enable the child full and equal access to the curriculum
- advising on modifications to classrooms to improve acoustic conditions so that the hearing impaired child can listen more comfortably
- monitoring language development by using specialist assessments so that we can provide teaching programmes and/or strategies for language development
- liaising with and advising staff about classroom management and supporting school staff to develop materials at the appropriate language level to enable curriculum access
- supporting and advising any support staff working with the child
- providing deaf awareness training for peer groups in school
- providing ongoing assessments, reports and advice for schools and parents
- attending reviews and all associated meetings
- providing training courses on school premises, or at named venues, for teachers, assistants, special needs coordinators, headteachers etc.
- liaising with other Local Authority agencies and also with voluntary organisations

We support families, early years settings and schools to give children with visual impairments the opportunity to aghieve their full potential alongside their friends.



Further information can be obtained from the Team Manager

Tel: 01522 553368 E-mail: SESS@lincolnshire.gov.uk



The Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) includes a team of qualified teachers who are also Qualified Teachers of Visually Impaired children, an Educational Rehabilitation and Mobility Officer, Resource and Technical Officer and Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants who have been trained to support children with visual impairments of all ages, in a variety of settings. The team provides specialist advice and support to parents, early years staff and teachers and works with other professionals, including medical staff, voluntary agencies and governors etc. across Lincolnshire.

# V#hat do we do?

We support pre-school children at home and in early years settings monitoring and promoting the development of functional vision by providing on-going advice to parents on what toys, equipment and strategies to use to stimulate vision or to develop tactile (touch) abilities. We can also advise and support early years staff so that they can provide a stimulating environment and appropriate activities for the child.

#### We support primary and secondary school children

**planning** for the child's transition into the school setting with parents and teachers. This may involve advising the school about safety and any modifications that need to be made to the premises, and providing extra opportunities for the child to become familiar with the school environment.



#### Our continuing support includes:

- carrying out functional vision tests and interpreting and explaining the results to parents, the special educational needs coordinator, class teacher and other professionals
- liaising with and advising staff about classroom management, alterations to text/materials and curriculum access
- providing teaching programmes for Braille, touch typing and use of magnification and screen reading software to meet individual children's needs
- supporting and advising any support staff working with the child
- providing mobility training, including long cane, for children with severe sight impairment
- providing ongoing assessments, reports and advice for schools and parents
- attending reviews and all associated meetings
- providing visual impairment awareness training for peer groups in school
- advising on any necessary specialist equipment and demonstrating its best and safe use to enable the child full and equal access to the curriculum
- providing training courses on school premises, or at named venues, for teachers, assistants, special needs coordinators, headteachers etc.
- liaising with other Local Authority Agencies and also with voluntary organisations

We support families, early years settings and schools to give children with multisensory impairments the opportunity to achieve their full potential alongside their friends.

# Multi Sensory Impairment

The Sensory Education and Support Service

Further information can be obtained from the Team Manager

Tel: 01522 553368 E-mail: SESS@lincolnshire.gov.uk



A multi-sensory impairment is a vision and hearing impairment with additional difficulties, this impacts on a child's access to the environment and how to develop effective communication.

The team of specialist teachers who work for the Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) include a Qualified Teacher of Multi-Sensory Impaired Children who works to meet the individual needs of children of all ages, from diagnosis to when they leave school; giving advice and support in the child's home, pre-school and in educational setters. The Qualified Teacher of Multi-Sensory Impaired Children and SESS Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants work together with other teams who have been traised to support children with sensory impairments of all age. We work to support children in a variety of settings and foster close links with education, health, support groups, voluntary agencies and other professionals.

### What do we do?

We support pre-school children at home and in early years settings by monitoring and promoting the development of functional vision and hearing and tactile skills, advising on toys, equipment and strategies to use to stimulate the senses and encourage overall development and communication. We can also advise and support early years staff so that they can provide a stimulating environment and appropriate activities for the child.

We support primary and secondary school children by working closely with the school staff to ensure the greatest possible access to the curriculum for the multisensory impaired pupil. The frequency of the visits and degree of involvement will depend on their level of need.



#### Our continuing support includes:

- Assessments of functional vision and hearing and tactile skills, explaining results and implications to the school staff, parents and other professionals
- Advice on the listening and visual environment, hearing aid maintenance, eye conditions and visual/auditory aids
- Advice on modes of communication and ways to develop
   effective communication
- The provision of individual programmes and materials to develop communication and access to the environment and curriculum
- Contribution to Annual Reviews
- Attending reviews and all associated meetings
- Continued links with families to ensure they remain fully informed and to discuss the different challenges they may encounter as their children progress through their school life
- The provision of training for school staff so they understand the problems and how best to minimise them liaising with other Local Authority agencies and also with voluntary organisations

# **Contact us**

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To help us to help you, please use the most appropriate web address or phone number for the service you need

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# PORTRAIT OF AN EXPLORER legendary Joseph Banks – page 11

**CHEERS TO COUNTY BEERS** Microbrewers craft perfect pint **MORE SUPPORT FOR CARERS** Help available to young and old





## Leader's welcome...

#### After a long, stormy winter, it's always lovely when spring arrives and we can look forward to (hopefully!) calmer weather ahead.

I feel sure that positive outlook also applies to the improving economic climate, despite all the challenges that still lie ahead.

As we explain on the opposite page, this council's budget for the financial year starting on 1 April has frozen our share of the council tax for a record fourth successive time

We're also continuing to protect essential services and invest for the future in major capital projects such as the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and superfast broadband.

Despite that, we're on track to save £148m over the four years to March 2015, and are looking to find future savings through a fundamental review of our services.

In other words – and although times remain difficult - it's a case of "so far, so good" for this council as we adapt to the new financial realities.

Still on a positive note. I'm delighted that this County

News highlights the wonderful work of Lincolnshire's apport of a positive note, find dengified that this Courly apport of the serving of both our recognition and port, with more help than ever before now available through the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers And the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers

Elsewhere in this spring edition, we meet a foster couple whose lives changed for ever when they gave a loving home to four siblings. We also meet a young girl thriving at school after being helped to overcome hearing loss.

For adults, County News looks at the opportunities offered by lifelong learning to residents wanting to add a new interest or skill to their lives. With Adult Learners' Week approaching, what better time to enrol on one of the many courses on offer?

Finally, as we all start to get out more, County News celebrates the ongoing popularity of the Wolds Walking Festival, now in its 10th year, and meets two museum officers behind a fascinating exhibition at The Collection in Lincoln.

We also invite you to join the council at our stand at the 130<sup>th</sup> Lincolnshire Show, with four family tickets up for grabs in our fabulous prize draw.

Hell

Cllr Martin Hill OBE Leader of Lincolnshire County Council

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Tel: 01522 782060 Email: countynews@lincolnshire.gov.uk By post: County News, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL. Online: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countynews Editor: David Harding, communications officer Managing editor: Karen Spencer, communications manager Design: Moonraker Media

Front cover: The famous Lincolnshire botanist and explorer Sir Joseph Banks is the subject of a new exhibition at The Collection in Lincoln. Portrait by Benjamin West, photographed by Neil Lamont

#### MORE INFORMATION

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# **Lincolnshire news round-up**

# Council tax frozen again

There was good news for Lincolnshire and child protection. residents when the county council froze its share of the council tax for a record fourth year running.

The freeze came despite the need for additional savings of £80-90m at the authority in the years ahead, on top of the £148m it has already found.

Council leader Cllr Martin Hill said: "We felt it was important we did this for our residents, as we know many are struggling to balance their own household budgets in these difficult economic times."

The freeze has been made possible by a government grant made available for that purpose, as well as the council's plan to draw sensibly on its reserves this year and next.

As well as pegging council tax, the authority's budget again protects frontline services, particularly those that ensure public safety, such as fire and rescue, winter gritting and road maintenance.

in major capital projects, such as the Lincoln Eastern Bypass, the Grantham Southern Relief Road and the roll-out of superfast broadband.

For the future, Cllr Hill said: "We're looking again at services to find new ways of making each pound of taxpayers' money go further and achieve more both on our own and with others.

"It's by finding imaginative solutions that we'll ensure we can continue to provide essential services for all Lincolnshire's 718,000 residents."

For more information on the council's finances, please visit www.lincoln shire.gov.uk/finance.

Editor's note: Although Lincolnshire County Council has frozen its share of the council tax, the total amount you pay will depend on the levels set by your district and parish/town councils, as well as the police.



#### Is your child starting school for the first time or transferring to secondary school in September 2015?

If so, from 1 May, you can see the admission arrangements that affect your application at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation.

Parents have a legal right to object to the schools adjudicator if they believe any arrangements are unlawful - this is explained on the website. For more information, email schooladmissions@lincolnshire. gov.uk or phone 01522 782030.



recycle

There will also be continued investment



## Don't lose your vote!

Lincolnshire residents are being urged to ensure they are registered to vote in the European elections.

They take place on Thursday 22 May, along with any other elections needing to be held on that day.

All households received registration forms between October and December last year, which should have been completed and sent back to your local council.

Alternatively, a registration form is available on the Electoral Commission website at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

The deadline for registering is Tuesday 6 May. For organising a postal vote, it is Wednesday 7 May, while for proxy votes it is 14 May.

Please call your local authority for further information:

City of Lincoln Council **Boston Borough Council** East Lindsey District Council North Kesteven District Council South Holland District Council South Kesteven District Council West Lindsey District Council

01522 873439 01205 314220 01507 601111 01529 308238 01775 761161 01476 406080 01427 676628/676575



## Changing young lives

Young people are being invited to sign up for a lifechanging Prince's Trust course.

Run locally by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, it offers people aged 16 to 25 a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop essential skills.

Team members enjoy a 12-week personal development programme, involving action-packed outdoor activities like caving and climbing, team challenges, community work, a job placement and careers guidance.

Many participants come from disadvantaged backgrounds and the course helps turn their lives around. Almost three-quarters of those taking part go on to jobs, training or education within three G months.

Φ For full details, including how to apply, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr or call 01522 582285.

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#### Your help is needed for a project remembering lives lost to war.

Lincolnshire has thousands of war memorials. We pass them every day but sometimes know little of the sacrifices they represent, the people and stories behind the names, or the impact their loss had on our communities.

Now, the Lincolnshire Remembrance: Memories and Memorials project is working to ensure these monuments - and the lives they honour - aren't consigned to history. But it needs your help.

"We need people with local knowledge to research and tell us about the memorials they see. These monuments come in all shapes and sizes and we'd like to hear about any type and for any conflict," says project officer Cathryn Pike.

The information you collect will help create a searchable online database and interactive map of memorials' locations, names and stories.

Visit www.lincstothepast.com/warmemorials or contact warmemorials@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



# Who's your local hero?

There's still time to nominate your "unsung heroes" - those local volunteers who are always helping others, without ever seeking recognition for themselves.

But please hurry: the closing date for nominations for Lincolnshire County Council's Good Citizens Awards is Friday 25 April.

As always, we're inviting entries for Citizen of the Year. Young Citizen of the Year (aged 18 or below) and Community Group of the Year.

For the first time, we also have a category for the Couple / Pair of the Year, recognising the achievements of "dynamic duos"!

The winners will all be treated to a VIP day at the Lincolnshire Show, together with a guest, as well as a cash prize and a framed certificate.

For more information, or to make a nomination online, visit www. lincolnshire.gov.uk/goodcitizensaward.

Alternatively, send your contact details and those of the person you're nominating, along with a description of the voluntary work they've done, to: Lincolnshire County Council

PDP 17 – Communications Freepost RSTY-UXJB-ARHK County Offices, Newland, LINCOLN, LN1 1YL More information is available on 01522 552118.

### Could you be a Dementia Friend?

"Dementia is just old people losing their memories and there's nothing we can do to help ... " - right? Wrong!

That's just one of many myths about dementia that Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers Partnership (LCYCP) are keen to combat.

Together, they are backing Dementia Friends, an Alzheimer's Society initiative to raise awareness and improve the quality of life for those with dementia.

A Dementia Friend is someone who attends a free, one-hour information session - run locally by the LCYCP - and then turns their understanding into a practical action, however small, that could help someone.

Workshops are also being held to bring carers together with professionals on a social basis, sharing information and concerns.

For details of Dementia Friends, including helpful videos, visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk or www.lincolnshire. gov.uk/dementia.

To find out about the workshops, contact

clive@lincscarerspartnership.net or phone 01522 846911.

#### Prestigious awards celebrating activities that help the local environment are up for grabs again this year.

The Lincolnshire Environmental Awards were originally launched by Lindum Rotary Club and are also supported by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

They aim to improve and protect the environment of the county (including North and North East Lincolnshire) and raise awareness.

The adult competition has three categories - Community, Business and Agriculture/Rural Enterprise - all open to individuals or groups. There is also a Young Environmentalist Award for children aged 13 or under.

For more information, and to submit your entry online, please visit www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk, but please note the closing date is 30 April.

Entries will be assessed by an expert panel, and finalists will be invited to the main judging event, held at the Bentlev Hotel in Lincoln on Thursday 3 July and led by environmentalist Dr David Bellamy. The awards will be presented at a gala dinner that evening.

For more information, visit the website.

email rogerpavey@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01673 885516.

# Help for rural areas



people in rural areas.

revitalise or create vital services like a with no more than 5.000 people. village post office or shop.

The cash support – known as a Rural up to 50% of the total cost, for projects Gain Grant - can pay for all kind of improving access to vital local services. business improvements or innovations.

They include things like new lighting, refrigeration or shelving, or perhaps Transportation group@lincolnshire. internet facilities or local produce counters. gov.uk or visit www.lincolnshire.gov. Grants can also help businesses uk/ruralgaingrant.

The loss of essential local services diversify – for example, into home deliveries **can have a devastating impact on** – or to improve their security or energy use. The scheme is open to rural retail That's why Lincolnshire County Council businesses and community groups offers help to communities keen to based in Lincolnshire villages and towns Grants are between £250 and £10,000, For more information, call

01522 782070, email

## Honouring environmental excellence

peciality lettuce producer J.E. Piccaver & Co, from ey Marsh, won last year's Rural Enterprise award.

## Take to the sea with the RSPB

What could be better than a boat trip to spot all kinds of different birds and wildlife?

That's what's on offer again from the South Lincs RSPB, who have lined up 14 birdwatching cruises into the Wash estuary and River Welland.

Each cruise aboard the Boston Belle leaves Boston's Grand Sluice Lock, returning four or five hours later.

In 2013, more than 105 different species of bird were seen, an average of 64 per cruise. Seals are also visible on most cruises on the exposed mudbanks.

This year's sailing programme starts on 25 April and continues until 16 October.

The cost for RSPB members is £17-50 (under 16s £9-50), with non-members paying £20 (under 16s £10-50). Refreshments and toilet facilities are available.

**Further details are available at www.rspb.** org.uk/groups/southlincolnshire. Tickets for each cruise are essential - the agent is the South Holland Centre in Spalding on 01775 764777 or visit www.southhollandcentre.co.uk.





## Not sure – don't open the door!



With spring now here, Lincolnshire Trading Standards are reminding residents to be wary of unexpected visitors offering home improvement services.

Principal trading standards officer Lisa Foster said: "Not all doorstep sellers are boous, but some can be unscrupulous.

"I'm urging everyone who knows or cares for a vulnerable or elderly person to make sure they are aware of their rights when it comes to doorstep approaches.

"No-one should feel pressured into making a rash decision. If in doubt, take time to research

the company and think about the offer. Above all, never be afraid to say no."

If you, or someone you know, has been approached by a doorstep seller offering to carry out work you think is suspicious, contact the Citizens Advice Bureau on 08454 04 05 06.

If you feel threatened in your home, call Lincolnshire Police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999.

For tips on tackling doorstep crime,

visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/doorstepcrime.



It was held following the death of former councillor Chris Underwood-Frost, who served the area for 12 years. Cllr Rollings attracted 726 of the 1,486 votes cast. The turnout was 22.7%.

New

councillor

Liberal Democrat

Leslev Rollings has

ioined the ranks of

Lincolnshire County

Council after winning

the Scotter Rural by-

election.

elected

Lincolnshire County Council has 77 elected members -35 Conservatives, 12 Labour, 10 UKIP, seven Lincolnshire Independents, six UKIP Lincolnshire, four Liberal Democrats and three Independents.

To find your local councillor,

visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/localdemocracy or phone 01522 782060.

#### NOTICE OF MINIMUM NUMBER OF THE ELECTORATE REQUIRED TO PETITION FOR A REFERENDUM FOR AN ELECTED MAYOR

Under the Local Government Act 2000 and under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, one of the things we have to do by law is let above) and delivered to a council's 'principal office'. people know about their right to ask for a referendum if they want an elected mayor to manage their council. We also have to tell you the numbers needed for a valid petition.

۵, If 5% of the number of people on the local electoral register submit a petition asking for a referendum for an Ω elected mayor, then the local council must hold a referendum in their area. We have listed the numbers of people the 5% equates to in each council district in Lincolnshire, as well as the total for Lincolnshire County Council – these figures apply from February 2014.

		5% (rounded)
a.	Boston Borough	2441
b.	East Lindsey	5282
C.	City of Lincoln	3203
d.	North Kesteven	4228
e.	South Holland	3491
f.	South Kesteven	5405
g.	West Lindsey	3695
ĥ.	Lincolnshire	27745

These figures will be used to check the validity of any petition received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 or any earlier date required by Government Regulation.

Every year we publish the 5% figures and remind you of your right to tell us in a petition that you would like a referendum.

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www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countynews

The petition must be signed by the correct number e. of people (using the 5% figures for your district listed

Do not forget that in Lincolnshire you have two 'principal offices' - your local District Council and f Lincolnshire County Council. If you want a referendum for both, petitions need to be completed and sent to both.

The addresses for the Councils in Lincolnshire are:-

- Boston Chief Executive. Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincs, PE21 8QR. Tel: 01205 314200 (www.boston.gov.uk)
- East Lindsey Chief Executive, East Lindsey District Council. Tedder Hall. Manby Park, Louth, Lincs, LN11 8UP. Tel: 01507 601111(www.e-lindsey.gov.uk)
- **City of Lincoln** Chief Executive and Town Clerk, City of Lincoln Council, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, Lincs, LN1 1DD. Tel: 01522 881188 (www.lincoln.gov.uk)
- North Kesteven Chief Executive. North Kesteven District Council. Council Offices. Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7EF. Tel: 01529 414155 (www.n-kesteven.gov.uk)

South Holland – Interim Chief Executive. South Holland District Council, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 2XE. Tel: 01775 761161 (www.sholland.gov.uk)

South Kesteven – Chief Executive South Kesteven District Council, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 6PZ. Tel: 01476 406080 (www.southkesteven.gov.uk)

- West Lindsey Chief Executive, a. West Lindsey District Council, Guildhall, Marshalls Yard, Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 2NA, Tel: 01427 676676 (www.west-lindsey.gov.uk)
- Lincolnshire Chief Executive. Lincolnshire County Council. County Offices. Newland, Lincoln, Lincs, LN1 1YL, Tel: 01522 552222 (www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Tony McArdle Chief Executive Lincolnshire County Council



# A perfect match

#### A foster couple gave a loving home to four siblings – and life was never the same again!

John Eedle, who, with wife Helen, has been fostering for over 10 years, providing a home for 25 children.

At the start, although they had been working towards becoming foster carers, they put it on hold when Helen became pregnant.

However, when asked if they'd consider fostering a group of two sisters and two brothers, they agreed - and life was never the same again!

John, from Alvingham, near Louth, explained: "Having a large sibling group suited us. We recognised the bond they have. They'd been split up before, and it had a big impact on them.

"Also, Helen and I enjoy a busy family life. When everyone gets involved it creates a spirit of unity - it's a wonderful thing."

Since then, they've had four children of their own and fostered

"Fostering is a lifestyle - not a job," says several others. The four siblings went on to live sure I got a lot of additional help. with them for 10 years.

> One of the sisters was Theresa Doughty, aged 11 at the time. John said of Theresa: "She'd been through a lot and felt responsibility for her brothers and sister. We had to bring her back to enjoying her childhood."

> Theresa, now 22, has just graduated in Early Childhood Studies and found a secure job as a pre-school supervisor. She also rents her own home, close to the couple she still

calls "Mum and Dad". She credits them with a lot of her achievements, saying: "When I went to live with them. I was starting secondary school but found it very difficult. I was diagnosed with dyslexia, but they supported me and made

"I caught up at school, and they fought for me to get support to do my GCSEs. I passed 11, including 10 with A to C grades."

During college and university. Theresa remained with John and Helen, thanks to the Staying Put scheme, piloted in Lincolnshire, which enables young people to continue in foster care until 21.

"It was ideal for me to stay at home," said Theresa, "It meant I didn't have a lot of upheaval, and I was able to volunteer at a nursery, which really helped with my course and future job prospects."

"Being fostered by John and Helen was the most positive thing that could have happened to me. They matched us up perfectly, and they are my family."

For more about fostering, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 093 3099.

> JUMPING FOR JOY: Helen and John Eedle, second and third left, with foster children Ray. Duncan and Theresa (fourth sibling Kathryn couldn't be there on the day).

# The right care at the right time

A major review is underway in Lincolnshire to find better ways of providing essential health and social care services. closer to your home

Imagine having one local health and social care team to support you when and where you need it, with no more being passed from pillar to post. Too good to be true? Don't be so sure!

The idea is being seriously considered as part of a wide-ranging review of services currently underway in Lincolnshire.

Under the concept, "neighbourhood teams" would be set up in local areas, bringing together professionals such as social workers, GPs, therapists and community nurses.

That would be much better for residents, who would get the right  $\mathbf{U}$ are at the right time, and be less likely to need a stay in hospital. A more co-ordinated approach could also ease presures on Tousy A&E departments, which have been struggling to cope with Hevels of demand.

#### Local partnership

The Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review (LSSR), launched last year, is being driven by a local partnership including GPs, community services, hospitals and social care leaders.

It is looking at a range of ways to co-ordinate and improve services for the future, and bring them closer to the county's 718.000 residents.

The review also aims to ensure that services are sustainable in the years ahead - a time when demand will be increasing as a result of Lincolnshire's growing elderly population.

Director of public health Dr Tony Hill says: "We have a unique chance to create together a system that really works for local people.

"In many cases, that could mean residents with health needs being treated locally and then supported to return home, rather than being passed between agencies and perhaps ending up in hospital.

"This common-sense approach - based on 'prevention is better than cure' - is not only good for local people, it also makes financial sense."

#### **Different approach**

Lincolnshire currently has a high rate of long-term conditions like heart disease and cancer, putting a real strain on healthcare services. A recent national report into hospitals also showed we need to do things very differently to meet people's needs.

Only eight months after it started, the review has progressed far enough to start looking in detail at how improved arrangements could work across our large rural county.

Over the coming months, there will be further engagement with the public on any proposals. Decisions on the way ahead could be reached before the end of 2014.

Supporting vou back to health at home

> The right treatment or care in the right place

Your neighbourhood team working together for the whole community

Good

health for

all the

family

Picking up possible health or care problems before they arise

> Early health intervention or care planning

**Tackling the** problem



#### Neighbourhood teams

One of the ideas emerging from the review involves new neighbourhood teams, bringing together professionals such as social workers, GPs, therapists and community nurses.

The benefits of having a neighbourhood team in your local area would be:

- You would get co-ordinated support in the local community – when you need it.
- There would be less need for stays in hospitals, freeing them up to deal with serious accidents, emergencies and specialist services.

#### About the review

- The Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review is a radical review of health and social care in the county.
- The initiative is being driven by professionals across the county in consultation with the public.
- It aims through a more co-ordinated approach - to achieve better health and social care services, closer to residents' homes.

#### Having your say

As detailed proposals from the review are developed there will be opportunities for people to give their views.

To find out more or to get involved, please email lssr@lincolnshire.gov.uk or phone 01522 718051.

# **Poppy is blooming!**

A little Grantham girl is overcoming hearing loss to thrive at school, thanks to specialist support

children can fulfil their potential – including those with hearing or visual impairments.

Last year, it increased the budget for the Sensory Education of staff, all committed to giving the right support as early as possible.

One child who has benefited is five-year-old Poppy Smith, from Grantham, who was diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss at just four weeks old.

Despite that, she took the big step last year of starting at Harlaxton CE Primary School - a proud moment for mum Katy!

She said: "Poppy has worn hearing aids since she was four months old, and now tries to put them on herself in the morning. She has sparkly ones with hearts on, and loves to show them off!"

SESS peripatetic teacher Sally Malloy was with the family when they received Poppy's diagnosis and has worked closely with them ever since.

s always on the end of a phone. She Katy said: "Sally visits regularly and

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We've had so much support. Without it, Poppy wouldn't be so confident. She wouldn't be who she is.

Lincolnshire County Council has always ensured that all suggested activities to help Poppy's development - for example, playing with soft farm animal toys and encouraging her to make the right noises."

Sally and a specialist teaching assistant worked with Poppy for and Support Service (SESS) by 30%. It now employs 22 members two sessions a week when she started school, helping her adapt to life in the playground and classroom.

They also suggested practical measures the school could put in place, such as reducing background noise and amplifying her teacher's voice.

> Katy said: "Poppy is progressing so well at school that Sally feels she doesn't need the additional sessions any more. She will continue to monitor Poppy's progress and, if any issues arise, auickly step in to help." She added: "It is lovely to feel we have people to lean on. We've had so much support. Without it, Poppy wouldn't be so confident. She wouldn't be who she is."

Besides SESS, Katy was supported by Sensory Impairment Lincolnshire County Services (SILCS), which helped the family find social activities. To contact SESS, phone 01522 553368, For SILCS, call 01522 848295. The family have also set up a group called Hear 4 Kidz. in Bottesford, for families with hearing impaired children aged up to 12. They meet regularly, enjoy outings, have guest speakers and are affiliated to the National Deaf Children's Society. Search for Hear 4 Kidz on Facebook.

# Bringing the past to life

Ancient artefacts and modern masterpieces are all part of daily life for The Collection's Andrea Martin and Dawn Heywood

Located at the very heart of Lincoln's cultural guarter, the award-winning museum and art gallery attract about 120.000 visitors each year.

And it falls to Andrea and Dawn (pictured left and right) to take care of the many items on display, as well as creating exciting exhibitions to keep people coming back.

Most recently, the two collections access officers helped stage the current major exhibition celebrating the great Lincolnshire explorer, naturalist and botanist. Sir Joseph Banks.

The show is run in partnership with the Sir Joseph Banks Society, which approached Andrea with the idea last year.

"People often don't realise how much work goes into putting on an exhibition of this size." she said.

"The first stage is to create a plan of how you're going to lead visitors through the story, what you'll need in terms of exhibits, and where everything will go.

"And then you need to find the funding to make it a reality."

The museum successfully bid for £140,000 of Heritage Lottery funding, which helped pay for the specialist display cases needed for the more fragile exhibits and the cost of transporting items to Lincoln.

The exhibition centres on Benjamin West's portrait of the explorer surrounded

There was the added pressure of having Sir David Attenborough opening the show!

by artefacts he brought back to England after he'd accompanied James Cook on his first Pacific Ocean voyage aboard the Endeavour between 1768 and 1771.

"One of the hardest parts was bringing together exhibits from all around the country," added Dawn.

"Much of the material will rarely have been seen in Lincolnshire before, and it is a great privilege for us to borrow objects and drawings from many museums across the country, including the British Library,



Museum, University of Oxford.

"Examples include a cloak from New Zealand and a headdress from Tahiti. along with original drawings by artists of the people, plants and animals they saw on the journey.

"Then, before you can put anything on display, you have to go through the process of preparing the exhibition space. installing display cases and temporary walls, and writing the text to go alongside the objects.

"It's always tense in the run-up to opening, as you rush to get the finishing touches done in time. "And this time there was the added opening the show!"

"Joseph Banks, A Great Endeavour: a Lincolnshire Gentleman and his Legacy" runs at The Collection until 11 May, and is complemented by a series of family activity days and lectures.

For more on offer at The Collection which comprises both an awardwinning archaeology museum and the Usher Gallery – please visit www.thecollectionmuseum.com.

A behind-the-scenes interview with Dawn about the latest exhibition is available to view at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ countvnews.

# More support for carers

#### A new-look service is giving a voice to Lincolnshire's 85.000 unpaid carers, both young and old

#### Adults and young people caring for loved ones are being encouraged to ask for a whole range of help and advice now available.

One carer who has benefited is Terry Hill, from 1998, following her treatment for cancer and a the service for the future. heart attack.

He had struggled on without help for many years Getting involved while living in Wales and Cyprus - partly, he now admits, because of pride.

Then, on their recent return to the county, Terry orealised that the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers Partnership (LCYCP) offered all kinds of Osupport. That has enabled him to help Pat, 70, Leven more effectively. U "I didn't realise what support was out there," said

Terry. "But life has been much easier since I 
Mental health workshops across the county discovered the LCYCP and had an assessment.

"It's a fantastic one-stop shop for any problem or query, and their emergency plan gave us priceless peace of mind."

Terry, 66, adds: "I've also joined carers' working groups - talking to others in a similar boat has been so helpful.

It's predicted that, over the next 30 years, three in five people will be carers during their lives, with many treated for stress and other mental and lincolnshire.gov.uk/county physical conditions.

With that in mind, the LCYCP has been re-launched with a new board and staff to ensure it is really run "by carers, for carers".

As well as providing advice and putting on Holton-le-Clay, who has looked after wife Pat since events, it is gathering carers' views to help shape

"The only way to predict the future for Lincolnshire carers is to create it" - that's the message from the LCYCP as it invites carers to local events, including:

- Lincolnshire's Inaugural Carers Conference on 30 May at The Showroom, Tritton Road, Lincoln. Of 150 places, 100 are open to carers. Organisations providing support will also be there.
- from March to September. Carers are invited to have their say, helping increase professionals' understanding of the importance of good mental health for carers and improved referrals.

For information and to book places, e-mail info@lincscarerspartner ship.net or call 01522 846911.

Further details are at www. news



#### Helping through hindsight

A former carer says others can benefit from her experience after she was made an MBE for services to carers.

Pauline Mountain (left), from Timberland, near Woodhall Spa, is chair of the LCYCP, which leads a number of help and advice networks.

Until his death in 2008, she cared for husband Gordon, but admits she "just got on with it".

Now Pauline says: "I wish I'd known then what I do now. That's why I've dedicated my time since my husband's death to helping carers find support - they need it to continue caring for their loved one to the best of their abilities."

She adds: "It's a precious gift to care for someone, but sometimes we need a little support as well

#### **Young Carers** Count!

Across Lincolnshire, young carers are helping to look after loved ones, often juggling family responsibilities with school or college.

Estimates suggest there are 6,000 in the county, who often take on practical or emotional support normally associated with an adult.

Lincolnshire Young Carers



Count is a service provided by charity Spurgeons, which supports young carers and young adult carers up to the age of 25 through funding from the county council.

They include Jess, 11, (above) from the Lincoln area, who regularly attends one of the young carer groups offering support, friendship and activities.

Jess helps look after mum Liz, who suffers from sclerosis of the spine and other physical ailments.

With dad lan often working long hours to support the family, Jess measures out medication, cooks meals, helps her mum get ready for bed and listens out in the night.

Jess explains: "Caring for my mum can sometimes be hard but being able to speak with Spurgeons whenever I need has really made a difference.

"The group with other young carers is also really fun and it's good to get out. It's definitely helped make my life a bit easier."

For more about Jess's caring role, visit www.lincolnshire. gov.uk/countynews.

#### How to get support

#### Adults

For general information, including details of support groups, courses and events, email info@lincscarerspartner ship.net or phone 01522 846911.

For an assessment or informal chat, email carers team@ lincolnshire.gov.uk or phone 01522 782224.

#### Young carers

Please visit www.spurgeonsyc.org or phone 01205 331322.



Learning for life

#### Don't let young people have all the fun – learning is for everyone!

Whatever your age, you're never too old. Whatever your goals, you Can achieve them.

That's the message from Community Learning in Lincolnshire in the runup to Adult Learners' Week, which takes place this year from 17 to 23 May. As always, a wide range of activities at libraries and other venues will be inspiring people to return to learning and improve their lives.

But why wait until May? All kinds of opportunities are available now at daytime and evening courses across Lincolnshire.

What's more, depending on the course and your circumstances, there may even be financial help for things like equipment, transport and childcare.

The council's deputy leader, Cllr Mrs Patricia Bradwell, who has responsibility for lifelong learning, says: "Everyone has their own reason for thinking about returning to learning.

"Some people want support with English or maths, or to be able to help their children with their homework.

"Others are keen to update their skills or have a career change, or perhaps just to meet people and enjoy a new interest.

"You can get whatever you want out of learning - at whatever age you choose - so why not find out what's on offer in your area?"

For detailed information about all the lifelong learning opportunities in Lincolnshire, or to download the current Learner Handbook, visit www.2aspire.org.uk.

You can also follow us on Twitter @learninglincs, or call the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782011.

#### Life after "brain mush"!

One resident who has really benefited from further learning is single mum Polly Jackson, 29, from Lincoln.

this

She gave up full-time work as a support worker for autistic adults following the birth of her son. Matthew, now six, followed by daughter Esther, two.

"I loved being at home with the kids, but there was never anything for me as an adult," Polly (pictured right) recalls. "I felt my brain was going to mush!"

That's when Polly began to balance family life with further learning, starting with an Open Door confidence-building course.

Then – making the most of free childcare and family-friendly times at local children's centre - she took Healthy Living. Seasonal Crafts and Understanding Child Development.

Polly has now joined the parents' forum at Lincoln Central Children's Centre, helped by a course in committee work, which is also useful to her as chairperson of the local NCT. For the future, Polly wants to encourage others to make the most of learning, and plans to enrol in an Introductory Teaching course at Lincoln College.

She says: "I'd really advise people to make the most of courses in their area. For parents, the ones at children's centres are great because they're in school hours.'

# Making his Marc

#### Within a year of joining Lincolnshire County Council, Cllr Marc Jones was back-up to the leader on a range of important issues

I am a firm believer in taking action if you operates across the board. want to see improvements in your local May 2013.

A previous spell on City of Lincoln Council had prepared me to a certain extent for what to expect, but the challenge of dealing with issues from across the whole county is a big difference.

Despite that, the most important things are still the same - the bottom line is that, as a councillor, you are elected to represent people in your division, not to sit in meetings.

I am the support councillor for the county council leader, Cllr Martin Hill, and this has been a very interesting area of work. Finance is a key part of his portfolio and covers all services, so this has given me a good understanding of how the council including one for children with behavioural

These tough economic times have led

community, which is why I stood for public sector organisations - councils, election to Lincolnshire County Council in health organisations, the police and so on - to work harder at delivering services together. I believe this will leave us all in a stronger position now the economy is picking up.

I spend roughly half the working week on council matters, which include a lot of reading, attending briefings, meetings and, of course, dealing with local issues. I juggle these responsibilities with running my own business advising people on property issues.

In addition to spending time with my wife, like to play a part in community issues.

I am a governor at two local schools,

HIGH FLIER: CIIr Marc Jones is fundraising for the Lincolnshire Bomber **Command Memorial.** 

challenges, and I enjoy visiting Strut House (for children with a disability) where I am the visiting member for the county council.

Outside work, I have signed up for Tough Mudder, a 12-mile charity assault course in London at the end of April. Proceeds will go to the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial fund.

To support this cause, please text 70070 LBCM55 £ with the amount you wish to donate, or visit my online justgiving page http://www.justgiving.com/Marc-Jones11.

Marc represents Lincoln Bracebridge on Lincolnshire County Council and, Rachel, and my five-year-old daughter in addition to being the leader's support Tabitha, who I take to school every day, I councillor, sits on the planning and regulation committee. To contact him, call 07818 508106 or email cllrm.jones@ lincolnshire.gov.uk.



# **Lincolnshire lifesavers**

#### Dedicated Coastwatch volunteers are the eyes and ears of two local communities, protecting both human and marine life

Lost children, dangerous floating debris, stranded sea creatures and injured holidaymakers – these are just some of the many incidents dealt with by the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI).

Volunteers at Lincolnshire's stations in Mablethorpe and Skegness ensure that these are dealt with swiftly by reporting them to the Coastguard, emergency services or other organisations.

The vital role that our local watchkeepers carry out was recognised last year with the prestigious NCI presence since 2005 when a group of Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Skegness station manager Steve Atkins explained: "Over the years, all manner of marine emergencies have been reported. including alerting the Coastguard to inflatable beach dinghies and airbeds blowing out to sea, swimmers in difficulty, capsized jet skis and vessels in distress.

"As well as reporting lost children and calling ambulances for injured people, we report incidents concerning sea creatures such as

stranded seals and injured birds rescued from the beach. Sometimes dead seals or porpoises are washed up and the carcasses are clearly a public health hazard. We inform East Lindsey District Council who arrange for removal from the beach.

"Also, significant beach debris, munitions, and dangerous chemical containers washed ashore have been reported to the authorities for specialist disposal."

Lincolnshire's coast has enjoyed an volunteers opened the Old Coastquard Watch station at Ingoldmells Point.

This was closed in 2009 when volunteers relocated to their present building, the former Coastguard lookout at Winthorpe, near Skegness.

Around this time, some of the Skegness volunteers decided to open an NCI branch in a beach chalet at Mablethorpe. After a year of battling the elements, including one of the coldest winters in 10 years, a state-of-the-art

watch station was set up, thanks to a lot of hard fundraising.

Mablethorpe NCI's press and publicity co-ordinator, Keith Arthey, said: "Both Skeaness and Mablethorpe are lucky and grateful to have very supportive communities, who generously donate whenever we have fundraising collections.

"Our volunteers are from a variety of backgrounds and we are always looking for more. Training is given on the job, and volunteers are provided with uniforms."

#### Mablethorpe www.nci.org.uk/ mablethorpe 01507 441221 Skeaness www.nci.org.uk/skeaness 01754 881256

Around the country There are currently 50 NCI stations, manned by more than 2,000 volunteers, keeping watch around the British Isles.

Around 200,000 hours of coastal surveillance were completed in 2013 alone, all at no cost to the public apart from their generous voluntary contributions.

# **Cheers to county beers!**

Beer has been one of the nation's favourite tipples for thousands of years. Today, 11 microbreweries in Lincolnshire keep the age-old drink going. each with a special focus on quality

76 572135 wbrewery.com

## CASK CONDITIONED BEERS

So-called because of their small size, microbreweries tend to punch well above their weight when it comes to crafting the perfect pint.

Lincolnshire's 11 are no different. Between them, they brew more than 75 regular ales using traditional techniques and the finest ingredients, many of which are locally sourced.

Their colour, aroma and taste are almost as varied as the names they're given - everything from Frightened Pheasant and Hop-a-doodle-do to Magna Plum Carta and Wobble Gob!

But the breweries do have one thing in common - a passion for making the very best beer. It's a smart ambition, with consumers rightly becoming more and more selective over what they eat and drink. Quality is king.

Cllr Colin Davie, Lincolnshire County Council's executive member for economic development, said: "Besides tasting so great, many of Lincolnshire's local brews scoop top industry awards.

The beers themselves are sold mainly to local pubs and "And that's no mean feat, considering the competition from brewing giants and the fact that microbreweries can often can be enjoyed the length and breadth of the county. start life as a hobby in a spruced-up garden shed." Some are even making it countrywide, combining with

Ironically, cottage-industry origins stand microbreweries in good stead, adding to their appeal and acting as a mark of homemade magic.

Around the UK, beer is enjoyed by 32m adults, contributes £19bn to the economy, and helps to create around one million For Lincolnshire's prosperity, the growing popularity of microbreweries can only be a good thing, with 21 jobs jobs.



- **\* Blue Bell Brewery** Spalding www.bluebellbrewery.co.uk
- **\* Brewsters** Grantham www.brewsters.co.uk
- \* Cathedral Heights Lincoln www.chbrewery.co.uk
- \* Fulstow Brewery Louth www.fulstowbrewery.com
- \* Grafters Willingham-by-Stow www.graftersmoonlight.co.uk
- **\* Newby Wyke** Grantham www.newbywyke.co.uk
- **\*Oldershaw** Grantham www.oldershawbrewery.com
- \* Poachers North Hykeham www.poachersbrewery.co.uk
- **\* Riverside** Wainfleet www.wainfleet.info
- \*8 Sail Heckington www.8sailbrewery.co.uk
- \* All Saints Stamford www.allsaintsbrewerv.co.uk

estimated to be created by a single brewer.

delicious produce such as sausages, chine and Poacher cheese to put Lincolnshire firmly on the map for taste.

### Lincolnshire County Council – Scheme of Elected Members' Allowances

Lincolnshire County Council has adopted a scheme of Members' Allowances in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Councillors agreed the scheme at the Council meeting on 21 February 2014, having regard to recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, whose members have no connection with the County Council.

In the event of one councillor holding more than one specified post. only one Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid.

Responsibilities and allowances within bands 1-10 in the table below are 'Special Responsibility Allowances'.

	Band	Responsibility A	llowance
	-	Basic Allowance	£10,100
	1	Leader of the Council	£32,000
	2	Deputy Leader of the Council	£21,000
	3	Members of the Executive	£18,000
	4	Chairman of the County Council Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire Chairman of the Audit Committee	e £12,120
	5	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee Leader of the Opposition Chairman of the Pensions Committee	£9,090
	6	Executive Support Councillor	£8,000
	7	Minority Group Leaders Chief Whip	£5,000
Page 46	8	Vice-Chairman of the County Council Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Com Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshi Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	mittee re £4,040
	9	Vice-Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees Vice-Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Committee	£3,030
	10	Vice-Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub-Committee Member of the Shadow Executive	£1,010
	-	The Monitoring Öfficer has discretion to increase the rate in particular cases of need.equiva National W	hourly rate alent to the Minimum age for the time being
	-	Co-opted Member	£750

#### Travelling & Subsistence and Other Allowances Public Transport

Travel by public transport should be made at the lowest rate available for the journey(s) in question.

Air travel, foreign travel and, in exceptional cases, travel at rates higher than lowest available fares should be approved in advance by the Democratic Services Manager.

Travel costs will be reimbursed at the actual cost incurred with claims supported by receipts.

Members are encouraged to order tickets for travel by public transport through their administrative support, who will use the County Council's travel procurement arrangements to secure good value for money. Payment will normally be made direct by the County Council.

#### Private vehicles and car parking

Rates payable for travel by a private vehicle used by a Member and for official passengers will be those equivalent to HM Revenue & Customs Approved Mileage Rates for the time being. Rates and changes in rates will be notified to Members.

Members are responsible for ensuring that private vehicles used by them comply with all relevant legislation for the purposes for which they are used including safety, taxation and insurance.

Car parking will be reimbursed at the actual cost incurred with claims supported by receipts.

#### Taxis

In cases of urgency, or where no public transport is reasonably available, Members may travel by taxi and claim the amount of the actual cost incurred, supported by receipts.

#### Subsistence Expenses

In cases where the County Council provides a meal or a voucher for a meal, no other meal allowance will be paid. On County Council meeting days Members will be provided with a buffet lunch in the County Restaurant and will consequently not be entitled to claim expenses

In other cases, the County Council will reimburse reasonable costs of meals incurred whilst undertaking approved duties except that subsistence expenses will not be paid for 'County Councillors' activities within their Division including surgeries, meetings of any relevant Parish Council, Residents Association or similar organisation'

Claims must be for actual costs incurred supported by receipts.

Overnight accommodation should be booked in advance on behalf of the Member by their administrative support, using the County Council's standard procurement arrangements to secure best value for money. Payment will normally be made direct by the County Council.

In cases where a Member incurs reasonable costs for overnight accommodation, it will be reimbursed at actual cost incurred with claims supported by receipts.

Copies of the scheme and the detailed records of payments made may be inspected free of charge during normal office hours at the address below. The records are also available at http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk - just search for councillor allowances.

	colnshire County Council,
Co	unty Offices,
Ne	wland,
Lir	icoln LN1 1YL

Tel: 01522 552840 Email: nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk



# **Festival is** 10 years young!

The Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival is celebrating a milestone year with a fabulous programme of events

The popular Wolds Walking Festival is 10 this year - and organisers are promising a finale on Sunday 1 June, which consists of host of activities worthy of the occasion!

The festival started in 2005 with 56 walks but has now become one of the biggest of its kind in the UK, with 120 walks planned for this year.

The celebration starts in style with an energetic launch on Saturday 17 May at Healing Manor, near Grimsby, offering lots of fun activities as well as great walks.

Visitors can also experience a guided cycle ride and try out a hi-tech Geocache treasure trail - just two of many activities for families.

The festival finale, hosted by newly-formed Horncastle Walkers Are Welcome, is also "going large" this year.

A weekend of events will include an open day at Snipe Dales Country Park and a craft fair and evening charity barbecue at the Sir Joseph Banks Centre on Saturday 31 May.

They will be followed by the now traditional working up an appetite on a good walk and celebrating with cake at the end!

As ever, the festival will offer a varied and on the website." programme of walking opportunities, ranging As reported in the last edition of County from hour-long town tours to this year's big News, the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of walk - a rigorous ramble taking four days! Outstanding Natural Beauty also has a And because the festival is not just a great celebration this year, as it marks 40 years of way to discover new places, but also a fabulous achieving its AONB designation in 1974. way of meeting people, there's a Lincolnshire

Speed Dating Walk for the first time!

Describing the programme, organiser Nicki Jarvis said: "Of course, the festival is best known for delivering no-nonsense fantastic walk experiences, led by friendly capable auides.

"Whether you are a regular walker keen to explore new terrain, want to learn more about the history of this beautiful landscape or are looking to challenge vourself to walk a bit

more, then the festival has walks just for you. "Some of our walks are suitable for

wheelchairs and pushchairs, and information about accessibility is provided in the brochure

To request a brochure or find out more about the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, visit www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk or phone Heritage Lincolnshire on 01529 461499.

Lincolnshire Wolds

Walking

Festival

#### **NEW FOR 2014 BUY AND PRINT YOUR TICKETS ONLINE**





#### From wartime nostalgia to a giant talking book, there's something for everyone at the council's Lincolnshire Show area

at our stand at the 130th Show!

As usual, vou'll find us at 10th Avenue. attractions for visitors of all ages.

Events manager Mark Stoneham said: "The Lincolnshire Show is a wonderful day for the whole family, and we're delighted to play our part in making it such a success.

"This year, we'wve got displays and information highlighting just some of the things residents and community groups do to make the county such a great place.

"As 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk or

Whether you're looking for facts or fun - or D-Day landings in the Second, we're also the perfect mixture of both – we'll have the lot exploring Lincolnshire's involvement in both conflicts.

For residents wanting to find out more Row B, where we've lined up displays and about the many services the council provides, there could hardly be a better opportunity, with knowledgeable staff available to answer your questions.

You can even arrange to meet your elected councillor over a hot drink and discuss any local concerns you may have.

For details of the council's area, phone Mark Stoneham on 01522 552118, email

the First World War and 70 years since the follow us on Twitter @Lincolnshire CC.

## **WIN Lincolnshire Show tickets**

Four lucky families can enjoy a Alternatively, email your details to free day at the Lincolnshire Show, countynews@lincolnshire.gov.uk - and courtesy of Lincolnshire County please put Show Draw as the subject. Council.

To enter our free prize draw, send winning entries will be the first four names your name, address and daytime phone drawn out of the hat after that date. number to County News Show Draw, Lincolnshire County Council, County gives admission to two adults and three Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL,

Free draw rules: Only one entry per person; entrants must be aged 18 or over; there is no cash alternative to the prize; each ticket is valid for either day of the Show – but not both.

children aged under 16.

LINCOLNSHIRE SHOWGROUND



Telephon

Adult £18 Child £6 Family £38 Young Person £16 Groups £16 Membership from £53

For more information and advanced tickets... www.lincolnshireshow.co.uk

Page

# General show enquiries

For more information about the 130th Lincolnshire Show including ticket details please see the advert on the opposite page.



The closing date is Friday 23 May. The

A family ticket, costing £47 on the gate,

#### Our highlights

Top attractions of our wartime theme include:

• A two-seater simulator of a Second World War aircraft cockpit, perfect for children wanting to let their imaginations soar!

 1940s nostalgia with military and civilian costumes from a bygone era, as well as heart-rending songs by Heather McHale.

• Children can dress up as wartime evacuees, complete with suitcases and name tags, leaving their homes in the cities to escape the bombing.

• Small models for the visually impaired of a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane, so you can feel your way back into the past.

Bringing you back up to date with the 21st century, we highlight:

• The vital work of Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue, including details of the 2FAST2SOON initiative supporting young drivers.

• Ongoing efforts to help you stay safe on the county's roads, courtesy of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

• The joy of reading, with a giant talking book for youngsters called Flick!



# **Out and about**

#### The essential quide to what's on in Lincolnshire for spring 2014

#### **FIRST WORLD WAR**

#### Until October, Wed to Sat 10.30am - 3.30pm Boston Guildhall, South Street,

PE21 6HT. Temporary exhibition using artefacts from museum collections. Free, 01205 365954 www.bostonguildhall.co.uk.

#### NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME Throughout the summer

More than 60 beautiful Lincolnshire gardens open for charity this summer. many selling plants. Look for distinctive vellow leaflet or visit www.nas.ora.uk.

#### **TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS** 4 April. 7.30pm

Caistor Town Hall, Townsend Productions presents play set in 1834 following the extraordinary story of George Loveless, leader of six Dorsetshire farm labourers condemned to transportation for forming a union. www.lovecaistor.co.uk.

#### **BELTON INTERNATIONAL** HORSE TRIALS 🔽 – 6 April

ncorporating Grantham Cup and run his year with the National Trust. For the first time, entry includes access to deautiful grounds, adventure playground, shop etc. www.belton-horse.co.uk

#### DAMSELS AND DARK KNIGHTS 7 April

Gainsborough Old Hall, Parnell Street, DN21 2NB. Family craft workshop. 01522 782040.

#### HARDY PLANT SOCIETY 10 April. 7.30pm

William Farr CE School, Lincoln Road, Welton, LN2 3JB. The Lincolnshire Group starts its spring programme with celebrity speaker Jaime Blake talking about famous father-in-law Alan Bloom. £5, incl. refreshments. Doors open 6.30pm. For details of this and other events, phone 01427 668412.

#### LINDUM SPORTS 11 – 12 April

St Giles Avenue, Lincoln, Friday 11th. from 3pm - official opening ceremony/ celebration for new artificial grass pitch for Lincoln Hockey and Lincoln Roses Hockey Clubs, and The Minster School, Saturday 12th – Open Day. Opportunities for all to experience a sport and see local teams. Details in local press.



#### **1914: A NATION AND A COUNTY** GO TO WAR

12 April. 10.30am - 3pm Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB. To mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War, this exhibition features fascinating material about themes such as military recruitment, underage soldiers, propaganda, the naval war and the Christmas truce, 01522 782040 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting.

#### LOUTH PLAYGOERS **RIVERHEAD THEATRE**

14 – 19 April. 7.30pm "If I Were You" by Alan Ayckbourn. £7.50. Box office 01507 600350.

#### ART ON THE MAP SPRING EXHIBITION

#### 14 - 26 April (open 10am - 4pm. Mon to Sat)

Carre Gallery, 29 Carre Street, Sleaford, NG34 7TR, Preview of artists' work prior to the Open Studio season in Lincolnshire from 3 - 11 May. Admission free. Visit www.carregallery. co.uk or www.artonthemap.org.uk. or phone 01529 415056.

PLEASE NOTE: The information on these pages is correct at time of going to press. However, you may wish to confirm details with event organisers befiore starting your journey.

#### CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP 18 April, 10am – 2pm

Kirton Methodist Church. Bring lunch.

#### KNIGHTS OF SKIRBECK

18 - 19 April. 10.30am - 3.30pm Boston Guildhall, South Street, PE21 6HT. The Knights of Skirbeck bring the medieval history of Boston to life through demonstrations and re-enactments. Free entry. 01205 365954, www.bostonguildhall.co.uk.

#### ALFORD CRAFT MARKET

18, 19, 20, 21 April, 10am – 4pm Corn Exchange, Market Place, Alford, LN13 9EB. Easter event to celebrate 40 years of the market. Free admission. Egg painting for children in the afternoons, refreshments available,

#### EASTER EGG HUNT

18, 19, 20, 21 April, noon – 3pm Easter fun at Hartsholme Country Park. Find hidden treasures left by Easter bunny! £2.50 per child, booking essential. Children must be accompanied. Meet 12 noon at Visitor Centre, Hartsholme Country Park. Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 OEY. For details, call Park Rangers on 01522 873735 or email hartsholmecp@lincoln.gov.uk.



#### LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS BAILWAY EASTER STEAM GALA 19, 20 and 21 April

Visiting steam locomotives and special events, with trains running 9,45am to 4.45pm each day. Sunday 20th -Easter Bunny Run with Easter egg for every child; Monday 21st -Heritage Steam Day.



#### **CREATING A SCENE** Until 20 April

National Centre for Craft and Design. Sleaford. Peek into the secret world of backstage. 01529 308710 / www. visitlincolnshire.com.

#### CLASSIC CARS

26 April. 11am – 4pm Gainsborough Old Hall, Parnell Street, DN21 2NB. Over 40 classic cars on view in the grounds. 01522 782040.

#### FLOWER FESTIVALS 26 April – 4/5 Mav

St Mary and the Holy Rood. Donington. Theme "Food around the World". Until 4 May, 10am - 5pm. 01775 821515 or email ch27753 @aol.com.

#### St Mary's Church, Sutterton. Includes scarecrow displays. Until 5 May, 10.30am - 5.30pm. St Peter and St Paul Church. Gosberton, PE11 4EW. Until 5 May,

10am – 5pm. On theme of children's storvtime, www.gosberton.org.

#### SPALDING MODEL ENGINEERING AND HOBBY SHOW

26 – 27 April, from 10am Springfield Events Centre. Planes, boats, radio-controlled vehicles. robotics display, and more. Admission fee. 07443 524260 / www.spaldingshow.com.

#### LINCOLN LIONS CYCLE CHALLENGES

27 April / 25 Mav "Three Twenties" for young people (11 to 18) on 27 April – cvcle 20 miles around RAF Scampton and raise £20 in sponsorship for Children with Cancer. "Three Fifties" for adults on 25 May - 50-mile ride through villages around Lincoln to raise £50 for Breast Unit or Cardiac Centre at Lincoln County Hospital, Visit lincoln-lions.org.uk or e-mail carole.hughes@btconnect.com for Three Twenties and don.barbara1@

hotmail.co.uk for Three Fifties.

#### ALFORD REMEMBERS WW1 1 Mav

Official opening of displays in Alford Manor House and Hackett Barn Museum by Air Marshal Sir John Sutton KCB, running until December. Plus. 25 June. "Edwardian Alford" talk by local historian Peter Criddle on Alford in summer 1914.



#### **BOSTON MAY FAIR**

3 - 10 May (closed on Sunday 4th) Fun for all the family! Come to the town centre and enjoy fairground attractions, including thrill rides, children's rides. food stalls etc. Opened by Mayor of Boston at midday on 3 May.

#### **GRAINTHORPE MAY DAY FAIR** 5 May, 10am - 4pm

Venues in Church Lane, LN11 7JR. Great display of old agricultural machinery and implements at annual Vintage Agricultural Machinery Fair. Also, craft stalls in the barn and village hall. Refreshments available. Admission £1.50 for adults, under 16s free. Free parking.

#### **A NIGHT AT THE PICTURES** 10 - 11 May

Gainsborough Heritage Centre, Join costumed staff for living history weekend set in 1940. The builders have completed the town's first purpose-built cinema - The State and it's opening night! £3 (£1.50 for members).

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

11 May Market Rasen Station Adoption Group memorial service at railway station to mark 50th anniversary of crash of Valiant WZ363, which went down nearby with loss of all crew on 6 May 1964. To attend, email marketrasensag@btinternet.com.

#### LOUTH PLAYGOERS **RIVERHEAD THEATRE** 14 - 24 May, 7.30pm

"Me and My Girl" by L. Arthur Rose and Douglas Furber. Tickets £9.50. Box office 01507 600350.

#### DAWN CHORUS 17 May, 6.30am - 9am

Chambers Farm Wood, Wragby, LN8 3JR. Early morning walk, followed by bacon butties and hot drinks. £5, booking essential. Call 0774706452 or email ienny.boatwright@forestry.gsi. aov.uk.

#### WOODHALL SPA COUNTRY SHOW 18 May, 9.30am - 5pm

Green Lane, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6QY. On the theme of oil. Adults £6. children (5-16) £3, under 5s free. Free parking. Well-behaved dogs welcome on lead. www.woodhallspashow.co.uk. info@ woodhallspashow.co.uk or 0781 114 5052.

#### LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS WALK 21 May, 1pm - 3pm

Chambers Farm Wood, Wragby, LN8 3JR. Guided walk to learn about wildlife. conservation management and the wood's history. Free. 0774706452 or jenny.boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

#### **TATHWELL 26TH ANNUAL** FINE ART EXHIBITION 24 – 26 May, 11am – 5pm

St Vedast's Church, Tathwell, Louth, LN11 9SR. With paintings, books, postcards, woodwork, ceramics and plants. Also, see artists, an upholsterer. walking stick maker and wool spinner at work, admire agricultural machinery models, and join our walks on 24th at 11.30am and 25th at 5pm. 01507 602869.

#### **BATTLE OF BRITAIN** MEMORIAL FLIGHT

25 and 26 May, 10am - 5pm The Visitor Centre – normally open only

Dogdyke Road, Coningsby, LN4 4SY. on weekdays - welcomes weekend visitors to enjoy its memorabilia, exhibitions and shop. Hangar tours to see the historic aircraft, including a Lancaster, Spitfires and Hurricanes, are available 10.30am to 3pm. Admission to centre is free but charges apply for tours. 01522 782040 or www. lincolnshire.gov.uk/bbmf.

#### 1.000 YEARS OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS 31 May – 1 June, 10am – 6pm

The grounds of Lincoln Castle will be filled with craftspeople demonstrating traditional skills from blacksmithing and pole lathe to willow weaving. iewellerv making and silversmithing. £6.50 adult. £5.20 concession. £3.90 child, £16.90 family.

www.visitlincolnshire.com/1000vears. aspx.

#### DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF SWANHOLME LAKES SSSI 8 June, 1pm – 3pm

Guided walk of 3 miles / 2 hours along paths which can be muddy. £2.50, booking essential. Children must be accompanied. Meet 1pm at Visitors Centre, Hartsholme Country Park, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 0EY. 01522 873735 / email hartsholmecp@lincoln.gov.uk.



#### WARTIME FARM AND FOREIGN FIELDS 8 June, 10am – 4pm (last

admission 3.30pm)

Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln, Living history day featuring 1940s entertainment inspired by wartime Lincolnshire farm life. Includes outdoor concert, working military camp and demonstrations. Admission free, 01522 782040 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting.

#### DALESMEN MALE VOICE CHOIR 14 June. 7pm

St Helen's Church, Mareham le Fen. Return visit by popular Derbyshire Dales choir. 01507 568467.

#### **OPEN GARDENS AND** SCARECROW WALK WEEKEND 21 - 22 June, 11am - 4.30pm

Mareham le Fen. Enjoy gardens and scarecrows, stalls and refreshments, £3 admission (accompanied children free). Parking on village green. Horncastle Boad, PE22 70N, 01507 568723.

#### GLOW WORM WALK 27 June, 10pm – midnight

Chambers Farm Wood, Wragby, LN8 3JR. Annual walk in search of glow worms. Please bring torch. Booking essential, 07747006452 or jenny. boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

#### **SO FESTIVAL 2014** 28 June – 6 July

Across East Lindsev, Annual celebration of arts, culture and sport - one of a number of events for East Lindsey Live. For full programme, visit www.eastlindsevlive.org.

#### EVENT PUBLICITY

To submit details of an event for a future edition, please email countynews@lincolnshire.gov.uk at least three months before it takes place. Due to the volume of requests, we cannot guarantee inclusion, so please make other publicity arrangements.

You can also publicise events on Lincolnshire County Council's website. Visit www.lincolnshire.gov. uk/whatson. email events@ lincolnshire.gov.uk or call 01522 552868.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Whatever you like to do, there is something for everyone in Lincolnshire, For information. including details of beaches, walks and council heritage sites such as Lincoln Castle, Gainsborough Old Hall and The Collection, go to www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting. Visitor information is also available at www.visitlincolnshire.com

**Lincolnshire Rural and Community Touring** brings professional theatre, dance and music to village halls from September to June each year. A brochure is available from libraries and other community outlets, or at www. lincsruraltouring.co.uk.



**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on be	half of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services	
Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	Date: 25 April 2014	
Subject:	<b>Opportunities for Young People Post 16</b>	

#### Summary:

The work that has been undertaken to implement the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) in Lincolnshire has resulted in the number of 16 year olds participating in education or training post 16 continuing to increase and the proportion is above the regional and national statistic.

Changes to demographics, funding and policy create increasing challenge for post 16 education providers and, in particular, give cause for concern regarding the on-going viability of some smaller school sixth forms, of which Lincolnshire has a high proportion.

The fact that some provision is vulnerable is of concern as it will impact on outcomes for young people, and on the local authority's ability to meet its statutory duties in relation to securing sufficient appropriate provision to meet the needs of 16 - 18 year olds (25 for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities).

#### Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited

- To consider the attached report and make recommendations
- To request such reports regarding detail and the impact of actions as the Committee deems appropriate.

#### 1. Background

Of those young people 16-18 participating in education and training in Lincolnshire, roughly 50% attend colleges of further education, 40% school sixth forms (SSF) and 10% are spread across a range of commercial, charitable and specialist providers, including apprentice training organisations.

There continues to be progress in increasing the number of young people accessing post 16 education. The work undertaken in partnership with schools, colleges, other providers and stakeholders to prepare for the implementation of the

first phase of Raising the Participation Age (from September 2013) has resulted in an increase in the number of 16 year olds participating in post 16 education and training to a level that is above the national average.

The second phase of RPA will be implemented in September 2014, when young people will be expected to participate in post 16 education until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Whilst performance continues to improve, there are potential challenges ahead for all post 16 education providers, resulting from a continuing decline in the number of young people in the age group, changes to funding and the likely withdrawal of funding protection from 2016. The risks are potentially compounded by plans to change the curriculum, in particular reforms to A levels.

In 2011 Lincolnshire County Council made the decision to support governing bodies that chose to seek academy status and to date all but 4 schools with sixth forms in Lincolnshire are now academies. Department for Education policy is that schools, colleges and other providers are independent and autonomous organisations that will make their own decisions regarding their curriculum. Our approach to RPA reflects this.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty under sections 15ZA and 18A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the Apprenticeships, Children and Learning Act (ASCL) 2009) to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of young people in their area and to make available to young people age 19 and below support that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (Section 68, Education and Skills Act 2008).

In order to articulate clearly the strategic requirements of the county, the Council does determine and publish its strategic priorities for post 16 education and training on an annual basis in order to inform schools, colleges and providers' curriculum planning. The priorities are authorised by Executive, taking into account the views of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

In 2011 the Government also made the decision to harmonise funding for all post 16 providers. Prior to 2011 the funding for a student in a school sixth form was £280 higher per student per year than for students in general further education colleges (GFEs), sixth form colleges and other providers. Rather than increase funding for colleges and other providers to the level of that for school sixth forms, as had been expected, the decision was made to reduce the funding in school sixth forms to the same level as that in colleges. In order to ensure some stability, transitional funding was put in place to protect schools facing significant changes. The transitional protection funding will end in 2015.

The size of the Year 11 cohort across Lincolnshire is in decline (there are currently 8,233 children in the Year 11 age group falling to 6,834 in Year 7) and will continue to decline until 2020 when it will plateaux out before the current bulge in the primary school numbers will start to work through. The combination of the reduction in funding for school sixth forms, the decline in the demographic and the reforms to the curriculum in terms of A level provision mean that the academic year starting in 2015 will be crucial, and it is anticipated that some of our smaller school sixth forms may not be able to afford to continue, and some of those that do may

need to rely on 11 - 16 funding to subsidise their post 16 provision. This could potentially leave some areas of Lincolnshire with limited choice of provision, and in some cases no provision within easy travelling distance.

GFE colleges and other providers also face challenges. The decline in the size of the cohort and changes to curriculum will also impact on them, and in addition significant proportions of their income come from adult programmes. Changes to adult funding, including the introduction of student loans for further education (FE) programmes, are placing increasing financial pressures on colleges and other providers. GFE colleges tend to be able to deal with these changes more readily due to their size and the range of provision they are therefore able to offer. Most have or are planning reviews of their structure to take into account changes to funding. Smaller independent providers are able to remain viable due to the very specialist nature of their programme offer.

Unlike 5-16 funding, the financial resourcing of all post-16 providers, including school sixth forms, is by a national formula with no local discretion.

The power to put in place actions to mitigate the risks lies with the schools and providers themselves. The Local Authority is however keen to ensure schools and providers are aware of the developing scenario, and to support them to address the issues. At recent meetings, the heads and principals of SSFs have been particularly appreciative of the support provided by the 14-19 Service to assist with their financial and curriculum planning.

#### **Current Situation**

The 'lagged learner number' formula on which funding is based, means that schools and providers are funded in the following year for the number of students they recruit in the current year. This becomes their "target" number for recruitment. Overall learner numbers in the current year are 208 below target. 19 out of 38 sixth forms missed their target this year, including 9 of them by more than 15 and 6 are more than 20 below target. As each student is funded at around £4,000 per year a reduction of 15 will result in a reduction in funding of £60,000. The reduction in the size of the cohort also comes at a time of increasing competition. The University Technical College in Lincoln (a partnership between Lincoln University, Lincoln College and Siemens) will provide a much awaited bridge between education and industry in a key growth sector. It will receive Year 10 and Year 12 (14 and 16 year olds) from September 2014. GFE colleges are already able to recruit 14 year olds and although none of the Lincolnshire Colleges have indicated an intention to do so in 2014, they have the option to do so in the future.

There is the potential for the numbers of school sixth forms to increase (Haven High Academy will commence post 16 delivery in its own right from September 2014, and we have recently been consulted about a potential new sixth form in North Lincolnshire which may draw young people from Lincolnshire). There is also the potential for free schools to be set up which may include sixth forms (there are around 6 free schools nationally that are sixth form only).

The Government ambition that 1 in 5 young people (20%) aged 16 - 18 is an apprentice by 2020 remains in place and there is significant resource being applied nationally to promote apprenticeships. Of those 16 - 18 year olds participating in post 16 learning currently, around 10% are either on apprenticeship programmes or studying with other independent providers. Clearly if the Government ambition is to be achieved there will be further impact on the numbers of students attending school sixth forms and/or GFE colleges.

Given the current public spending situation, it is not anticipated that there will be funding protection in the future or that the funding rate will increase. The funding modelling that has been completed by the 14 - 19 team is based on these assumptions. The financial modelling suggests that 28 of the 38 school sixth forms are likely to be worse off in 2014/15 and that the overall funding for sixth forms in Lincolnshire could reduce by around £2.74million in 2014/15, and by a further £1.74 million in 2015/16.

The impact on small sixth forms will be much more significant than on larger ones. The accepted view has been until now that a minimum of 200 pupils is required to maintain a viable sixth form with a comprehensive curriculum offer capable of meeting the needs of a wide range of pupils. Some work by one of the Lincolnshire headteachers suggests this is now nearer 300. This is not however an exact science, and whilst 300 pupils may be the minimum required to be able to offer the full curriculum offer including vocational qualifications, some of our grammar schools may require fewer pupils due to their specialist A level offer. This is borne out by the fact that some of our independent providers have small numbers of learners but due to the specialist nature of their provision are able to survive. There are only 6 sixth forms in Lincolnshire (out of 38) with more than 300 students.

A significant concern is the 18% of students in school sixth forms who fail to progress from Year 12 - 13. Overall the figure is 16% from grammar schools, an increase of 2% from last year, but there are 6 grammar schools where the figure is over 20%. For non-selective SSFs 22% fail to continue beyond Year 12 overall. In 10 non-selective SSFs the figure is above 25%.

It is a concern that so many young people do not complete a full Level 3 (A-level or equivalent) set of qualifications. Many complete AS levels but fail to go on to complete A2. If schools could retain these young people it would go a long way to address the declining learner numbers and therefore some of the reductions in funding. This would need to be achieved however, by providing programmes that are appropriate for the young people, which they would go on to complete. This will be problematic for some smaller sixth forms that are unlikely to be able to afford to provide the breadth of offer needed.

The Education Funding Agency recently announced that it would be reducing the funding for 19 year olds by 17.5% (Year 14 students who may be still in learning because eg they have repeated a year, or commenced a 2 year programme in Year 13). There are 220 Year 14 students in school sixth forms in Lincolnshire. However, the impact of this change will be more significant for the colleges who have high numbers of learners in this age group, many of whom will be those

students who have completed 1 year in school sixth form and then recommenced a different level 3 programme in college.

One significant impact from the ongoing reduction in funding which gives considerable cause for concern is the number of small classes. Schools have always had a mix of class sizes, the popular subjects with large classes balancing the small specialist classes. The balance is changing with the proportion of small classes increasing (23 sixth forms have more than 40% of subjects with fewer than 10 students) which, given the tighter funding, is unsustainable. This is likely to result in courses being discontinued, some of which are likely to be niche provision which some students will require to access the higher education of their choice. We are already seeing the impact of this with 48 fewer subjects being provided across the county this year compared to last year.

Alongside all of these challenges, there are national policy changes which impact on school sixth forms. The introduction of linear A levels will mean that if students fail to complete a 2 year programme, not only will this impact on school performance data, it will impact on income as retention is one of the factors in the formula used to calculate funding. Schools will need to either encourage students who are unlikely to complete a two year A level programme to seek alternative opportunities outside their own institution, or provide a wide enough curriculum offer to meet the needs of all students within their own school. For small sixth forms this is unlikely to be a viable option on their own.

In September 2012, The Education Act 2011 transferred the duty to provide independent careers information, advice and guidance from local authorities to schools. There is a tension between the requirement to provide independent impartial guidance and the need to maintain sufficient numbers in a school's sixth form to ensure its ongoing viability. The numbers of young people dropping out of school sixth form after one year would suggest this may already be an issue, and as funding pressures increase this is likely to be exacerbated.

Performance in relation to the Raising of the Participation Age is good in Lincolnshire which means that the potential to increase learner numbers through increasing participation is limited.

#### 2. Conclusion and Actions

There is a serious risk that some of our smaller sixth forms will not be able to afford to weather the demographic downturn over the next few years. The Local Authority has an interest in ensuring that the range and breadth of provision is maintained, in order to ensure that all young people in Lincolnshire are able to secure appropriate post 16 provision within a reasonable distance from where they live. In order that they are able to achieve the best outcomes, young people need to be able to access a range of provision and the courses they choose.

As most of our SSF are in academies, the Local Authority has no way of changing the mix of providers. It can only seek to influence.

There is a need to maintain existing provision over the next few years of decreasing demand because the increasing size of the cohort currently in the primary age group will mean that after 2020, there may be a need to increase capacity of post 16 education.

The main risk factor is the size of provision and it is clear the smaller schools are at significantly greater risk than the larger institutions. Colleges and larger institutions will be able to survive due to their size in that they have a critical mass of students meaning there are fewer small class sizes and they are able to continue to provide a bigger range of programmes, offering students a wider choice. If we could encourage schools to work together to in effect behave as if they are a large provider by, for example, developing a joint curriculum offer, sharing staff, or enabling students to chose subjects from across more than one school, they could potentially gain the same benefits as the larger institutions and therefore be protected against the future reductions in funding.

With this in mind, in February 2014 the 14 – 19 team arranged a series of meetings with groups of school sixth forms (mainly geographically based) to which all the headteachers from schools with sixth forms, and their respective chairs of governors were invited. The meetings were also attended by senior officers from the local authority and some by the Deputy Leader of the Council. The purpose of the meetings was to share the financial modelling and ensure that all headteachers and governors were aware of the impending scenario in relation to funding, demographics and the impact of national policy changes.

All schools have been provided with detailed analysis and prediction of their own funding over the next 3 years and given access to a modelling tool so that they can evaluate the impact of various scenarios. It was made clear that schools have a choice to make. They can either decide that they wish to go it alone and compete for the available students with the intention to survive regardless of what happens to other provision in their local area, or they can work together to try to maintain the overall offer.

The local authority made it clear that it would prefer the second option be pursued, but is not able to direct schools on the choices they should make. The local authority would however prefer that the choices made are the result of considered debate within each school's governing body as well as the leadership team.

The list of schools and colleges participating in the SSF collaboration meetings appears in Annex 1. Only two have chosen not to participate. The Assistant Director for Education Services has arranged to visit these schools to explore their reasons.

The feedback from most schools was that they would wish to work towards some form of collaboration, but that this is difficult due to timetabling, geographical location, transport, quality etc. They did recognise however, that there are some examples in Lincolnshire where collaboration is already happening, such as the Sleaford joint sixth form and the joint sixth form between the two schools in North Hykeham. There is also the collaborative quality assurance model, which has been developed by the 14 - 19 team in partnership with schools and other providers.

The schools have asked us to do some research to identify best practice in and outside of Lincolnshire, which might inform how they could progress, and we have already had a number of responses from colleagues across the country.

Officers have emphasised robustly, the need for ongoing commitment from headteachers and governors to making collaboration work. Without this, difficulties with practicalities will jeopardise progress.

The groups of schools in each area have decided to progress in different ways, some are progressing this through their own meetings, and inviting the local authority to attend, others have asked the local authority to take the lead. All have identified that there is a role for the GFE colleges and potentially for 11 - 16 schools in their areas. A brief summary of outcomes from discussions is provided in Annex 2.

Local ownership of the issues is crucial. The local authority is unable to impose a particular course of action. However the response of sixth forms and the GFE sector has been encouraging. Some groups have decided to pursue an "area offer" route. In others they have decided that collaboration will be constrained to enhancements to individual schools' offers around minority subjects that might otherwise disappear. At the time of writing this report, some groups have got to meet for a second time to decide on the principles and objectives of their collaboration.

The 14-19 Team will provide the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with a written update on the progress of each working group at the end of each term until December 2015 when the impact of the new collaborative offers will be known.

#### 3. Consultation

#### a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not Applicable.

#### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report			
Annex 1	Annex 1 List of Schools and Colleges Participating in School Sixth Form		
	Collaboration Meetings		
Annex 2	A Brief Summary of Outcomes from Discussions		

#### 5. Background Papers

Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009 - www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/22/contents

Education Act 1996 - <u>www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents</u> Education and Skills Act 2008 - <u>www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/contents</u> Education Act 2011 - <u>www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted</u>

This report was written by Maggie Freeman, who can be contacted on 01522 552753 or 07826 873167 or Maggie.freeman@lincolnshire.gov.uk

List of Schools and Colleges Participating in School Sixth Form Collaboration Meetings

Name of School	Attendees
Boston Grammar School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Boston High School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Bourne Academy	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Branston Community Academy	Headteacher
Caistor Grammar School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Carre's Grammar School, Sleaford	Headteacher and Vice Chair of Governors
Cordeaux School, Louth	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
De Aston School	Headteacher
Deepings School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Giles Academy	Deputy Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Kesteven and Sleaford High School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth	Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Deputy Chair of Governors
Kings School, Grantham	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Lincoln Castle Academy	Headteacher designate and Chair of Governors
Lincoln Christ's Hospital School	Headteacher
Monks' Dyke Tennyson College	Headteacher, Business Manager and Vice Chair of Governors
North Kesteven School	Headteacher and Vice-Chair of Governors
Priory Academy LSST	Headteacher
Priory City of Lincoln Academy	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Priory Ruskin Academy	Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and Chair of Governors

Priory Witham Academy	Headteacher
Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Horncastle	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Queen Elizabeth's High School, Gainsborough	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Sir John Gleed School, Spalding	Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher
Sir Robert Pattinson Academy	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Sir William Robertson Academy	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Skegness Academy	Directors of Post-16 studies
Skegness Grammar	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Spalding Grammar School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
Spalding High School	Acting Headteacher and Chair of Governors
St George's Academy, Sleaford	Principal and Chair of Governors
St Peter and St Paul, Catholic Voluntary Academy, Lincoln	Headteacher and Chair of Governors
University Academy Holbeach	Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form
Walton Girls High School	Principal, Director of Sixth Form and Chair of Governors
William Farr School	Headteacher and Chair of Governors

Locality	Outcome/Action
Horncastle	Headteachers have agreed to meet again to discuss an action plan based on the way forward, co-ordinated by the Local Authority
Lincoln	Headteachers have agreed to meet again to discuss an action plan based on the way forward, co-ordinated by the Local Authority. To include pre-16 providers and Lincoln College in discussions.
South Holland	Headteachers have agreed that schools will take the lead and will include 11-16 schools in their discussions. Headteachers will invite LA to participate.
Louth	Headteachers and Principals held a development meeting and decided to drive forward the agenda for 2015 curriculum offer. LA will provide support.
Deepings	Headteachers have requested LA support in costing curriculum offer. Headteachers to have further meetings with LA.
Grantham	Headteachers have agreed that schools will take the lead and will include Grantham College. Headteachers will invite LA to participate.
Boston	Headteachers have agreed to meet again and have requested that Haven High Academy, Thomas Cowley High School and Boston College are invited to participate. LA will provide support and headteachers have requested that LA broker the next meeting.
Sleaford	Collaboration between some schools already taking place. Headteachers did not wish to collaborate further at this moment in time and no further meetings have been arranged.



**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 April 2014
Subject:	Discretionary transport support for young learners in Lincolnshire.

**Summary:** The report summarises the extent and cost of providing discretionary transport support for young learners in Lincolnshire.

Actions Required: The Committee is asked to;

- 1) Consider and comment on the report.
- 2) Provide its views on the proposed Post-16 Transport Statement.

#### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Introduction

This report on discretionary transport support was commissioned by the CYPSC at its meeting in November 2013 when it considered the full Home to School and College Transport Policy. The report defines discretionary transport and contains information on the extent of the discretionary transport, together with costs and other relevant information.

#### 1.2 Definitions

**'Discretionary transport support'** refers to transport support given to pupils and students as part of the policy but which is not prescribed as a statutory duty. Discretionary transport support does not have to be offered free of charge, and may be withdrawn providing reasonable notice and an explanation is given. An example is transport offered to post 16 learners to attend their school sixth form or local college.

- **1.3** 'Statutory transport support' refers to transport support which is given because the Council has a statutory duty to provide the support. Where transport is offered as a statutory duty, the transport has to be provided free of charge to school-age pupils. An example is school transport offered to children because their nearest or designated school is more than the statutory walking distance (2 or 3 miles).
- **1.4** The Policy document does not distinguish between the statutory and discretionary elements of the Council's policy, and the support set out in the published policy is available to any qualifying pupil or student. The

document is available to students and parents online at: <u>www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport</u>.

#### 1.5 Statutory transport support –summary

This includes the following provision:

- Transport provided to primary school children aged up to eight years to their nearest school over two miles from the home
- Transport provided to school-age children aged eight to sixteen to their nearest school over three miles
- Transport provided to school age children to a school where the walking route ( up to two or three miles) is not suitable
- Transport provided to children to a school because they cannot be expected to walk a route up to two or three miles due to a disability or a learning disability
- Transport provided to a centre or institution for a child excluded from a school

#### **1.6** Discretionary transport support

All of the transport that is provided under the policy which is not a statutory requirement is arguably 'discretionary transport support' even if it is supporting statutory education provision. This includes:

- 1. Free transport is offered to pupils aged 8-11 who are attending their nearest primary school that is between two and three miles. (the law requires this only to age eight)
- 2. Free transport is offered in Lincolnshire to pupils to a school that is 'designated' for transport. Designated Transport Areas (DTAs) are areas drawn round schools indicating entitlement to transport, subject to the distance criterion. These schools, particularly the secondary schools, are not always the nearest schools beyond three miles. The law does not stipulate DTAs or 'catchment areas', only that transport must be provided to the nearest suitable school over two or three miles). There are DTAs for primary, secondary, secondary grammar school, most sixth forms and for further education colleges.
- 3. Free transport to a grammar school is offered to secondary-age pupils in some parts of the County to age 16 where they live in the DTA of a grammar school. The school is not necessarily the nearest school to the home address. The law does not require that transport be provided to a grammar school unless a particular grammar school is the nearest suitable school to a pupil's address whose parents apply for transport.
- 4. Transport to sixth-form centres, colleges of further education and other specialist providers, including independent providers. Subsidised

transport is offered to students of sixth-form age (extended to age 21 or 25 if necessary, for students with learning difficulties or disabilities).

5. The provision of spare seats on County Council contract vehicles to children not entitled to transport support under the policy ('concessionary transport').

#### 1.7 Costs and numbers involved

The budget for home to school and college transport for 2013/14 was £25,371,629 which represents around a quarter of the entire annual children's services budget retained for provision of services. The expenditure for the full year was recently projected at £25,580,371, which, if confirmed, would represent an overspend of £208,901.

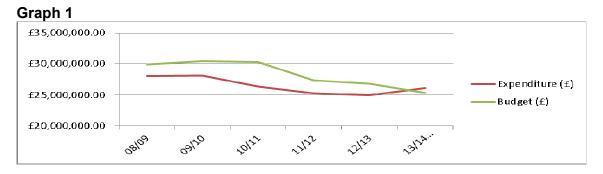
- **1.8** There is considerable pressure on the budget and ongoing demand from within the Council and from schools, parents, carers and others for the policy to provide and pay for education transport to support legal duties already in existence and new duties coming into being (eg for young adults with learning disabilities/children with special educational needs etc).
- **1.9** There is also at the same time pressure to deliver savings in the budget to meet the need to deliver services with a reduced budget in the future due to continuing reductions in central government support for local authorities.

#### Table 1

					13/14
08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	(Projection)
£28,015,574	£28,097,230	£26,374,715	£25,274,768	£24,965,851	£25,580.530
£29,881,520	£30,422,860	£30,279,924	£27,323,500	£26,837,047	£25,371,629
-£1,865,945	-£2,325,629	-£3,905,208	-£2,048,731	-£1,871,195	£208,901
	£28,015,574 £29,881,520	£28,015,574       £28,097,230         £29,881,520       £30,422,860	£28,015,574         £28,097,230         £26,374,715           £29,881,520         £30,422,860         £30,279,924	£28,015,574       £28,097,230       £26,374,715       £25,274,768         £29,881,520       £30,422,860       £30,279,924       £27,323,500	£28,015,574         £28,097,230         £26,374,715         £25,274,768         £24,965,851           £29,881,520         £30,422,860         £30,279,924         £27,323,500         £26,837,047

#### Education transport spend and budgets 2008-2013

Source: LCC SAP analysis, March 2014



- **1.10** The above figures represent the budget for all education transport provided over the period, both discretionary and statutory provision, and do not distinguish between statutory and discretionary provision.
- **1.11** Analysis is given below of the five discretionary areas of provision:

## a. Free transport provided for pupils aged 8-11 to a primary school between two and three miles

This is technically a discretionary transport provision in that the statutory duty is to provide transport for children to their nearest suitable school over two miles until the child is aged 8, after which the 'statutory walking distance' increases to three miles. Lincolnshire has always offered free transport for all primary school pupils to their nearest school if the school is over two miles from the child's home.

The cost of meeting this provision over and above the statutory costs are estimated at no more than £5-7,000 per annum, possibly less, based on the numbers of primary school children on transport entitlement (2354 on 25 March 2014), and the very small number of schools that are between two and three miles from children's homes. We do not keep specific records of this particular cost and it may be that no cost saving could be realised anyway if the policy was changed, due to unsuitable walking routes and the fact that transport must be put in place anyway for children who are aged up to 8 an attending a school between two and three miles from their home.

### b. Free transport provided for children in secondary school DTAs where the school is not the nearest suitable school

The County Council has created DTAs , geographical areas around schools, indicating entitlement to transport, subject to the three-mile rule. The school named as the DTA school is, in most cases, the nearest suitable school (with the exception of grammar schools – see below). However some DTA boundaries are such that a pupil will be able to qualify for free transport to several schools from their particular address. This is because DTAs were drawn up many years ago, and were based largely on traditional 'catchment' areas of schools and parish boundaries. It is estimated that the additional cost of transport provided to DTA secondary schools where the school is not the nearest school, is around £100 - £130k. The 'additional' cost of transport to support this is not monitored, because the entitlement is firmly

established where the child lives in the DTA area. DTAs are of long standing

#### c. Grammar School transport

DTAs are in existence for the sixteen grammar schools in the County. See Appendix A for DTA map. The DTAs for the grammar schools indicate entitlement to free transport from Year 7 to Year 11, with subsidised transport for sixth form study. The numbers of pupils entitled to free and subsidised transport for each of the Lincolnshire grammar schools given below:

Nos of current entitlements for Pre and Post 16 pupils to grammar schools as at 24/03/14					
School	11 to 16	Post 16			
Alford Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	202	32			
Boston Grammar School	122	35			
Boston High School Academy	175	59			
Bourne Grammar School	196	34			
Caistor Grammar School	115	31			
Gainsborough Queen Elizabeth's High School	270	72			
Grantham Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School	218	75			
Grantham The King's School	181	54			
Horncastle Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	306	107			
Louth King Edward VI Grammar School	246	56			
Skegness Grammar School	148	18			
Sleaford Carre's Grammar School	258	77			
Sleaford Kesteven & Sleaford High School - Selective Academy	321	72			
Spalding Grammar School	371	107			
Spalding High School	393	83			
Spilsby King Edward School	0	0			
Total	3522	912			
Grand Total			4434		

Table 2 – Numbers of pupils entitled to grammar school transport

Source: SEATS analysis, LCC March 2014

In terms of estimating the additional cost of providing the transport beyond what is needed to meet our statutory obligations, it would be necessary to calculate not only the costs of providing the transport to the schools concerned, but offset against this the cost of providing transport to an alternative school. Since most grammar schools are in places very near to existing secondary all-ability schools, the savings made by not providing this discretionary transport would be limited to those pupils who are travelling past a nearest suitable school or who travel in a different direction or on different transport specifically for the grammar school. Because nearly all children entitled to grammar school transport would also be entitled to transport to their nearest all-ability school on account of living more than 3 miles distant, the savings would be limited to any additional costs incurred now by transporting pupils to a grammar school where there is a <u>nearer</u> all-ability school. A proportion of these pupils might not qualify if the policy was changed.

It is estimated that if DTAs for grammar schools were removed, some savings could be made, although the actual figure would need to be calculated by considering the cost of the transport provided, and setting this against the cost of transport to any alternative sight. The potential savings is therefore is limited.

It would be necessary to allow existing pupils to continue with an entitlement even after it was ended for new applicants. However, it is not at all certain that we would be able to legally remove transport support for grammar schools in those areas where the grammar schools exist, since they might be regarded as 'suitable schools' and thus qualifying schools for home to school transport purposes. No case law exists on this matter which can give guidance.

A further complication in considering any possible savings is that nearly all of the grammar schools are now academies and therefore independent of the Local Authority. The Local Authority is therefore not able to propose changing their status even if it wanted to.

#### d. Post 16 transport to schools, colleges and other specialist providers.

Transport entitlement for children of school age is prescribed in law. For post 16 pupils/students, the statutory entitlement is much less clear. Until 2010 the government (through the Department for Education) had been issuing annual 'statutory guidance' on post 16 transport support, but this was discontinued after that time until February 2014, when new annual guidance was issued (**Appendix B**) and is attached.

The statutory obligation on the County Council is to consider what transport support is necessary to ensure that young people can access further education or training. Any transport support provided does not have to be free of charge, but it does have to be 'affordable' if charged for.

A summary of charges levied by some other local authorities is given on the

table below:

County	Annual Amount	Total Amount if paid in	Amount charged for low income
	Charged	instalments	students
Suffolk	£510	£510	£510
Essex	£510	£510	£0
Devon	£470	£500	£235
Norfolk	£468	£468	£351
Lincolnshire	£399	£405	£399
Cumbria	£350	£350	£0
Derbyshire	£349 (concessionary charge)	£349	£349
Cornwall	£327	£327	£327
Average Charge (of sample)	£422.88	£427.38	£361.84

#### Table 3 Charges for Post-16 transport selected authorities

Source: LCC research, March 2014

Of the Local Authorities looked at, Lincolnshire charges less that the average. However, we do not operate a low income reduction; nor do we offer free post-16 transport for students with learning difficulties/disabilities. Most other Local Authorities carry higher charges that Lincolnshire and operate a more restrictive policy.

Lincolnshire's policy is to provide subsidised transport (cost £410 2014/15) to all learners who live more than 3 miles from their nearest college of further education, sixth form centre or approved provider of education or training. The statutory guidance that 'reasonable choice' must be allowed is met by allowing for transport to either a sixth form or to a college or independent provider. The policy allows for transport to a college or sixth form outside the county if it is nearer than the in-county provision and several colleges that are outside Lincolnshire are 'designated ' for transport purposes, together with the in-county colleges. Maps showing designated transport areas for school sixth forms (**Appendix C**) and for colleges of further education (Appendix D) are attached.

Transport support is provided specifically to Riseholme College, north of Lincoln, for students following specifically-named agricultural, horticultural and equine courses at Level 2/3.

The cost of providing post-16 transport under this policy is given below:

### Table 4 – Costs and income relating to provision of home to school and college transport post 16, 2008 – 2013

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£	£	£	£	£
FE Colleges and other providers	3,220,110.00	3,522,910.00	3,349,270.00	2,889,360.00	2,502,460.00
Sixth Form centres	864,410.00	911,490.00	926,400.00	502,280.00	501,220.00
Post 16 Income (60638 / 4192220)	-859,380.00	-874,440.00	-895,460.00	-919,950.00	-1,277,350.00
Net Cost	3,225,140.00	3,559,960.00	3,380,210.00	2,471,690.00	1,726,330.00
Admin Recharge	58,370.00	48,230.00	58,680.00	55,310.00	55,310.00

Source: LCC SAP analysis, March 2014

Transport support is normally allowed for two years or longer in the case of students with learning difficulties/disabilities, who may be provided with transport support up to age 21, or exceptionally, to age 25, to complete a course of education or training.

In February 2014 the DfE issued new guidance on post 16 transport. The guidance requires that stakeholders be consulted on the proposed post 16 policy and therefore all colleges, centres and school sixth forms providing post 16 education or training will be consulted on the proposed policy statement prior to its publication on 31 May 2014. The CYPSC is also invited to comment on the proposed statement, which is reproduced as **Appendix E**.

## e. Concessionary Transport (spare seats) on Council –Contracted services

Spare seats on contracted vehicles are offered to non-entitled children and students, subject to an annualised charge (£410 in 2014/15).

These concessionary seats can be withdrawn at short notice when the seat is needed for an entitled child and so the numbers of pupils/students receiving concessionary transport changes from week to week. At the time of the check (24<sup>th</sup> March 2014), there were **209** concessionary travellers. In the year 2013/14 there had been **447** at the highest count.

The net income for the year 2013/14 is **£69,374.00**. Because the transport is already in place for entitled children, this represents a net income to the Council and pays towards the cost of administering the scheme.

The allocation to the scheme is based on criteria laid down by the Directorate and/or the Children's Services DMT. A copy of the application form is attached as **Appendix F**.

#### 2. Conclusion

Discretionary transport is transport provided by a Council to meet the particular needs of its learning community, or to meet policy objectives or other non-statutory aims. It is sometimes hard to distinguish discretionary transport support from statutory transport in a definitive way either because it is not made completely clear in guidance whether a duty to provide transport exists in respect of every case, or because what counts as 'discretionary transport' or 'statutory transport' extends not only to the provision itself but to the type and frequency of the provision. It can be seen that the extent of Lincolnshire's discretionary transport for learners is considerable, and is in existence to meet the needs of learners in a large, geographically large sparse area, which includes towns, small market towns, villages, hamlets and innumerable isolated farmsteads and settlements.

#### 3. Consultation

It is now necessary to consult with stakeholders prior to publication of the new post 16 transport policy statement and this consultation is happening now. It is not necessary to consult on other areas of the transport policy until or unless the policy is proposed to change. There are currently no proposals to change the home to school transport policy. The CYPSC is invited to offer any views on the proposed Transport Policy Statement which is scheduled to be published on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

#### a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

#### 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report			
Appendix A	DTA Map		
Appendix B	Post 16 Transport Guidance issued by DFE in February 2014		
Appendix C	Map showing school sixth forms		
Appendix D	Map showing colleges of Further Education		
Appendix E	Proposed Post 16 Transport Statement		
Appendix F	Concessionary Transport application form		

#### 5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report. n/a

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#### Appendix A – DTA Map



Appendix B – Post 16 Guidance



# Post-16 transport to education and training

Statutory guidance for local authorities

February 2014

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# Summary

#### About this guidance

This statutory guidance has been produced to support local authorities in developing their transport policy and publishing their transport policy statements. Local authorities must have regard to this guidance when carrying out their responsibilities in relation to transport arrangements for young people of sixth form age.

Local authorities should take their own legal advice when preparing the policy statement and devising a local response to transport needs, to ensure that they are exercising their duties and powers in a manner which complies with the legislation and public law.

This guidance replaces the 2010 Post-16 Transport Guidance issued in June 2010.

#### Expiry or review date

This guidance will be reviewed annually from February 2015 and updated versions will be published if necessary.

#### What legislation does this guidance refer to?

The Education Act 1996 makes provision for school transport and transport to post-16 education for young people of sixth form age. A summary of the relevant legislation is outlined in 'Appendix – summary of statutory provisions'.

#### Who is this guidance for?

This guidance is for local authorities in England.

# Key points

 Local authorities have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training<sup>1</sup>.

- 2. The overall intention of the 16-18 transport duty is to:
  - ensure that learners of sixth form age are able to access the education and training of their choice
  - ensure that, if support for access is required, this will be assessed and provided where necessary.

# The policy landscape

The planning of transport provision at a local level should take into account the following recent changes to the policy landscape:

- under the Education and Skills Act 2008, young people have been required, since June 2013, to stay in education or training for a further year after the compulsory school leaving age. From June 2015, this requirement will be extended until their 18th birthday. To support the raising of the participation age local authorities have responsibility for promoting the effective participation in education and training of young people who are subject to the duty to participate
- under the September Guarantee, every young person aged 16 or 17 must be offered a suitable place in education or training
- increasingly young people will be undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships. The government has made it easier and faster for employers to recruit an apprentice and we would expect young people to benefit from continued expansion of the apprenticeships programme.

Ensuring that young people have access to the education and training provision that is commissioned at a local level will be essential in order to support these reforms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Section 509AA of the Education Act 1996

# Extent and coverage of the 16-18 transport duty – section 509AA

4. The duty applies to all local authorities in England in respect of arrangements for young people (over compulsory school age) aged 16-18 and those continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday<sup>2</sup>.

5. The legislation recognises that a local response to transport arrangements is important in enabling young people's participation in education and training. A local approach allows local circumstances to be taken into account. The legislation therefore gives local authorities the discretion to determine what transport and financial support are necessary to facilitate young people's attendance. The local authority must exercise its power to provide transport or financial support reasonably, taking into account all relevant matters. A failure to make arrangements would amount to a failure to meet the duty.

6. The transport policy statement must detail the transport arrangements and financial assistance with transport that the local authority considers it necessary to make to ensure access to education or training for learners of sixth form age<sup>3</sup>.

7. It is important that the local authority does not differentiate between providers or institutions in its arrangements. The arrangements must be provided for learners of sixth form age who are engaged in learning or training at:

- a school
- a further education institution
- an authority maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education
- an establishment funded directly by the Education Funding Agency, for example independent specialist providers for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities
- a learning provider that is funded by the local authority to deliver accredited programmes of learning which lead to a positive outcome (this could include colleges, charities and private learning providers).

8. Arrangements to support learners undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships should also be set out in the transport policy statement. These may include the costs of travelling to or from the place of learning or work placement. Employers and learning providers will want to take account of young people's likely transport arrangements when planning off-the-job training, particularly outside normal working hours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Section 509AC of the Education Act 1996 defines persons of sixth form age for the purposes of the sixth form transport duty

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See section 509ÅA of the Education Act 1996

9. The transport policy statement must also specify the arrangements proposed to be made by the governing bodies of schools and further education colleges which may include support with transport costs or transport provision<sup>4</sup>. The local authority should only include arrangements that are actually going to be made and not make assumptions about what arrangements it thinks schools and colleges should make. Governing bodies are under a duty to co-operate in giving the local authority any information and other assistance that is reasonably required by the authority to enable them to prepare their statement<sup>6</sup>.

#### Transport policy statement audience and content

10. The transport policy statement is intended to inform young people in years 11, 12 and 13 and their parents about what transport arrangements and support are available locally. The statement should be a single point of reference providing information about transport arrangements to all types of provision, including arrangements made by bodies other than the local authority. The statement must set out what the local authority's overall transport policy is in regard to young people and the rationale behind the policy.

11. The transport policy statement should be clear and provide sufficient detail about the transport arrangements and support provided to inform young people in making their post-16 choices. Young people should be provided with information through the transport policy statement about who is eligible for transport support and how and when they should apply for support. Details of any concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies or travel cards should be included alongside the eligibility criteria for this support and how eligibility will be assessed. Clear signposting from the statement should point young people to sources of further information, for example local authority, college, transport provider websites or contact details.

## Funding

12. The local authority is required to deliver the arrangements it has detailed in the transport policy statement. The arrangements local authorities choose to make are generally funded through the formula grant from central government to local authorities, and through locally raised revenue including council tax. Local authorities and their partners may use other sources of funding to support these costs where appropriate.

Section 509AA(4) of the Education Act 1996.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Section 509AA(5) of the Education Act 1996

#### Assessment of what arrangements are needed

13. In assessing what transport arrangements or financial assistance may be required, the local authority must have regard to the following.

13.1 The needs of those who could not access education or training provision if no arrangements were made<sup>5</sup>

Local authorities need to satisfy themselves that they have made the transport arrangements or arrangements for financial assistance necessary to facilitate young people's participation in education or training. In doing so, they should consider the needs of the most vulnerable or socially excluded. The needs of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should be specifically considered and the arrangements in place for each group must be documented in the transport policy statement (see section 'Specific consideration of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities").

Local authorities should also consider the needs of:

- · those who are vulnerable to becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the age of 16 or 17 or who have already become NEET; these young people should be offered a suitable course of education or training and provided with any support that is necessary with transport to enable them to participate'
- young parents Care to Learn (C2L) can help pay for childcare and travel costs for learners aged 19 and under at the start of their course<sup>8</sup>. Learning providers should be encouraged to support young people to apply for C2L - further details are available at www.gov.uk/care-to-learn
- those who live in particularly rural areas where the transport infrastructure can be more limited.

#### 13.2 The need to ensure that young people have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education and training is provided

Young people should have a reasonable opportunity to choose between the courses available to them at 16 and be supported to access their choices. Local authority transport policies must be supportive of reasonable choice. In defining what is

Section 509AB(3)(a) of the Education Act 1996

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Local authorities are reminded that all 16 and 17 year olds (i.e. those completing compulsory education in the current year, or who completed in the previous year) are entitled to an offer of a place in post-16 learning under the September Guarantee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The additional costs of taking a child to and from childcare may be claimed, within a set weekly limit. C2L. does not support the costs of fravel to the learning provider. \* Section 509AB(2)(b) of the Education Act 1996

'reasonable', local authorities will want to take into account any complaints received in previous years in respect of local transport policy statements.

We would expect reasonable choice to include enabling young people to choose courses outside their home local authority boundaries if it makes sense for them to do so. In this case, local authorities will want to consider how their transport policy can support movement across local authority boundaries, to ensure that the young person is no worse off than if they had chosen to attend an establishment within their home local authority. In doing so, they will want to be mindful of the transport policy of neighbouring local authorities. The transport policy statement must set out the local authority's policy for travel to neighbouring local authority areas.

Reasonable choice should also include enabling young people to choose an establishment of education or training that is not the closest to where they live if it makes sense to do so.

#### 13.3 The distance from the learner's home to establishments of education and training<sup>10</sup>

Distance should be a factor that local authorities consider in determining eligibility for support with transport. Young people in rural areas should not be worse off financially because they may need to travel further to access education and training provision than their peers in urban areas. The statutory walking distance of 3 miles to school (along the nearest available route) for those of compulsory school aged 8 and over is set out under section 444(5) of the Education Act 1996. This can be used as a benchmark by local authorities in defining the distance a young person might reasonably be expected to walk to access education or training. In determining whether transport arrangements are necessary, local authorities will want to take into account other factors, such as the impact a learning difficulty or disability may have on a young person's ability to walk this distance, and the nature (including safety) of the route, or alternative routes, which a young person could be expected to take .

#### 13.4 The journey time to access different establishments<sup>11</sup>

Journey time also needs to be taken into account. Consistent with the home to school transport duty for children of compulsory school age, young people should be able to reach their establishment of education or training without incurring such stress, strain, or difficulty that they would be prevented from benefiting from the education provided. For example, a young person should not have to make several changes of public service bus (or other mode of transport) to get to their establishment of education or training, if that would result in an unreasonably long journey time. In this context, local authorities will want to consider which mode of transport will best meet the

<sup>10</sup> Section 509AB(2)(c) of the Education Act 1996.

<sup>11</sup> Section 509AB(3)(c) as amended by the Education and Skills Act, section 83

need to ensure a reasonable journey time. Best practice suggests that a child of secondary school age may reasonably be expected to travel up to 75 minutes each way to access learning. Local authorities should apply similar expectations to young people of sixth form age.

#### 13.5 The cost of transport to the establishments in question 12

Local authorities are expected to target any support on those young people – and their families – who need it most, particularly those with a low income. The transport policy statement should set out clearly the criteria used to establish a learner's eligibility to receive transport/financial support. The effective implementation of these measures will ensure that all learners are able to have reasonable choice in post-16 learning and will contribute towards reducing child poverty.

Local authorities may ask learners and their parents for a contribution to transport costs. We would expect local authorities to exercise their discretion in determining in what circumstances it is appropriate to ask for a contribution, but in exercising their discretion they should:

- ensure that any contribution is affordable for learners and their parents
- ensure that there are arrangements in place to support those families on low income
- take into account the likely duration of learning and ensure that transport policies do not adversely impact particular groups. For example, as young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are more likely to remain in education or training longer than their peers, any contribution sought from the families of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities would need to allow for the fact they may have to make a contribution over a longer period than the families of those with children who do not have a learning difficulty and/or disability.

Local authorities may take receipt of 16-19 bursary funding into account in assessing an individual's need for financial help with transport.

To aid transparency, it is helpful for local authorities to set out the average cost per young person of post-16 transport in their area before any subsidies are deducted. Clearly setting out average costs will enable learners and parents to understand the extent of the local authority subsidy.

<sup>12</sup> Section 509AB(3)(d) of the Education Act 1996.

#### 13.6 Alternative means of facilitating attendance at establishments<sup>13</sup>

Local authorities should consider alternative means of facilitating attendance at establishments of education or training. In doing so, they should consider young people's safety. Suitable and appropriate alternatives may include transport solutions, for example:

- cycle schemes which can support independence and also offer a sustainable form of transport provision
- moped schemes which can support individual learners (over the age of 17) to travel to education and training from rural areas where there is no critical mass of learners meaning that, for example, a bus service, is not viable
- independent travel training to enable young people (often with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) to travel on public transport independently. See section <u>"Specific consideration of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities</u>" for further details.

#### 13.7 Non-transport solutions to facilitate learner access

Local authorities will also want to consider whether non-transport solutions could facilitate learner access to education or training: for example peripatetic teachers, mobile provision and e-learning options.

#### 13.8 Preferences based on religion

Local authorities must have regard to any preference the individual may have for a particular institution based on their religion or belief.

Under the Education Act 1996<sup>14</sup> "religion" means any religion and "belief" means any religious or philosophical belief. References to "religion or belief" include references to a lack of religion or belief. It therefore follows that this duty covers all religions as well as philosophical denominations.

<sup>13</sup> Section 509AB(3)(d) of the Education Act 1996

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Section 509AD of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by section 84 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006).

# Specific consideration of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

14. The 16-18 transport duty relates to young people of sixth form age with learning difficulties and/or disabilities aged up to 19 (and beyond the age of 19 if they are continuing on a particular course started before the age of 19). Local authorities also have a duty under the Education and Skills Act 2008 to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 25 in education and training. It therefore follows that it is good practice for local authorities to include information about what transport arrangements are available and whether they are adequate to enable these young people to participate.

15. Section 509AB(1) of the Education Act 1996 imposes a requirement that the transport policy statement should set out the extent to which the arrangements specified in the statement include arrangements for facilitating the attendance at schools and learning providers of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Arrangements for this group of young people must therefore be set out explicitly in the statement.

18. The transport needs of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should be reassessed when a young person moves from compulsory schooling to post-16 education. Arrangements cannot be limited to those young people who had been assessed as having particular transport needs prior to the age of 16. Subject to the passage of the Children and Families Bill, local authorities will be required to publish a local offer' setting out their services for children and young people with special educational needs, and this should include arrangements for travel to and from schools and post-16 institutions.

17. A learner with learning difficulties and/or disabilities may take longer to complete a programme of learning or training, and therefore it will be good practice for the local authority to extend the arrangements for the provision of transport until a learner has completed their programme even if that is after they have reached the age of 19.

18. If the local authority and/or providers operate an independent travel training scheme it is good practice to include such initiatives in the transport policy statement. The statement should set out the process for the learner or carer to access the scheme. These schemes enable young people to gain skills which can be used for travelling to education or training and have, in some cases, enabled local authorities to make cost savings. It is strongly recommended that local authorities consider these schemes for the all-round benefits they can bring.

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19. A tool has been developed to help local authorities to monitor the cost effectiveness of their independent travel training programme in a consistent way. The tool is intended to support local authorities in making a case for mainstream funding for their independent travel training programmes by showing the financial savings that can be realised through implementing such programmes. The <u>Independent Traveller Training</u> tool is available from the GOV.UK website.

Local authorites will want to be aware of the adult transport duty (section 508F and section 508G of the Education Act 1996, as inserted by section 57 of Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009) in carrying out their responsibilities for this group.

#### Local complaints process

20. Local authorities must publish as part of the transport policy statement the process which will be followed should a complaint or an appeal be made on behalf of, or by, a young person. Complaints must first be taken up with the local authority<sup>16</sup>. If these do not result in a satisfactory outcome, young people or their families may complain to the Secretary of State.

#### Complaints to the Secretary of State

21. Under section 509AA (9), of the Education Act 1996, the Secretary of State may direct a local authority to make transport arrangements or provide financial assistance for travelling expenses for individuals or groups of learners. This only applies where particular transport arrangements or financial assistance have not been included in, or are not covered by, the local authority's transport policy statement. The Secretary of State can make a direction where he considers it expedient to do so, having regard to the particular circumstances of the case.

22. The Secretary of State also has powers under section 496 and 497 of the Education Act 1996 to direct a local authority where they have exercised their functions unreasonably or where they have failed to discharge a duty. If the Secretary of State is satisfied that an authority has acted unreasonably, he may give such directions as to the exercise of the power or performance of the duty as appear to him to be expedient.

<sup>15</sup> Section 509AE(4) (sixth form complaints) of the Education Act 1996

# Consulting key partners on the transport policy statement

23. The transport policy statement is the responsibility of the local authority. However, the local authority should try to achieve a consensus with other partners and stakeholders about its content and delivery. Post-16 transport partnerships which bring together the key partners have been helpful in developing a collaborative approach to transport solutions and the production of the transport policy statement.

24. The local authority has a duty to consult with the following stakeholders in developing the statement to ensure that it provides a full picture of the available transport. and support:

- any other local authorities it considers appropriate (including neighbouring local authorities that are in Wales or Scotland) 16. There will be occasions where learners will travel across local authority boundaries and this should not be a barrier for the learner. There are also clear benefits for local authorities to collaborate where similar challenges exist or to share good practice
- other departments within the local authority, for example social services, who may also procure for, or own, their own transport
- the governing bodies of schools and further education institutions<sup>17</sup>. It is important to note that the power of schools and colleges to make arrangements is in addition to, and not instead of, the power of the local authority to make arrangements
- Passenger Transport Executives and the integrated transport authorities they are responsible to, and Transport for London (TfL) where the local authority is a London borough or the City of London 18-19
- persons of sixth form age and their parents<sup>20</sup>. Local authorities should set out in their transport policy statements how and when they propose to consult young people and their parents to inform the development of their statements in the following year.

25. Other bodies including education and training providers; HEIs; transport companies and authorities operating in the locality; public sector bodies; community groups;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Section 509 AB(6)(a) of the Education Act 1996.
<sup>17</sup> Section 509AB(6)(b).

<sup>18</sup> Section 509AB(7)(a)

<sup>1</sup>º Section 509AB(7)(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Section 54 of ASCL 2009 inserts new subsection (ca) in s509AB(6.) This was commenced in April 2010,

to apply for the academic year 2011/12.

voluntary organisations and groups/organisations with an interest in disability issues (including independent specialist providers) should also be consulted where appropriate.

#### Publication of the transport policy statement

 The transport policy statement must be published by the local authority by 31st May each year.

27. The transport policy statement should be available on the local authority's own website by 31 May. Local authorities are also responsible for ensuring that a link is made to the <u>GOV.UK</u> website which is the main source of government web based information for the general public.

 To facilitate this process the local authority's web team should complete the following actions:

- · load the transport policy statement on to the council website
- update the links to GOV.UK: see www.gov.uk/subsidised-college-transport-16-19.

Any queries relating to updating the links should be directed to localdirectgov@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

29. Local authorities should also provide information about the transport arrangements in their areas to young people through whatever channels are available. Availability and cost of transport will inform how young people choose their post-10 provision. Local authorities will need to ensure that those who have a role in supporting young to people to make these decisions are aware of transport arrangements in their area.

#### In-year changes

30. Local authorities should consider their approach to implementing what is set out in its transport policy statement and continue to monitor its progress throughout the year.

 Local authorities may amend and republish their transport policy statements in-year in response to complaints or to a direction by the Secretary of State.

## Appendix – summary of statutory provisions

This appendix sets out the relevant statutory provisions in the Education Act 1996 (as amended) in relation to local authorities' responsibilities for the provision of transport for relevant young adults and persons of sixth form age.

#### 508F Local authorities in England: provision of transport etc for adult learners

(1) A local authority in England must make such arrangements for the provision of transport and otherwise as they consider necessary, or as the Secretary of State may direct, for the purposes mentioned in subsections (2) and (3).

(2) The first purpose is to facilitate the attendance of adults receiving education at institutions—

- (a) maintained or assisted by the authority and providing further or higher education (or both), or
- (b) within the further education sector.

(3) The second purpose is to facilitate the attendance of relevant young adults receiving education or training at institutions outside both the further and higher education sectors, but only in cases where the local authority have secured for the adults in question—

- (a) the provision of education or training at the institution in question, and
- (b) the provision of boarding accommodation under section 514A.
- (4) Any transport provided under subsection (1) must be provided free of charge.

(5) In considering what arrangements it is necessary to make under subsection (1) in relation to relevant young adults, a local authority must have regard to what they are required to do under section 15ZA(1)<sup>21</sup> in relation to those persons.

(6) In considering whether they are required by subsection (1) to make arrangements in relation to a particular adult, a local authority must have regard (among other things) to the age of the adult and the nature of the route, or alternative routes, which the adult could reasonably be expected to take.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 15ZA. Duty in respect of education and training for persons over compulsory school age: England (1) A (local authority) in England must secure that enough suitable education and training is provided to meet the reasonable needs of—

<sup>(</sup>a) persons in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19, and

<sup>(</sup>b) persons in their area who are aged 19 or over but under 25 and are subject to learning difficulty assessment.

(7) Arrangements made under subsection (1) by virtue of subsection (3) to facilitate fulltime education or training at an institution outside both the further and higher education sectors must be no less favourable than the arrangements made for relevant young adults of the same age for whom the authority secure the provision of education at another institution.

(8) A local authority in England may pay all or part of the reasonable travelling expenses of an adult—

- (a) receiving education or training at an institution mentioned in subsection (2) or (3), and
- (b) for whose transport no arrangements are made under subsection (1).
- (9) In this section-

"adult" means a person who is neither a child nor a person of sixth form age,

"sixth form age" is to be construed in accordance with section 509AC(1), and

"relevant young adult" means an adult who is aged under 25 and is subject to learning difficulty assessment.

#### 508G Local authorities in England: transport policy statements etc for young adults subject to learning difficulty assessment

(1) A local authority in England making arrangements, or proposing to pay travelling expenses, under section 508F in relation to relevant young adults must consult—

- (a) any other local authority that they consider it appropriate to consult,
- (b) governing bodies of institutions within the further education sector in the authority's area,
- (ba) proprietors of 16 to 19 Academies in the authority's area,
- (c) persons in the local authority's area who will be relevant young adults when the arrangements or payments have effect, and their parents,
- (d) the Secretary of State, and
- (e) any other person specified by the Secretary of State.

(2) The authority must prepare for each academic year a transport policy statement complying with the following requirements.

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(3) The statement must specify any transport or other arrangements, and any payment of travelling expenses, made or to be made in relation to the year under section 508F in relation to relevant young adults.

(4) The statement must also specify any travel concessions (within the meaning of Part 5 of the Transport Act 1985)<sup>22</sup> which are to be provided under any scheme established under section 93 of that Act to relevant young adults receiving education or training at an institution mentioned in subsection (2) or (3) of section 508F.

(5) The authority must publish the statement by the end of May in the year in which the relevant academic year begins.

(6) In preparing and publishing the statement, the authority must have regard (among other things) to the need to—

- (a) include in the statement sufficient information about the matters that the statement must specify, and
- (b) publish the statement in time,

to enable relevant young adults and their parents to take reasonable account of those matters when choosing between different institutions at which education or training is provided.

(7) The publication of a statement under this section in relation to an academic year does not prevent an authority from—

- (a) making additional arrangements or payments under section 508F in relation to the academic year, or
- (b) providing additional travel concessions in relation to the academic year.

(8) The Secretary of State may amend subsection (5) by order to change the time by which the statement must be published.

(9) In this section-

"academic year" has the meaning given in section 509AC,

"governing body" has the meaning given in section 509AC, and

"relevant young adult" has the meaning given in section 508F.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> The Transport Act 1985 can be viewed on www.legislation.gov.uk.

#### 508H Guidance: sections 508F and 508G

In making arrangements under section 508F(1) and preparing and publishing a statement under section 508G, a local authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State under this section.

#### 508I Complaints about transport arrangements etc for young adults subject to learning difficulty assessment: England

(1) A local authority may revise a statement prepared under section 508G to change any matter specified under subsection (3) of that section if, as a result of a relevant young adult transport complaint, they have come to consider the change necessary for a purpose mentioned in section 508F(2) or (3).

(2) A local authority must revise a statement prepared under section 508G to change any matter specified in subsection (3) of that section if, as a result of a relevant young adult transport complaint, the Secretary of State has directed them to do so.

(3) An authority that revise a statement under subsection (1) or (2) must publish the revised statement and a description of the revision as soon as practicable.

(4) The Secretary of State need not consider whether to exercise any power under sections 496 to 497A (powers to prevent unreasonable exercise of functions, etc) or subsection (2) of this section in response to a matter that is, or could have been, the subject of a relevant young adult transport complaint made to him or her unless satisfied that—

- (a) the matter has been brought to the notice of the local authority concerned, and
- (b) the authority have had a reasonable opportunity to investigate the matter and respond.
- (5) In this section "relevant young adult transport complaint" means a complaint that is—
  - (a) about a local authority's exercise of, or failure to exercise, a function under section 508F or 508G in relation to relevant young adults, and
  - (b) made by a person who is, or will be, a relevant young adult when the matter complained of has effect, or by a parent of such a person,

and "relevant young adult" has the meaning given in section 508F.

(6) For the purposes of sections 508G(7) and 508H, the revision of a statement under this section is to be treated as the preparation of a statement under section 508G. (7) Where a local authority have published in a single document a statement prepared under section 509AA and a statement prepared under 508G, the requirement to publish a revised statement under subsection (3) is to be treated as a requirement to publish a version of the document that includes the revised statement.

#### 509AA Local authorities in England: provision of transport etc. for persons of sixth form age

 A local authority in England shall prepare for each academic year a transport policy statement complying with the requirements of this section.

(2) The statement shall specify the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority consider it necessary to make for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training—

- (a) at schools,
- (b) at any institution maintained or assisted by the authority which provides further education or higher education (or both).
- (c) at any institution within the further education sector,
- (ca) at any 16 to 19 Academy, or
- (d) at any establishment (not falling within paragraph (b), (c) or (ca)) at which the authority secures the provision of education or training under section 15ZA(1).

(3) The statement shall specify the arrangements that the authority consider it necessary to make for the provision of financial assistance in respect of the reasonable travelling expenses of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at any establishment such as is mentioned in subsection (2).

(4) The statement shall specify the arrangements proposed to be made by the governing bodies of—

- (a) schools maintained by the authority at which education suitable to the requirements of persons over compulsory school age is provided, and
- (b) institutions within the further education sector in the authority's area

for the provision of transport for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at the schools and institutions and for the provision of financial assistance in respect of the travelling expenses of such persons. (5) Those governing bodies shall co-operate in giving the local authority any information and other assistance that is reasonably required by the authority for the performance of their functions under this section and section 509AB.

(6) The statement shall specify any travel concessions (within the meaning of Part 5 of the Transport Act 1985 (c. 67)) which are to be provided under any scheme established under section 93 of that Act to persons of sixth form age receiving education at any establishment such as is mentioned in subsection (2) above in the authority's area.

- (7) The authority shall-
  - (a) publish the statement, in a manner which they consider appropriate, on or before 31st May in the year in which the academic year in question begins, and
  - (b) make, and secure that effect is given to, any arrangements specified under subsections (2) and (3).

(8) Nothing in this section prevents a local authority from making, at any time in an academic year, arrangements—

- (a) which are not specified in the transport policy statement published by the authority for that year, but
- (b) which they have come to consider necessary for the purposes mentioned in subsections (2) and (3).

(9) The Secretary of State may, if he considers it expedient to do so, direct a local authority to make for any academic year—

- (a) arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise for facilitating the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at establishments such as are mentioned in subsection (2), or
- (b) arrangements for providing financial assistance in respect of the reasonable travelling expenses of such persons,

which have not been specified in the transport policy statement published by the authority for that academic year.

(10) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsection (7)(a) to change the time by which the statement must be published.

(11) Subsection (9) is subject to section 509AE (complaints about transport arrangements etc for persons of sixth form age in England).

#### 509AB Local authorities in England: further provision about transport policy statements for persons of sixth form age

(1) A statement prepared under section 509AA shall state to what extent arrangements specified in accordance with subsection (2) of that section include arrangements for facilitating the attendance at establishments such as are mentioned in that subsection of disabled persons and persons with learning difficulties.

- (2) A statement prepared under that section shall-
  - (a) specify arrangements for persons receiving full-time education or training at establishments other than schools maintained by the local authoritywhich are no less favourable than the arrangements specified for pupils of the same age attending such schools, and
  - (b) specify arrangements for persons with learning difficulties receiving education or training at establishments other than schools maintained by the authority which are no less favourable than the arrangements specified for pupils of the same age with learning difficulties attending such schools.

(3) In considering what arrangements it is necessary to make for the purposes mentioned in subsections (2) and (3) of section 509AA the local authority shall have regard (amongst other things) to—

- (a) the needs of those for whom it would not be reasonably practicable to attend a particular establishment to receive education or training if no arrangements were made,
- (b) the need to secure that persons in their area have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education or training is provided,
- (ba) what they are required to do under section 15ZA(1) in relation to persons of sixth form age,
- (c) the distances, and journey times, between the homes of persons of sixth form age in their area and establishments such as are mentioned in section 509AA(2) at which education or training suitable to their needs is provided, and
- (d) the cost of transport to the establishments in question and of any alternative means of facilitating the attendance of persons receiving education or training there.

(3A) In considering whether or not it is necessary to make arrangements for those purposes in relation to a particular person, a local authority in England shall have regard (amongst other things) to the nature of the route, or alternative routes, which he could reasonably be expected to take.

(5) In preparing a statement under section 509AA a local authority shall have regard to any guidance issued under this section by the Secretary of State.

- (6) In preparing a statement under that section a local authority shall consult-
  - (a) any other local authority that they consider it appropriate to consult,
  - (b) the governing bodies mentioned in subsection (4) of that section,
  - (ca) persons in the local authority's area who will be of sixth form age when the statement has effect, and their parents, and
  - (d) any other person specified for the purposes of this section by the Secretary of State.
- (7) In preparing a statement under that section a local authority shall also consult-
  - (a) where they are a district council for an area in a metropolitan county, the Integrated Transport Authority for that county, and
  - (b) where they are a London borough council or the Common Council of the City of London, Transport for London.

(7A) In preparing and publishing a statement under section 509AA, a local authority must have regard (among other things) to the need to—

- (a) include in the statement sufficient information about the matters that the statement must specify, and
- (b) publish the statement in time, to enable persons who will be of sixth form age when the statement has effect and their parents to take reasonable account of those matters when choosing between different establishments at which education or training is provided.

#### 509AC Interpretation of sections 509AA and 509AB

(1) For the purposes of sections 509AA and 509AB a person receiving education or training at an establishment is of sixth form age if he is over compulsory school age but—

- (a) is under the age of 19, or
- (b) has begun a particular course of education or training at the establishment before attaining the age of 19 and continues to attend that course.

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(4) References in section 509AB to persons with learning difficulties are to be construed in accordance with section 15ZA(6) and (7).

(5) In sections 509AA and 509AB and this section-

"academic year" means any period commencing with 1st August and ending with the next 31st July;

"disabled person" has the same meaning as in the Equality Act 2010;

"establishment" means an establishment of any kind, including a school or institution;

"governing body", in relation to an institution within the further education sector, has the same meaning as in the Further and Higher Education Act 1992.

(6) The Secretary of State may by order amend the definition of "academic year" in subsection (5).

#### 509AD Local authorities in England: duty to have regard to religion or belief in exercise of travel functions

(1) A local authority in England must have regard, amongst other things, in exercising any of their travel functions in relation to or in connection with the travel of a person or persons to or from a school, institution or other place—

- (a) to any wish of a parent of such a person for him to be provided with education or training at a particular school, institution or other place where that wish is based on the parent's religion or belief, and
- (b) in a case where the person in question (or any of the persons in question) is of sixth form age (within the meaning given in section 508AC(1)), to any wish of that person to be provided with education or training at a particular school, institution or other place where that wish is based on the person's religion or belief.

(2) The "travel functions" of a local authority in England are their functions under any of the following provisions-

section 508A (duty to promote sustainable modes of travel etc);

section 508B (travel arrangements for eligible children);

section 508C (travel arrangements etc for other children);

section 508E and Schedule 35C (school travel schemes);

section 508F (local authorities in England: provision of transport etc for adult learners); section 509AA (transport etc for persons of sixth form age).

- (3) For the purposes of this section-
  - (a) "religion" means any religion,
  - (b) "belief" means any religious or philosophical belief,
  - (c) a reference to religion includes a reference to lack of religion, and
  - (d) a reference to belief includes a reference to lack of belief.

#### 509AE Complaints about transport arrangements etc for persons of sixth form age in England

(1) A local authority may revise a statement prepared under section 509AA to change the arrangements specified under subsection (2) or (3) of that section if, as a result of a sixth form transport complaint, they have come to consider the change necessary for the purpose of the arrangements specified under the subsection in question.

(2) A local authority must revise a statement prepared under section 509AA to change the arrangements specified under subsection (2) or (3) of that section if, as a result of a sixth form transport complaint, the Secretary of State has directed them to do so.

(3) An authority that revise a statement under subsection (1) or (2) must publish the revised statement and a description of the revision as soon as practicable.

(4) The Secretary of State need not consider whether to exercise any power under sections 496 to 497A (powers to prevent unreasonable exercise of functions, etc), section 509AA(9) (power to require local authority to make additional transport arrangements), or subsection (2) of this section in response to a matter that is, or could have been, the subject of a sixth form transport complaint made to him or her unless satisfied that—

- (a) the matter has been brought to the notice of the local authority concerned, and
- (b) the authority have had a reasonable opportunity to investigate the matter and respond.
- (5) In this section "sixth form transport complaint" means a complaint that is-
  - (a) about a local authority's exercise of, or failure to exercise, a function under sections 509AA to 509AD in relation to persons of sixth form age, and
  - (b) made by a person who is, or will be, a person of sixth form age when the matter complained of has effect, or by a parent of such a person,

and "sixth form age" is to be construed in accordance with section 509AC(1).

(6) For the purposes of sections 509AA(8) and (9), 509AB(1) to (5), 509AC and 509AD, the revision of a statement under this section is to be treated as the preparation of a statement under section 509AA.

(7) Where a local authority have published in a single document a statement prepared under section 508G and a statement prepared under 509AA, the requirement to publish a revised statement under subsection (3) is to be treated as a requirement to publish a version of the document that includes the revised statement.

### Further sources of information

#### Associated resources (external links)

- <u>Tendering road passenger transport contracts: best practice guidance</u> This document from the Department of Transport provides best practice to all those involved in procuring road passenger transport. It is available from the GOV.UK website.
- Sustainable transport

<u>Sustrans</u> is the leading sustainable transport charity that provides practical advice that can be passed on to parents and young people to increase confidence in walking and cycling.

#### Other departmental advice and guidance you may be interested in

- Home to school travel and transport statutory guidance (for children of compulsory school age)
   Guidance relating to home to school travel and transport for pupils up to the age of 16 is available from the Department for Education's website.
- Participation of young people statutory guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to identify the key responsibilities of local authorities in relation to raising the participation age and promoting the participation of 16- and 17-year-olds. It is available from the GOV.UK website.



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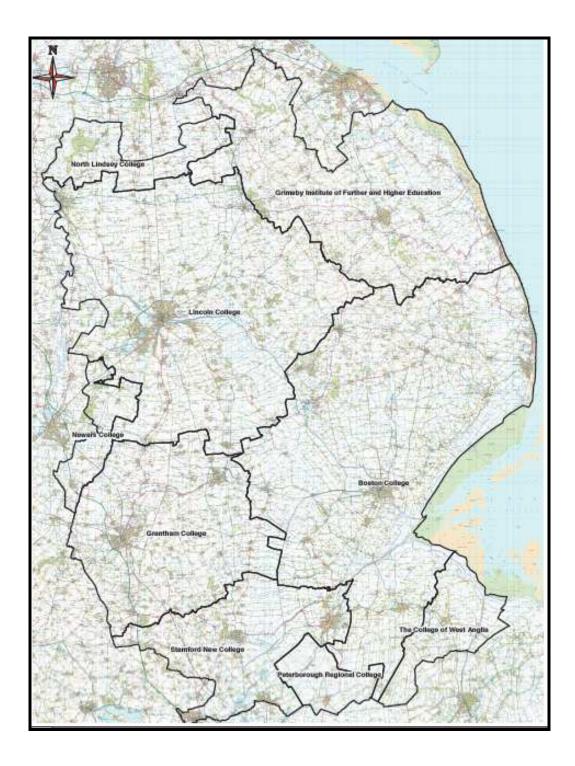
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Appendix C – Map showing school sixth forms



Appendix D – Map showing colleges of Further Education





# **Children's Services**

# Post 16 Education Transport Policy 2014/15

Transport policy statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education (schools, colleges and centres offering courses funded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA)) and for continuing learners aged 19 and over.

Published May 2014

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# **1** Summary of policy and main objectives

The aim of the policy is to enable every learner reaching school leaving age living in Lincolnshire to access an appropriate course of education or training to meet their education or training needs. This policy applies to further education and not higher education undergraduate study and is aimed at learners aged 16-18 years, with additional support for learners beyond the age of 18 who have disabilities and/or learning difficulties

To enable this, Lincolnshire County Council will provide or subsidise transport to the nearest Sixth Form, College of Further Education or other licensed providers over 3 miles from the students home.. A copy of College designated transport areas (DTAs) and a list of licensed providers is attached at the end of this policy statement.

This support is subject to an annual contribution by the learner of £410 (2014/15) which can be paid in three instalments of £138 by September, January and April each year, total £410 including an administration charge of £4. Details of when and how the payment may be made are given below. The contribution must be paid by all learners who qualify for transport support. There are facilities for payment by instalments and these are detailed in Section 2 below. The transport provision is one outward journey and one return journey, timed for the start and finish of the school or college day.

Transport provision made is appropriate to the location and timings of the school or college day. It may be necessary for a student to make his or her own way to and from a transport "pick-up" point.

Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities may require transport support beyond the age of 19 because their further education requires attendance beyond that age. In these circumstances, transport support is offered up to age 21 years and exceptionally up to 25 years of age, on the same basis as for mainstream post 16 learners. The specific needs of learners with learning or other disabilities are assessed.

The normal entitlement is to transport support for two years with additional support available to learners with a disability or learning difficulty

# 2 How and when to apply for transport

As soon as a place is offered by a provider on a post-16 course, learners should apply for transport support if they think they may qualify for it or need it. Transport can be applied for online (<u>www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport</u>). Alternatively forms can be completed and sent to the transport office. Help with making applications is available by ringing 01522 782020 Forms are widely available at colleges, schools, Connexions offices or by contacting us.

# 3 Details of fares, concessions, discounts, subsidies, passes and other travel arrangements available in Lincolnshire

#### 3.1 From the County Council – Entitlement

As stated above, there is a learner contribution or charge for the provision of transport support. This is £410 for the school or college year 2014/15. The contribution may be paid in one annual payment, or in 3 instalments of £138 (total £414 including administrative costs). In order to help learners who may have difficulty finding the initial instalment in September, we will, in cases of financial difficulty accept the first payment in up to three smaller instalments. A first instalment must be paid in order to receive the travel pass. Evidence of benefit entitlement may be required.

#### 3.2 From the County Council – Concessionary

Transport support as summarised above is available to all learners who qualify under the criteria. Spare seats on contract vehicles (non-fare paying) serving schools and colleges are available for learners who do not qualify for transport support under the policy, where there is no commercial 'fare paying' service in the area. These are known as 'concessionary seats'. These seats are offered at the same charging rate as for entitled learners (£410 p.a. in 2014/15) and the charge is calculated on a daily basis depending on when the seat is offered. Spare seats can

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be applied for if a transport entitlement is refused. Please ring 01522 782020 for application details. Concessionary travel/spare seat allocation is given at the discretion of the County Councils Transportation Group (TG) and can be withdrawn at short notice if the seat is needed for a learner entitled to transport support

#### 3.3 From the County Council – CallConnect

Call Connect is part of the County's public transport network, but operates on a pre-booking basis to transport people from specific pick-up points to specific setdown locations. Anyone can use the service for any purpose, and thus it may be of use to some learners who do not qualify for a bus or train pass under the County's policy. The service costs no more to use than standard bus services and registration is free. Call Connect cannot be booked more than a week ahead in most cases. Details can be obtained by ringing 0845 234 3344 or from the website www.lincsinterconnect.com

#### 3.4 From local bus operators

Provision of public transport in Lincolnshire is made largely by local bus operators, who offer services on a commercial basis. The County Council supports a number of local bus services to enable people to access services. Most operators have weekly or monthly travel card schemes, discounts and promotions and these can be confirmed with the operators directly. There is a website which can be used to find details of services: <u>www.lincsbus.info</u>. For travel information ring Traveline on 0871 200 22 33. <u>www.traveline.info</u>

# 3.5 From schools and colleges and other providers offering post 16 courses

Schools with sixth form provision and colleges of further education have some funding available to help students of sixth-form age (16-18) with expenses connected with their study, including travel costs. The funding, now known as **'bursary funding'** replaced the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) that was paid directly to students and pupils.

Bursary funding is paid to schools and colleges who decide how they are to allocate their funds. Enquiries about support for school or college travel expenses should be made directly to the schools or colleges concerned.

The details of schools and colleges in Lincolnshire can be found in the guide **'Going to school in Lincolnshire'** which can be found <u>here</u>. Look particularly at the sections entitled 'Post 16 education' and 'transport'

The following schools, colleges of further education and independent providers below, offer courses that might qualify for transport support. To find out if transport support is available to a particular college, consult the transport policy and designated transport area (DTA) map at Appendix H (iv) of the policy (<u>www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooltransport</u>). You are advised also to contact the college/school/centre you are interested in directly to ask about any support there might be available with transport. These are listed in alphabetical order below:

- Aegir Community School, Gainsborough Educational Village, Sweyn Lane, Gainsborough, DN21 1PB Tel: (01427) 619360
   Website: www.gasinboroughfederation.lincs.sch.uk
- Boston College, Skirbeck Road, Boston. PE21 6JF Tel: (01205) 365701
   Website: <u>www.boston.ac.uk</u>
- Boston Grammar School, South End, Boston, Lincs, PE21 6JY Tel: (01205) 366444
   Website: <u>www.bostongrammarschool.co.uk</u>
- Boston High School, Spilsby Road, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 9PF Tel: (01205) 310505
   Website: <u>www.bostonhighschool.co.uk</u>
- Bourne Grammar School, South Road, BOURNE, PE10 9JE Tel: (01778) 422288
   Website: <u>www.bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Bourne RM Academy Ltd, Edinburgh Crescent, Bourne, PE10 9DT Tel: (01778) 422365
   Website: <u>www.bourneacademy.org</u>
- Branston Community Academy, Station Road, Branston, LN4 1LH Tel: (01522) 880400
   Website: <u>www.branstonca.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- C G Partnership (Training Projects) Limited, 8 Queen St, Market Rasen LN8 3EH Tel: (01673) 843489 Website: <u>www.cgpartnership.com</u>
- Caistor Grammar School, Church Street, Caistor, LN7 6QJ Tel: (01472) 851250
   Website: <u>www.caistorgrammar.com</u>
- Carre's Grammar School Academy Trust, Northgate, Sleaford, NG34 7DD Tel: (01529) 302181
   Website: www.carres.lincs.sch.uk
- Children's Links, Holland House, Horncastle College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, LN9 6PH

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Tel: (0845) 3730645 Website: <u>www.childrenslinks.org.uk</u>

- College of West Anglia, Tennyson Ave Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 2QW Tel: (01553) 761144
   Website: www.cwa.ac.uk
- Cordeaux Academy, North Holme Road, Louth, LN11 0HG Tel: (01507) 606555
   Website: <u>www.cordeauxacademy.org</u>
- De Aston School Academy Trust, Willingham Road, Market Rasen, LN8 3RF Tel:(01673) 843415 Website: <u>www.de-aston.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Grantham College, Stonebridge Road, Grantham. NG31 9AP Tel: (01476) 400281
   Website: www.grantham.ac.uk
- Grimsby Institute, Nuns Corner, Grimsby. DN34 5BQ Tel: (0800) 315002
   Website: <u>www.grimsby.ac.uk</u>
- Hill Holt Wood, Norton Disney, Lincoln LN6 9JP Tel: (01636) 892836
   Website: <u>www.hillholtwood.com</u>
- Kesteven and Grantham Girls School, Sandon Road, Grantham, NG31 9AU Tel: (01476) 563017
   Website: <u>www.kestevengrantham.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Kesteven & Sleaford High School Selective Academy, Jermyn Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7RS Tel: (01529) 414 044 Website: <u>www.kshssa.co.uk</u>
- Lincoln Castle Academy, Riseholme Road, Lincoln, LN1 3SP Tel: (01522) 529203
   Website: <u>www.lincolncastleacademy.co.uk</u>
- Lincoln Christ's Hospital School, Wragby Road, Lincoln, LN2 4PN Tel: (01522) 881144
   Website: <u>www.christs-hospital.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Lincoln College, Student Services, Monks Road, Lincoln, LN2 5HQ Tel: (01522) 876000
   Website: <u>www.lincolncollege.ac.uk</u>

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- Linkage Community Trust, Toynton Hall, Toynton All Saints, Spilsby, PE23 5AE Tel: (01790) 752449 Website: <u>www.linkage.org.uk</u>
- Monks' Dyke Tennyson College, Louth Campus: Monks' Dyke Road, Louth, LN11 9AW Tel: (01507) 606349 Website: <u>www.mdtc.co</u>
- New College Stamford, Drift Road, Stamford. PE9 1XA Tel: (01780) 484381 Website: www.stamford.ac.uk
- North Lindsey College, Kingsway, Scunthorpe. DN17 1AJ Tel: (01724) 281111
   Website: <u>www.northlindsey.ac.uk</u>
- North Kesteven School, Moor Lane, North Hykeham, LN6 9AG Tel: (01522) 881010
- Website: <u>www.nkschool.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Peterborough Regional College, Park Crescent Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 4DZ Tel: (0845) 872 8722 Website: <u>www.peterborough.ac.uk</u>
- The Priory City of Lincoln Academy, Skellingthorpe Road, LN6 0EP Tel: (01522) 882800 Website: <u>www.prioryacademies.co.uk</u>
- The Priory Witham Academy, De Wint Avenue, Lincoln, LN6 7DT Tel: (01522) 882929
   Website: <u>www.prioryacademies.co.uk</u>
- Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, West Street, Horncastle, LN9 5AD Tel: (01507) 522465 Website: <u>www.qegs.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Station Rd, Alford LN13 9HY Tel: (01507) 462403 Website: <u>www.qegs.co.uk</u>
- Riseholme College, Riseholme Park Riseholme Lane, Lincoln LN2 2LG Tel: (01522) 895290
   Website: <u>www.bishopburton.ac.uk/riseholmecollege</u>

- Sir John Gleed School, Neville Avenue, Spalding, PE11 2EJ Tel: (01775) 722484
   Website: www.gleed.lincs.sch.uk
- Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, Moor Lane, North Hykeham, LN6 9AF Tel: (01522) 882020 Website: <u>www.srpa.co.uk</u>
- Sir William Robertson Academy Ltd, Main Road, Welbourn, LN5 0PA Tel: (01400) 272477
   Website: <u>www.swracademy.org</u>
- Skegness Academy, Burgh Road, Skegness, PE25 2QH Tel: (01754) 879122
   Website: <u>www.skegnessacademy.org</u>
- Skegness College of Vocational Training, 28 Algitha Road, Skegness, PE25 2AG Tel. (01754) 766611 Website: <u>www.skegnesscollege.co.uk</u>
- Spalding Grammar School, Priory Road, Spalding, PE11 2XH Tel. (01775) 765800
   Website: <u>www.spaldinggrammar.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Spalding High School, Stonegate, Spalding, PE11 2PJ Tel: (01775) 722110 Website: <u>www.spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- St Bernard's School, Wood Lane, Louth, LN11 8RS Tel: (01507) 603776 Website: <u>www.st-lawrence-special.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- St George's Academy, Westgate, Sleaford, NG34 7PP Tel: (01529) 302487
   Website: <u>www.st-georges-academy.org</u>
- St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy, Western Avenue, LN6 7SX Tel: (01522) 871400 Website: www.sspp.lincs.sch.uk
- The Deepings School, Park Road, Deeping St. James, PE6 8NF Tel: (01778) 342159
   Website: <u>www.deepingschool.org.uk</u>
- The Eresby School, Eresby Avenue, Spilsby, PE23 5HU Tel: (01790) 752441
   Website: <u>www.eresbyspecialschool.co.uk</u>

- The Garth School ,Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, PE11 1QF Tel: (01775) 725566
   Website: www.lincolnshire.schooljotter.com/thegarth
- The Giles Academy, Church End, Old Leake, Boston, PE22 9LD Tel: (01205) 870693
   Website: <u>www.gilesacademy.co.uk</u>
- The Grantham Sandon School, Sandon Road, Grantham, NG31 9AX Tel: (01476) 564994
   Website: <u>www.sandon.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- The John Fielding Community Special School, Ashlawn Drive, Boston, PE21 9PX Tel: (01205) 363395 Website: www.johnfieldingschool.co.uk
- King Edward VI Grammar School, Edward Street, Louth, LN11 9LL Tel: (01507) 600456 Website: <u>www.kevigs.org</u>
- The King's School, Brook Street, Grantham, NG31 6RP Tel: (01476) 563180
   Website: <u>www.kings.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Lincoln St Christopher's, Hykeham Road, Lincoln, LN6 8AR Tel: (01522) 528378
   Website: <u>www.lincolnstchristophers.com</u>
- The Priory Academy LSST, Cross O'Cliff Hill, Lincoln, LN5 8PW Tel: (01522) 889977
   Website: <u>www.prioryacademies.co.uk</u>
- The Priory Ruskin Academy, Manthorpe Site, Rushcliffe Road, Grantham, NG31 8ED Tel: (01476) 410410 Website: <u>www.prioryacademies.co.uk</u>
- The Queen Elizabeth's High School, Morton Terrace, Gainsborough DN21 2ST Tel: (01427) 612354 Website: <u>www.qehs.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Skegness Grammar School Vernon Road, Skegness, PE25 2QS United Kingdom Contact Details Tel: (01754) 610000 Website: <u>www.sgs.lincs.sch.uk</u>

- St. Francis Community Special School, Wickenby Crescent, Lincoln, LN1 3TJ Tel: (01522) 526498 Website: <u>www.st-francis.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- Willoughby School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. PE10 9JD Tel: (01778) 425203
   Website: <u>www.willoughby.lincs.sch.uk</u>
- University Academy Holbeach, Park Road, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7PU Tel: (01406) 423042
   Website: www.universityacademyholbeach.org
- Walton Girls' High School and Sixth Form, Harlaxton Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 7JR01476 563251 Tel: (01476) 563251 Website: <u>www.waltongirls.co.uk</u>
- William Farr Church of England Comprehensive School, Lincoln Road, Welton, LN2 3JB Tel: (01522) 866900 Website: <u>www.williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk</u>

# 4 Transport support arrangements for learners who reach the age of 19 whilst continuing on a course

Providing the student or pupil had not reached his or her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday before the course began (a date of 1<sup>st</sup> September is used to determine the notional start date of a course), and remains otherwise eligible for transport, the support will be continued for the remainder of the school or college year, if the student has not received two years of transport support.

For learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, transport support may be offered until they are 21 years, or 25 years if needed to complete an appropriate course of study begun before the age of 19 years. Transport is provided at the beginning and end of the school/ College day.

# 5 Transport support for learners with learning difficulties/disabilities (LLDD)

Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LLDD) are individually assessed for transport needs, and appropriate arrangements are made to ensure that their specific needs are met. The provision of transport is subject to an annual contribution from the learner of £410 (2014/15). This contribution may be paid in instalments. (See section 3 above).

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Transport support for learners with learning difficulties/disabilities is available under the policy until they are 21 years, or 25 years if necessary, in order to complete an appropriate programme of study.

## 6 Wheels to work and training

Lincolnshire County Council is supporting a county wide 'Wheels 2 Work' (and to training initiative run by 'Access your Future') from September 2010. Wheels 2 Work is a scheme to provide transport (normally mopeds, but also scooters and electric bicycles) for those who otherwise could not access work or training.

The scheme will be run as a social enterprise and will assist existing post 16 students who have genuine transport needs (which will be assessed before entry on to the scheme is agreed) and to help reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) in the county. Please note that capacity is limited. For further information on this scheme, contact the Council on 01522 782020.

## 7 How entitlement to transport support is assessed

When we receive an application, we determine entitlement against the criteria. If the learner is going to his/her nearest and/or designated 6<sup>th</sup> form or college, and the 6<sup>th</sup> form or college is more than three miles from the home, he/she will qualify for transport support. Subject to the contribution being paid, transport support, in the form of a bus or train pass, or other form of support, will be provided.

We will consider any application made, and we recommend that anyone who thinks they might be entitled to transport support should apply.

We will respond to your application by writing to the applicants address confirming entitlement to transport support, and enclosing details of when and how payment of the learner contribution can be made. This payment can be made in a single payment or in instalments. (See section 3 above). After an arrangement to pay the contribution has been made the travel details and pass are sent out. If transport support is refused an opportunity to appeal against the decision is given.

## 8 Independent Travel Training/Mobility training

Mobility and independence with travel training is available to eligible students who have difficulty with transport. Applications for help should be made either to the County Council ring (01522) 782020 or speak to the Student Services Officer or Head of Sixth Form at the school or college. The aim of the training and support is to help bring about the confidence and develop skills needed to travel independently.

## 9 Specialist Courses

The policy of the County Council is to offer transport support to young learners, to their nearest or transport designated sixth form or college. Designated transport areas (DTAs) are areas drawn round colleges and schools indicating a transport entitlement, subject to living more than 3 miles from the sixth-form or college.

Transport support is not offered to a school or college that is not the nearest or designated one for the students address, and account is not taken of preferred courses or specialist courses, which are not available at the nearest or designated college or school.

There is limited transport support available to access some specialist courses delivered from Riseholme College. These are currently:

- Agriculture (Level 2 or above)
- Environmental Studies (Level 2 or above)
- Horticulture (Level 2 or above)
- Arboriculture (Level 2 or above)
- Large Animal Management (Level 2 or above)
- Access to Music (Lincoln only)

# 10 Help with travel support outside the Local Authority Area

Transport support is offered on the basis of the policy criteria stated above to a school college or other further education institution that is outside the LA boundary if it is the nearest or designated school or college to the student's home address.

Lincolnshire based learners living in areas bordering other local authority areas are thus able to travel to centres beyond the Lincolnshire border if it is the nearest appropriate school or college to access a course, and the travelling time is reasonable (up to 75 minutes per journey).

## 11 Appealing against a refusal to offer transport support

If transport support is refused (which should be given as a decision in writing, with a reason), an applicant is entitled to appeal the decision by asking for a review. A refusal to offer transport support will be based on the fact that one or more of the criteria has not been met. Details of how to appeal are given in the letter notifying the decision. Help in appealing a decision and advice on evidence required can be requested by ringing (01522) 782020.

## 12 Contact us

You can contact us in a number of ways, detailed below.

For information and queries on *transport entitlement:* 

School Services County Offices Newland LINCOLN LN1 1YL

Tel: 01522 782020 Fax: 01522 516054 Email: <u>schooltransportapplications@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u>

For information and queries on the *transport that has been provided*, tickets etc:

Transportation Development Services 4<sup>th</sup> floor City Hall LINCOLN LN1 1DN

Tel: 01522 782020 Fax: 01522 568735 Email: <u>Transportation\_group@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u>

For Main Office and Switchboard (all County Council services)

Lincolnshire County Council County Offices, Newland, LINCOLN LN1 1YL

Tel: 01522 552222 Fax: 01522 516137 Minicom: 01522 552055 Email: <u>customer\_services@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u>

## Appendix F – Concessionary Transport application form – page 1

	tas to be regimened and	Concessionary Transport to Schools & Colleges	Transport	Concessionary Transport to School & College
	City Hall, Lincoh LNI I IDN Il encodi information computeria di by the Council un Utoreau.	<ul> <li>When pupils and students are not entitled to transport between home and school or college, responsibility for travel arrangements rests with their parents or guardians.</li> <li>Lincoinshire County Council's policy on education transport allows in</li> </ul>	For queries on your transport arrangements: Transportation Customer Service Centre 01522 782020	A guide for parents and guardians whose children are <b>not</b> entitled to transport.
	County Coundl, 4th Floor, Multimenter Carry Cound. A malate for patic impedicul at Pugal Nai. CT Multi March	<ul> <li>certain circumstances for spare seats on education contract vehicles to be used by non-entitled pupils and students on payment of the appropriate charge.</li> <li>The allocation of concessionary places is strictly controlled and no-one may travel on school or college transport without the written authority of the</li> </ul>	Public Transport Information	SCHOOL BUS
ardian'student)	: Transportation Group, Lincolnitive and and used for admittening and and which a orbed in the Date Protection Register, which a	Transportation Group.  This leaflet answers the queries which are raised most commonly about concessionary transport.  If you have any particular queries or	For all bus times call Traveline on: 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.lincsbus.info For rail times call National rail enquiries on:	
Signed (parent/gua	Please return this form to: The information margine company may be used and disclosed as deco may be used and disclosed a deco Foor office uses only Application fort	issues not dealt with in this leaflet, please telephone the appropriate contact shown on the back page. We will be only too pleased to help you.	0845 748 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk historic Market Markov Market Markov www.lincoinshire.gov.uk	Lincolnshire

## Appendix F – Concessionary Transport application form – page 2

#### How much will my concessionary seat cost?

The cost for the full academic year 2013/14 is £399, which may be paid in full or in three termly instalments of £135, including an administrative charge. If your child starts part way through a term, the amount due, will be calculated and notified to you by letter.

#### Are concessionary seats available on all vehicles?

Concessionary seats are not available if:

- the journey to or from school can be made by local (fare-paying) bus or train services or
- ii) there would be any additional cost to the County Council

If my child is offered a concessionary seat, how long will it be valid for?

The seat will only be available for the duration of the current academic year subject to full payment. If it is wanted for subsequent years, you will need to re-apply each summer. See also question 4.

Under what circumstances would a concessionary seat be withdrawn during a school year?

The most likely reasons would be that:

- ) the number of children entitled to transport increases to a point where no spare seats are left or
- ii) a suitable fare-paying bus service becomes available or
- a review of school transport reduces the availability of spare seats or
   disruptive or unacceptable behaviour where
- proven will result in immediate withdrawal of the concessionary seat.

#### 5 How much notice would I be given if the concessionary seat had to be given up?

Entitlement to the seat ends automatically when the school year finishes in July but if it is necessary to withdraw the concession during the course of the year, you will be given five working days notice to enable you to make alternative travel arrangements. However, we reserve the right to remove passengers under five working days should disruptive or unacceptable behaviour be substantiated.

#### 6 What happens if there are more applications for concessionary seats than there are places available?

A priority system operates which gives preference as follows:

- 1st pupils/students living within Lincolnshire.
- 2nd pupils/students who wish to use the transport at both the beginning and end of all school/college days.
- 3rd pupils/students attending the designated or nearest school or college.
- 4th pupils/students who are part way through an exam course.
- 5th those living farthest from designated or nearest school or college.
- 6th youngest child.

#### How do I apply for a concessionary seat for my child?

You should complete the application form on this leaflet and return it to:

Transportation Group, Lincolnshire County Council, 4th floor, City Hall, Lincoln, LN1 IDN

## B How quickly will my application be dealt with?

Applications for concessionary seats to start in September cannot be processed until it is known how many children will be entitled to travel on the route concerned, and it may be some weeks into the Autumn term before a decision can be made. Applications for concessionary seats submitted later in the school year, can generally receive a decision within ten working days.

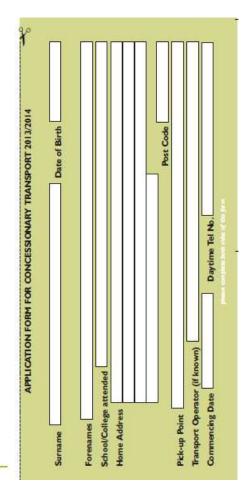
## 9 Is there anything else I should know about concessionary travel?

You should always consider what alternative travel arrangements you would make if a concessionary seat is not available, or if one is subsequently withdrawn. This is particularly important if you choose a school or college which is not the designated or nearest one to your home. Please do not send payment until you have received confirmation that a seat is available.



The Max Respect Scheme aims to promote good behaviour on home to school and public transport services. For more information visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/MaxRespectScheme

If you would like to request a copy of this leaflet in an alternative format or different language please contact: 01522 782020



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**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 April 2014
Subject:	The framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement: Self-Evaluation

## Summary

Ofsted can undertake two types of inspection in Local Authorities with regard to school improvement. One is a "focussed schools" inspection where Ofsted inspect a number of schools in the Local Authority over a one or two week period. The second, which can be triggered by the first, is when Ofsted inspect the effectiveness of school improvement arrangements within a Local Authority. These arrangements include strategic and political oversight as well as the effectiveness of service delivery. The inspection would be of the Local Authority itself although it would also include inspections of schools.

The criteria for triggering an inspection of school improvement arrangements have been considered. Although an inspection would appear to be unlikely in the near future, it is timely to consider what such an inspection would explore so that the County Council can be fully prepared.

If an inspection were to be triggered, the nine areas that would be the focus for Ofsted would fall under four main headings :-

- i. The effectiveness of corporate and strategic leadership of school improvement (and its impact)
- ii. Monitoring, challenge, intervention and support
- iii. Support and challenge for leadership and management including governance
- iv. Use of resources

A self-evaluation against the criteria for inspection and against the nine areas of scope has been undertaken. This report highlights the key strengths and areas of development that have resulted from that process.

## Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- Note the report and particularly the section relevant to the role of elected members. It is likely that the Lead Member would be required to meet with the inspection team should the need arise.
- Continue to scrutinise reports on school improvement demonstrating rigour, challenge, ambition and vision in order to demonstrate political oversight.
- 3. Support an ambitious vision for improving schools, which is clearly demonstrated in public documents.
- 4. Be prepared to articulate the Local Authority's strategic role, and enhance schools' ability to self-manage should an inspection arise.

## 1. Background

Despite the growing number of academies, local authorities retain a legal responsibility for performance in the area as a whole, under the 1996 Education Act. Local authorities have powers of intervention with their maintained schools that are set out under part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 but these do not apply to academies, which are state-funded independent schools.

Nevertheless, the Secretary of State for Education has made it known that where the local authority has concerns about the performance of an academy, it should, "within the confines of its responsibilities, take reasonable steps to discuss this with the individual establishment, the executive leadership and governance of the chain, and/or the Department for Education, where appropriate."

Sir Michael Wilshaw said to the House of Commons select committee in the Autumn, 'If they (Local Authorities) identify underperformance in an academy, they should be writing to the chair of governors and the sponsor of the academy and contacting the Academies Division at the Department ....

any good local authority will know whether an academy is doing well or not and will alert the Department for Education to their concerns.'

OfSTED consulted upon and then published in May 2013, a "Framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement". The framework is designed to assess the extent to which a local authority is meeting its statutory duties to:

- Monitor the performance of all schools.
- Promote high standards in schools and among other providers so that children and young people achieve well and fulfil their potential as defined by section 13A of the Education Act 1996.
- Exercise its statutory powers of intervention authority maintained schools support for local authority maintained schools that are "schools causing concern" as set out in Part 4 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- Challenge academy schools that are underperforming and refer these to Department for Education where necessary.

There are seven possible triggers for an inspection of a local authority:

- a. where the proportion of children who attend a good or better school, pupil referral unit and/or alternative provision is lower than that found nationally
- b. where there is a higher than average number of schools in an Ofsted formal category of concern and/or there are indicators that progress of such schools is not securing rapid improvement
- c. where there is a higher than average proportion of schools that have not been judged to be good by Ofsted
- d. where attainment levels across the local authority are lower than that found nationally and/or where the trend of improvement is weak
- e. where rates of progress, relative to starting points, are lower than that found nationally and/or where the trend of improvement is weak
- f. where the volume of qualifying complaints to Ofsted about schools in a local authority area is a matter of concern
- g. where the Secretary of State requires an inspection of local authority school improvement functions.

Recent inspections have only been triggered where there are multiple concerns. Our analysis against these criteria is shown in Annex 1. On this basis we do not believe that an inspection is imminent. Nevertheless, the framework provides a useful reference for further development of our services and enables us to be well prepared.

This report will now highlight briefly the strengths and areas for development in each of the four main areas of focus (areas (i) to (iv) on the cover page). There is a full Self Evaluation Form (SEF), signed off by the Director of Children's Services and a supporting Action Plan plus an evidence bank to support statements. The SEF will be updated termly.

# (i) The effectiveness of corporate and strategic leadership of school improvement (and its impact)

This section relates, in part, to the role of elected members and senior officers. As it should be of particular interest, the descriptors used by Ofsted to judge effectiveness are shown in Annex 2.

Strengths identified in the Self Evaluation include:

- Strong arrangements to deliver school improvement through CfBT as demonstrated by Key Stage outcomes and overall performance of schools' Ofsted outcomes
- Consistent and methodical approach to challenge through reports to the Children's Services Directorate Management Team (DMT), Executive DMT and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
- 81% of primaries are good or outstanding
- 70% of secondaries are good or outstanding. Although lower than primary, it is 11% above the national figure of 59%
- 95% of special schools are good or outstanding

- The number of primary schools causing concern reducing from 28 in 2011 to 8 in 2013
- Increase in percentage of good or better schools in all phases from 68% in September 2012 to 81% in December 2013. This is slightly above the national figure at 79%
- Small schools partnership project has been shown to be successful in improving outcomes. This was led strategically by the School Improvement Service.

## Strategic developments underway:

- The School Improvement Strategy is being revised to be sharper and more succinct. This will be clearly communicated and shared with Headteachers and Chairs, and their feedback taken
- Only 67% of secondary schools are good or outstanding. Advisers have carried out a risk assessment, visited schools, including grammar schools, and intervened as appropriate
- Work with all post-16 learning providers to ensure sufficient breadth of provision is maintained
- The development of a sector-led improvement model within a mixed economy that meets the needs of Lincolnshire schools is being developed. It will include a stronger partnership working with Teaching Schools over deployment of NLEs and LLEs
- There is a strong need to focus school improvement on closing the gap for vulnerable pupils and groups of pupils. This is a Children's Services priority and work led by schools and a Closing the Gap team has begun. The gaps in Lincolnshire are above national. Closing the Gap work is focussing on inequities across the county i.e. between Districts.

## (ii) Monitoring, challenge, intervention and support

Strengths identified in the Self Evaluation include:

- Appropriate monitoring, challenge, support and intervention has resulted in strong Ofsted outcomes for primary, nursery and special schools
- School improvement staff are Ofsted trained which gives credibility and a very helpful perspective
- The performance team provides relevant and helpful data on a regular basis
- The Local Authority uses its powers of intervention appropriately
- There are regular monthly meetings with the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Lead Member to update them with school issues so they are fully aware and the DCS is kept fully informed at all times
- Support services (e.g. People Management Services, Finance, Governance) are involved in termly schools causing concern meetings
- Local networks, partnerships and Executive Headships are used to support schools and to effect improvement.

Strategic developments underway:

- The relationship with academies, particularly those that could require intervention, is being further developed
- Although well above the national average, the percentage of secondary schools that are good or outstanding needs to improve further. Some grammars are at risk of not being good or outstanding when next inspected due to increased focus on progress rather than attainment
- The core school improvement offer is being revised to reflect the priorities highlighted by the Ofsted framework.

## (iii) Support and challenge for leadership and management, including governance

## Strengths identified in the Self Evaluation include:

- The training programme for leadership, teachers and governors is comprehensive and courses are well-attended
- Effective school to school support through Associate Education Advisers (who are Headteachers) and Education Advisers is demonstrated through supported schools improving
- The Local Authority uses its powers of intervention effectively.

## Strategic developments underway:

• The number of additional governors to support schools causing concern and as members of IEBs (Interim Executive Boards) needs to be increased.

## (iv) Use of resources

## Strengths identified in the Self Evaluation include:

• Resources to support schools are based on strong understanding and knowledge of school needs. The Local Authority has a budget to support Interim Headteachers and for schools causing concern.

## Strategic developments underway:

- Reports on allocations of funding and its impact need to go to Schools Forum so they can see that impact and whether value for money is being achieved
- The Local Authority outsources its school improvement functions and regular Contract Board meetings are held to monitor outcomes and spending of resources.

## 2. Conclusion

The Local Authority has strong outcomes overall and the percentage of schools (all phases) that are good or outstanding is 81% which is above the national proportion.

Mirroring the country-wide pattern, there is a lower percentage of secondary schools than primary, special or nursery schools with good or outstanding grades but the proportion is still significantly above national. Challenge is robust in all phases and support is strong for maintained schools in particular. Given these impacts that demonstrate the effectiveness of school improvement arrangements, the overall self evaluation is that they are effective.

## 3. Consultation

## a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not Applicable

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report					
Annex 1	Criteria for triggering inspection of Local Authority school improvement arrangements or a focussed schools inspection				
Annex 2	Ofsted descriptors that characterise effective corporate leadership and strategic planning of school improvement				

## 5. Background Papers

The framework for the	Available at:
inspection of local authority	
arrangements for supporting	http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-
school improvement	for-inspection-of-local-authority-arrangements-
	for-supporting-school-improvement

## Annex 1: Review of indicators that can trigger inspection

		Does	Cur	rent position		
	DfE Indicators	this apply ?	RAG (red, amber, green)	<b>Evidence</b> How we can demonstrate this?	Con	nments
Α	The proportion of children who attend a good or better school, pupil referral unit and /or alternative provision is lower than that found nationally	No	G	OfSTED Annual Report 2012/13	National	Local Primary 81% Secondary 78%
В	There is a higher than average number of schools in an Ofsted category of concern and/or there are indicators that progress of such schools is not securing rapid enough improvement	No	G	Most recent data Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 2013	National 3%	Local 1%
С	There is a higher than average proportion of schools that have not been judged to be good by Ofsted	No	G	Most recent data Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 2013	National 21.0%	Local 18%
	Attainment levels across the local authority are lower than that found nationally and/or where the trend of improvement is weak		G for primary A for secondary	See data in the right hand side column	national above national Level 2+ Maths 91 92	ward trend, however, remains below national trend, below national in 2011 & 2012, now above trend, below national in 2011 & 2012, now above national figure, remains above national

## Annex 1: Review of indicators that can trigger inspection

			Does this	Cur	rent position	
	DfE Indicators		apply	RAG	Evidence	Comments
			?	(red, amber, green)	How we can demonstrate this?	
Page 124	E	Rates of progress, relative to starting points, are lower than that found nationally and/or where the trend or improvement is weak	No	G for primary A for secondary	See data in the right hand side column	Lincolnshire in-line with national in 2011 and 1% above in 2012 and 2013 Level 4+ GAPS 73 72 1% below national (new measure in 2013) Level 4+ Reading, Writing & Maths 76 75 Lincolnshire and national figures same as in 2012. Lincolnshire remains above national in 2013. GCSE % 5+A*-C inc. English & Maths 61.8 59.2 3-year downward trend in Lincolnshire against a 3-year upward trend nationally, however Lincolnshire remains above national A Level % A or A* 26.3 25.5 Improvement on 2012 figure against a fall in the national figure, however remains below national % Grades A*-E 98.1 98.5 Decrease on 2012 figure against a national upward trend, however, remains above national <b>National figures in blue / Lincolnshire in red</b> Key Stage 2 Level Progress Reading 88 90 Decrease on 2012 figure (1%), national figure also decreased (2%). Remains above national 2 Level Progress Writing 91 93 Increase on 2012 figure, but remains above national. Key Stage 4 English 70.4 69.0 Decrease on 2012 figure against a national increase. Below national (above in 2012). Maths 70.7 72.0 Above 2012 figure as national. Remains above national.

## Annex 1: Review of indicators that can trigger inspection

			Does this	Cui	rent position	
		DfE Indicators	apply	RAG	Evidence	Comments
			?	(red, amber,	How we can	
				green)	demonstrate this?	
	F			G	Small number of	
					complaints made but	
					none triggered	
					inspection and school	
					and local authority	
					able to show	
					appropriate action	
					taken. Senior HMI	
					very pleased with performance of	
					Lincolnshire local	
					authority.	
Page	G	The Secretary of State is known to have	No	G	DfE representative	Termly meetings with DfE representatives.
Q	J	concerns about the effectiveness of local	NO	, C	made clear that	renny meetings with Dre representatives.
Ð		authority school improvement arrangements			Lincolnshire is not a	
<b>_</b>					priority. Only 1	
125					primary school	
S					sponsored academy.	

Aspect	
	Corporate leadership and strategic planning
The effectiveness of corporate and strategic leadership of school improvement	• Elected members and senior officers have an ambitious vision for improving schools, which is clearly demonstrated in public documents. Elected members articulate the Local Authority's strategic role, and enhance schools' ability to self-manage. Accountability is transparent and efficiently monitored in a systematic way. Members' challenge of officers is well informed by high quality information and data.
	• There is coherent and consistent challenge to schools and other providers to ensure that high proportions of children and young people have access to a good quality education.
	• Communications and consultation are transparent and lead to a shared understanding with schools. Schools respect and trust credible senior officers, who listen and respond to their views and advice.
	• Senior officers ensure that strategies for school improvement are understood clearly by schools, other providers and stakeholders. There is tangible evidence that the strategy is effective in preventing failure, securing higher proportions of schools 'getting to good' and eroding inequality in different areas of the Local Authority.
	• Elected members and senior officers exercise their duties in relation to securing sufficient suitable provision for all 16-19 year olds and in respect of raising the participation age (RPA) requirements.

# Agenda Item 8



**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's
Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 April 2014
Subject:	Corporate Parenting Panel Update

## Summary:

The work of the Corporate Parenting Panel remains critical in promoting life chances and opportunities for vulnerable children, Looked After Children, and care leavers. Members act as champions on behalf of these groups of children and young people. The Panel meets on a quarterly basis and includes representatives from Looked After Children and Foster Carers.

Through the presentation of reports, performance information, and Visiting Members responsibilities, the Panel scrutinise that the arrangements for the safety and welfare of Looked After Children and care leavers are in accordance with what every good parent would want for their own child.

It is agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Parenting Panel be presented to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 are attached.

## Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel and to consider the matters raised and addressed.

## 1. Background

The Panel meet quarterly and is continually evolving and is very proactive in seeking information to inform members about the quality of services provided by the Local Authority and partner agencies, as is evidenced in the recording of the minutes.

## 2. Conclusion

The on-going scrutiny process looking at how well we meet our respective responsibilities and the different aspects of a child and young person's needs is pivotal to the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel. The attached minutes provide an account of the work undertaken since the previous Panel held on 05/12/2013.

## 3. Consultation

## a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report					
Appendix A	Corporate Parenting Panel Minutes 31/01/2014				

## 5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tara Jones, who can be contacted on 01522 552686 or tara.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



## CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 31 JANUARY 2014

## PRESENT: COUNCILLOR D BRAILSFORD (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A G Hagues, J D Hough (Vice-Chairman), J R Hicks and P J O'Connor.

External Members: Jean Burbidge (Lincolnshire Community Health Services) and Mrs Polly Coombes (Foster Carer).

Officer/invited guests in attendance: Karen Bailey (Looked After Children's Education Services Manager), Theresa Buhryn (Performance Development and Reviewing Manager), Dave Clarke (Secure Unit Principal), Katrina Cope (Team Leader Democratic and Civic Services), Sheridan Dodsworth (Head of Service Children with Disabilities), Linda Graham (Commissioning Officer Children's Services), John Harris (Joint Head of Regulated Services), Caroline Jackson (Performance Information & Data Manager), Tracy Johnson (Scrutiny Officer), Tara Jones (Joint Head of Regulated Services), Andrew McLean (Head of Service – Children's Commissioning) and Janice Spencer (Assistant Director Children's Services).

## 39. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R J Hunter-Clarke and L Wootten.

An apology for absence was also received from Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell (Executive Councillor Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services).

Mrs Marilyn Graham-Williams (Foster Carer), Mr Ted Normandale (National Youth Advocacy Service) and Samantha Edwards (Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) also submitted their apologies for absence.

The following officers also submitted their apologies: Clive Chambers (Assistant Director Children's Services, Barnardo's Midlands Region), Jan Gunter (Consultant Nurse, Safeguarding – NHS Lincolnshire), Colin Hopkirk (Participation Officer) and Kerry Mitchell (Leaving Care Manager, Barnardo's).

#### 40. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of members' interests were made at this stage of proceedings. However, it was noted that Clive Chambers (Assistant Director Children's Services, Barnardo's Midlands Region) and Kerry Mitchell (Leaving Care Manager, Barnardo's) had not attended the meeting due their interest in Agenda Item 8 - Care Leavers' Tendering of Service Contract.

## 41. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2013

#### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 December 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 42. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN STRATEGY 2013 - 2016

Pursuant to minute number 35(2) from the meeting held on 5 December 2013. The Panel gave consideration to a revised version of the Looked After Children Strategy for 2013 - 2016.

A copy of the latest version of the Strategy was detailed at Appendix A to the report presented.

The Joint Head of Regulated Services confirmed that the issues raised at the 5 December 2013 meeting had been incorporated within the Strategy.

During consideration of the Strategy, the Panel raised the following issues:-

- Page 3 The first sentence to paragraph three should refer to all elected members and not just the Corporate Parenting Panel;
- Page 5 The second paragraph required clarity in relation to the number of young people and the reasons for the distinction;
- Page 9 Second paragraph from the bottom, it was felt that this was too general and needed to be more specific, for example, officers advised that one nurse had been appointed. It was felt that the text needed to reflect what action was then going to be taken with regard to the second nurse;
- Page 12 "What are we going to do next" section at the bottom of the page, needed to state specific target dates;
- Page 14 That clarity was needed with regard to the fifth paragraph. Members were advised that the statement was saying that 97.5% of children attended school 85% of the time; and
- Page 15 That the second sentence of paragraph seven needed to be a new paragraph.

Members were reassured that as part of the consultation process, young people had been consulted during the formation of the Strategy.

In conclusion, the Panel felt that the Strategy brought all the actions relating to Looked After Children together into one document and was therefore a step forward in the right direction.

The Chairman on behalf of the Panel extended thanks to officers for all their hard work.

## RESOLVED

That approval be given to the Looked After Children Strategy 2013 – 2016 as detailed at Appendix A to the report, subject to the inclusion of amendments as detailed above.

#### 43. LINCOLNSHIRE'S ADOPTION DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

A report from the Executive Director of Children's Services was considered, which provided the Panel with an update relating to Lincolnshire's adoption diagnostic assessment.

It was reported that in February 2013, Lincolnshire had received an unanticipated adoption reform grant to assist in the implementation of the Government's Action Plan for Adoption and Reform. As a result, Outcomes UK had been commissioned to undertake an adoption diagnostic assessment of the adoption service.

Detailed at Appendix A to the report was a copy of a letter from Outcomes UK, which set out the lines of enquiry, and a summary of the recommendations based upon Outcomes UK findings.

The Joint Head of Regulated Services introduced the Outcomes UK response document to the Panel and highlighted that the findings had identified that the customer experience of prospective adopters could be better. It was reported that the Departmental Management Team had agreed to put measures in place to strengthen family findings. Another area that had been identified was that more joined up training was required for those involved in the adoption process. The Panel noted that workshops had already been planned and that staff were very enthusiastic of the joined up training. A further area highlighted was that there was a need to have an easily understood, visual tracking tool of the child's journey.

In conclusion, the Joint Head of Regulated Services advised that the adoption service had found it very helpful to have the assessment and have an independent view, before the forthcoming Ofsted inspection.

During discussion, the Panel raised the following issues:-

- The need to ensure that the initial contact point was a positive experience, as this could present a negative signal. The Panel was reassured that steps were being put in place to ensure a lot more positive experience. A pilot had been agreed to take Frontline Advisors back in-house so that the first point of contact could be managed better;
- Promoting a multi-agency culture, a suggestion was made whether all agencies working in the same building might help to alleviate any problems. The Panel was advised that Band Six Clinicians were to be co-located with Adoption Social Workers. It was noted that as things moved forward with the

Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review there would be more opportunities for services to merge together;

- A question was raised as to whether a strategy was required to take forward and strengthen a child's journey. The Panel noted that at the moment there was not the ability to pull off the data required on the current ICS system, but, an impending new IT system (Mosaic) would enable that to happen in the future. It was hoped that the new system would be implemented in approximately one year's time. However, currently, the moment, a child's journey was maintained by Business Support, and this provided rich data. Case notes from social workers also reflected the journey; it was just recording the information onto ICS that was the issue. It was highlighted that progress was continually monitored through quality audits;
- N161 placement of children within 12 months of best interest performance had dipped from 90% to 81%. The Panel was advised that information sharing meetings had started, and if social workers were unable to attend an information sharing meeting, they would be able to visit, or skype the adopters before the placement. It was highlighted that the transfer policy and the adoption placement had been revised to define the social workers role and to make sure that everyone was aware of their responsibilities; and
- Checking of what's happening on the ground It was highlighted that work was going on around the county with regard to FAST teams with the new 26 week deadline for the child's journey. It was very important to get consent forms signed to release medical information whilst workers were still engaged with the mother.

The Chairman extended his thanks for the in depth report.

## RESOLVED

That the report presented be endorsed and accepted.

## 44 <u>LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PLACEMENT SUFFICIENCY STRATEGY</u> 2013 - 2016

Pursuant to minute number 36 from the meeting held on 5 December 2013, consideration was given to a report from the Executive Director of Children's Services, which provided the Panel with a revised Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2013 – 2106, which included planned timescales for the delivery of the Commissioning objectives.

The Strategy took into consideration the substantial funding pressures the Local Authority would face in the immediate future; and the future comprehensive spending review, and outlined plans to ensure that the Council was able to effectively manage placements through enabling a sufficient market place.

In guiding the Panel through the report, it was highlighted that it was crucial to understand the make-up of Lincolnshire's LAC population and being able to forecast trends and identify the right placement, in the right place at the right time. The Panel was advised that currently there were approximately 599 children and young people who were Looked After by the Local Authority. Full details of the Needs Data Analysis were shown on pages seven to ten of Appendix A - to the report presented.

It was highlighted that based on the latest 2012 Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Benchmarking Club, Lincolnshire had one of the lowest unit costs of a LAC - with the highest composition of placements being made through in-house foster care provision. Through a positioning-based approach, the Authority had looked to achieve a strategic fit to develop an Ofsted rating of 'Outstanding' for the in-house foster care. Investment and support to carers had enabled the Authority to meet the needs and outcomes for the majority of its LAC population (71%).

In-house foster care, together with robust in-house residential care home provision, and effective commissioning of independent sector placements, combined had been instrumental in Lincolnshire having one of the lowest overall costs of a LAC. Coupled with effective outcomes performance, this had provided good value for money for the services provided.

Full details of the associated costs relating to LAC were detailed at the top of page 14 of the Appendix presented.

Discussion ensued, from which the following issues were raised:-

- The cost of out of county placements. The Panel was advised that the costs for 86 placements in 2005/6 were £6.8m and they were now £2.5m for 28 placements. It was highlighted that these placements mainly represented the more complex young people which attracted a higher cost;
- Concern was expressed at the number of carers in their 60's. The Panel was
  reassured that Lincolnshire was very lucky to have a range of foster carers
  who had remained committed to the service for many years. The recruitment
  process was trying to recruit carers of all ages. It was highlighted that some
  foster carers only came forward later in their life when their own children had
  grown up. It was an ever changing situation which would be kept under
  review;
- The Panel received an explanation as to the definition of commissioning. The
  Panel noted that it was not about outsourcing particular service(s), but was
  about finding the best means of delivering the service(s). This involved
  reviewing current practices and performance, and looking at best value for
  money. Part of the commissioning review was to bring things together, look at
  all the options and look for the best value for money; and
- It was reported that Independent Sector providers had not previously had an aggressive approach to recruiting Lincolnshire carers; however this was now happening along with neighbouring authorities taking on Lincolnshire carers too. It was highlighted that one authority had been offering a very competitive salary to encourage carers to apply.

In conclusion, it was noted that the aims and objectives had been reviewed and updated with proposed timescales to begin the review work involved. Members were

asked to accept the updates to the Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy.

## RESOLVED

That the updates to the Looked After Children Placement Sufficiency Strategy as presented be accepted.

#### 45. FOSTERING REPORT QUARTER 2

The report presented to the Panel outlined the activity in the fostering service during Quarter Two and was presented in line with regulatory requirements.

Appended to the report at Appendix A was a Quarter Two Fostering Report – 2013/14, which had been presented to Departmental Management Team. Detailed at Appendix B was an addendum to the Quarter 2 Fostering report, which provided information concerning the Department for Education's recruitment project.

The Assistant Director of Children's Services wished it to be noted that the success of the Lincolnshire's adoption service was down to the hard work and dedication of the carers and staff working together to do their best for Looked After Children in Lincolnshire. More challenges were ahead with 599 Looked After Children, as the resources to deal with the increased numbers of young people remained the same.

The Chairman endorsed the Assistant Director of Children's Services comments on behalf of the Panel.

During consideration of the report, the following points were raised:

- That older children seven years plus were more of a challenge to place and that there had to be some creativity with short term placings; and
- Some concerns were expressed as to whether foster carers were thanked enough. Members were advised that foster carers were thanked, but more could be done. The foster carer present at the meeting advised that she was fully supported; and at times of crisis had been very well supported. Foster carers were made to feel valued. One member raised a concern that from having had experience of sitting on a Fostering Panel, whereby an applicant had been approved and then at the six month review it was evident that they had experienced a lot of pressure. Officers reassured the Panel that carers were fully supported.

RESOLVED

That the report presented be approved.

## 46. CARE LEAVERS' TENDERING OF SERVICE CONTRACT

The Panel received a presentation from the Commissioning Officer, which provided information as to the work that had been completed so far on the Leaving Care

Commissioning Review and the next steps. It was reported that there was a continued requirement for providing a Leaving Care Service. The Council had a statutory responsibility, as well as a duty as corporate parents. The presentation covered the following issues:

- Young people's concerns on leaving care A list containing the views of young people were shared with the Panel. These included being on your own; not being able to cope; not being able to get help when you need it; leaving before you are ready; having nowhere to live and not being settled anywhere and having to keep moving around;
- The current leaving care contract It was noted that this had been contracted out to Barnardo's since 2007 and was due to expire on 31/03/2015 and could not be extended further;
- Timeline for service re-provision Full details of the timeline were presented. It was reported that the needs analysis had been undertaken and the results had been presented to Departmental Management Team on 28 January 2014. The matter would then be considered by the Contract Assurance Board on 3 February 2014, and then to Scrutiny in March 2014, with the decision being taken by the Executive on 1 April 2014, following which the tender process would commence;
- Needs Analysis The Panel noted what had been taken into consideration during this process i.e. Stakeholder engagement, financial analysis, market analysis and benchmarking;
- Stakeholder engagement It was highlighted that extensive work had been done with stakeholders and that further work would continue to develop the required service specification. Panel members were invited to participate at the service specification stage. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Officer would also email members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee inviting them to participate as well;
- Emerging Themes Seven emerging themes were listed for members to consider;
- Statutory requirements It was reported that the statutory requirements were contained within the Children's Act Guidance & Regulations (Volume 3);
- Current service It was highlighted that the current service provided support for over 300 care leavers by 17.9 FTE leaving care workers. It was reported that workers were based in Lincoln, Sleaford and Louth, with use of LCC hot desks in Horncastle and Skegness. It was reported further that the workers also shared an office with Locate in Peterborough to service the needs of a number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers who resided in that area. There was also two Education, Employment and Training (EET) workers, a dedicated Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service worker funded through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and an Accommodation worker; and
- Performance monitoring It was noted that monthly contract management meetings would be held to monitor a range of KPIs, but the main areas would be Care Leavers in EET; Care leavers in Suitable Accommodation and Pathway Plans reviewed in timescales.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- How many organisations would put forward tenders Members were advised that, from research so far, there were only five known providers of leaving care services nationally, but other providers who worked with complex young people, such as supported accommodation providers, might also bid for the contract;
- Questions were asked as to how long the proposed contract would be. Officers advised that the Council was looking for three years +1 +1; and
- Bench marking Members were advised that there was limited benchmarking information, but Children's Services were members of the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum and CIPFA benchmarking club and were therefore able to take advantage of any information that was available.

## RESOLVED

That the presentation concerning the Leaving Care Service Commissioning Review be noted.

## 47. <u>SMOKING CESSATION IN CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES</u>

Consideration was given to a report from the Executive Director of Children's Services, which provided an outline on how Residential Services were accessing relevant services to support young people residing in residential homes to either stop smoking, or provide them with information and support to prevent them from starting smoking.

It was reported that the majority of young people placed within the three medium to long term children's homes already smoked cigarettes on a regular basis on admission.

The current support in place to assist young people to stop smoking was:

- a) To refer the young person to Addaction. They would then be assigned a worker who would then come to meet the young person to discuss any smoking or drug usage;
- Appointments are made with a GP for referral of the young person to a local smoking cessation support group, with provision of nicotine patches and sprays;
- c) The young person would have Keyworker sessions with staff from the residential homes to help them look at strategies to assist them to reduce or stop smoking;
- d) Work was also done with the police when establishments had been identified as selling tobacco to under age young people; and

e) That all the young people were offered the opportunity to access local gyms, swimming pools and clubs to support their general health and wellbeing.

The current situation within the three children's homes was that at 33 Northolme, 3 young people regularly smoked, one occasionally smoked and one was a non-smoker. At 91 Eastgate, two young people regularly smoked and two were non-smokers, and at 67 Albion Street, one young person regularly smoked and five were non-smokers.

The Panel was advised that there were no designated smoking areas at any of the three homes and that all the measures described were ongoing.

#### RESOLVED

That the report presented be accepted.

#### 48. <u>PERFORMANCE REPORT ON THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND</u> <u>PROGRESS OF LINCOLNSHIRE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN</u>

Consideration was given to a report which set out performance information relating to the academic achievements and progress of Lincolnshire Looked After Children (LAC) during the academic year September 2012 to August 2013.

Appendix A to the report was a copy of the performance report for the Panel's consideration.

Overall, the educational performance for Looked After Children in Lincolnshire at the end of statutory education in 2013 was improving but continued to require focus.

The headline figure for 5A\*-C including English and Maths was an excellent achievement for the young people concerned and it was just below the national average. It was highlighted that the emerging trend was that over the last few years evidence suggested that work with LAC and LACES was showing some benefits but that there was still some work to do to close the gap.

The Panel was advised that the priority actions identified for LACES included:

- Greater support for KS1 to achieve level 2 in their teacher assessment;
- Ensure that there was early individual target settings and support for those young people new into care;
- Maximise those students capable of achieving GCSEs at the end of year 11;
- Reduce the number of secondary school moves;
- That all schools were challenged to focus the use of the pupil premium for maximum educational benefit of the young person; and
- To increase the potential number of young people who can access GCSE exams.

Key Stage summary information was detailed on page four of the Appendix.

The trend for Lincolnshire for 5+ GCSE's was shown on page 13 of the Appendix, and this depicted Lincolnshire's trend over time compared to the national average.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The procedure followed if a child was expelled;
- Home tuition, with particular reference being made as to whether enough was being invested to ensure that our young people were moving forward. The Panel was advised that the service was on target to spend the budget; and
- Use of pupil premium by schools It was highlighted that the pupil premium was there to help the young person and provide them with extra help and advice. It was highlighted that the Council was unable to advise the school how to spend the money; however, the schools were required to publish a report identifying how they had spent the money.

## RESOLVED

That the performance report presented be noted.

#### 49. <u>PERFORMANCE INFORMATION RELATING TO LOOKED AFTER</u> <u>CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS</u>

The Panel received a presentation from the Performance Information and Data Manager, which provided information on how the Corporate Parenting Panel performance reports were constructed and how these could be interpreted.

The presentation covered the following issues:-

- The Planning Process in Children's Services;
- Provided a sample of how a Corporate Parenting Panel Performance report would look and an explanation was given as to its content;
- Advised how targets were set;
- How information was compared to statistical neighbours; and
- The Corporate Parenting Panel's measures. It was reported that there 19 measures that would be presented to the Panel, two of which were in the Corporate Business Plan.

It was highlighted that the Panel would be receiving a performance report at the March meeting.

#### RESOLVED

That the presentation be noted.

## 50. CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2014

The Scrutiny Officer introduced this item and advised the Panel that there was now an improved format for the Corporate Parenting Work Programme, a copy of which was detailed at Appendix A to the report.

In relation to the OfSTED residential services report, it was noted that Strut House and the Secure Unit had recently been visited by OfSTED and both had received Outstanding judgements.

## RESOLVED

That the work programme presented be approved.

The meeting closed at 1.15.pm

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**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on behalf of Dr Tony Hill, Director of Public Health, LincoInshire County Council		
Report to:         Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee		
Date:	25 April 2014	
Subject: Childhood Obesity – Progress Report following Director of Public Health Annual Report 2012		

# Summary:

The obesity epidemic that this country faces not only has huge health implications for our population but has considerable financial implications for an already struggling National Health Service (NHS). The 2007 Foresight report 'Tackling Obesity: Future Choices' projected an annual real term cost of £50 billion by the year 2050 and that if left unchallenged "by 2050, Britain could be a mainly obese society". To put the forecasted cost into context, the annual cost of obesity to the NHS in 2001 was £480 million<sup>1</sup>.

An increase in obesity related illnesses such as Type 2 Diabetes, Hypertension, Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) and Stroke, Sleep Apnoea, Cancer and Osteoarthritis(<sup>i</sup>) could see the UK's life expectancy figures decline for the first time in modern history. It is now seven years since the Foresight report was published and, "if anything, the figures quoted above are seen as optimistic by the National Obesity Forum".<sup>2</sup>

Childhood obesity is an important issue that crosses a number of policy areas at a national and local level. Key policies in relation to childhood obesity include: <u>Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England (2008)</u> which outlined the ambition to be the first major nation to reverse the rising tide of obesity and overweight in the population. The initial focus of this strategy was on children, with the goal of reducing the proportion of overweight and obese children to the 2000 levels by 2020.

<u>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (2010)</u>, a white paper published by the coalition government, established a commitment to improving public health and tackling causes of premature death and illness, including obesity. Policy changes have also led to the move of public health into local government, the establishment of the new Public Health England and the establishment of GP commissioning groups. These important changes provide a new landscape into which this strategy is being developed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **The Office for National Statistics .** Historic and Projected Mortality Data from the Period and Cohort Life Tables, 2012-based,UK,1981-2062. *The Office for National Statistics* . [Online] December 11, 2013. [Cited: January 3, 2014.] <u>http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lifetables/historic-and-projected-data-from-the-period-and-cohort-life-tables/2012-based/stb-2012-based.html</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Haslam, D. State of the Nations Waistline .P.3 s.l.: The National Obesity Forum, 2014.

<u>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call to action on obesity in England (2011)</u> outlines the ambition to see "a sustained downward trend in the level of excess weight in children by 2020 and a downward trend in the level of excess weight averaged across all adults by 2020". Aspects of the approach include:

- Giving local government a lead role in improving health and implementing strategies to tackle obesity.
- The adoption of a 'Life Course Approach' that recognises the specific opportunities and challenges of particular stages of life.
- A focus on empowering individuals.
- Giving partners the opportunity to play their full part.
- Building the evidence base.

The School Food Plan 2013 is an independent review of school meals carried out by John Vincent & Henry Dimbleby at the request of the Secretary for Education, Michael Gove. The plan sets out key goals and targets that need to be met to improve the quality of school meals, as well as the financial viability of meals within schools. 'The Plan is about good food and happiness. It is about the pleasure of growing, cooking and eating proper food. It is also about improving the academic performance of our children and the health of our nation.'

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data in Lincolnshire gives us increasingly robust intelligence. The proportion of Lincolnshire's children who are overweight has increased since 2006/07 amongst children in Reception and in Year 6. However, these proportions have remained reasonably stable since 2009/10, so although there is no sign yet of a decrease in excess weight in children, there is evidence that the rate of increase has slowed.

This data supports and informs the broad range interventions to reduce childhood obesity levels across Lincolnshire. We cannot afford to be complacent, and all areas of Lincolnshire require a consistent life course approach to reducing childhood obesity, although the data supports specific interventions where the need is greatest. In Lincolnshire we are utilising a Life Course strategic approach to reducing childhood obesity: from pregnancy, early years pre-school, school years and beyond.

In summary, people in Lincolnshire, similar to the rest of the UK and developed world, live in what experts call an 'obesigenic' environment now. Government bodies at all levels have been slow in identifying trends in population body mass; slow in identifying interventions and the interventions available are generally too small in scale to address the opposing pressures.

The failure of services commissioned in Lincolnshire to achieve measurable improvement in childhood obesity to date has been highlighted by the service reviews undertaken since Public Health joined the Council. This has prompted a decision to re-design services, changing some and adding others in.

# Actions Required:

To consider progress made in managing childhood obesity since the Director of Public Health made his annual report for 2012.

# 1. Background

# What is childhood obesity?

Overweight and obesity are terms used to describe an excess of body fat which results from an energy imbalance where more energy is taken in compared to what is consumed.

Within the UK, overweight and obesity are assessed among adults using the Body Mass Index (BMI). For children, there are no clearly defined BMI criteria as weight and height vary considerably depending upon age and stage of development. Instead, overweight and obesity are defined for children using the British 1990 growth reference charts where the weight status of the child is classified according to their age and sex. Children with a weight at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> centile are classified as obese and children between the 85<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> centiles are classified as overweight. Because this method of measurement takes into account the age and gender of the child and matches it with measurements taken from British children before the current high levels of obesity were observed, it is widely acknowledged to be the most accurate way to identify weight problems in children under 12 years of age.

Classification	BMI Centile
Underweight	≤2 <sup>nd</sup> centile
Healthy Weight	2nd centile – 84.9th centile
Overweight	85th centile – 94.5th centile
Obese	≥95th centile

# Classification of children's BMI

Children who are overweight or obese early in life are at greater risk of developing serious health problems as young adults if they do not reduce their weight to a healthy level. These risks include the development of type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and certain types of cancers. The psychological problems associated with being an overweight child are also evident, with self esteem, confidence and overall life aspirations potentially being affected negatively.

The health, social and personal cost associated with the consistent increase in the numbers of children and adults who are not maintaining a healthy weight will undoubtedly overwhelm both services and personal lives in the future if these rising statistical trends are not reversed.

This report focuses on the issue of childhood obesity and achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. However, it is perhaps worth considering some of the detrimental health factors which are likely to prevail within the adult state should this issue not be effectively tackled at the earliest opportunity. Around two thirds of children who are obese are also more likely to sustain their obese condition as they progress into adulthood. Being obese or overweight brings significant risks at a range of different points throughout life (NHS Information Centre 2011). The health risks for adults who do not maintain a healthy weight status are somewhat concerning. Evidence suggests that, when compared with an adult healthy weight male, an obese male is:

- Five times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes
- Three times more likely to develop cancer of the colon
- More than two and a half times more likely to develop high blood pressure, which is a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease

Similarly, an obese woman, compared with a healthy weight woman, is:

- Almost thirteen times more likely to develop type 2 diabetes
- More than four times more likely to develop high blood pressure
- More than three times more likely to have a heart attack

Obesity also presents heightened risks for developing other problematic health conditions, including angina, gall bladder disease, liver disease, ovarian cancer, osteoarthritis and stroke. Evidence indicates that maintaining a stable healthy weight can offer health benefits for cancer survivors as it is apparent that both survival and recurrence of cancer may be adversely affected by obesity. As an example, statistics tend to show that obesity appears to increase the risk of recurrence and death among breast cancer survivors by around one third of individuals affected by this condition (Department of Health 2010).

#### Antenatal and postnatal risks

Data indicates that during pregnancy and childbirth, obesity presents a series of health risks to the foetus, the infant and the mother. Obesity in pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of serious adverse outcomes, including miscarriage, foetal congenital anomaly, thromboembolism, gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia, dysfunctional labour, postpartum haemorrhage, wound infections, stillbirth and neonatal death.

Obese women also tend to contribute to a higher caesarean section rate and lower breastfeeding rate compared with women with a healthy Body Mass Index (BMI).

Research evidence also tells us that children of parents who are overweight or obese are more likely to have difficulty maintaining a healthy weight.

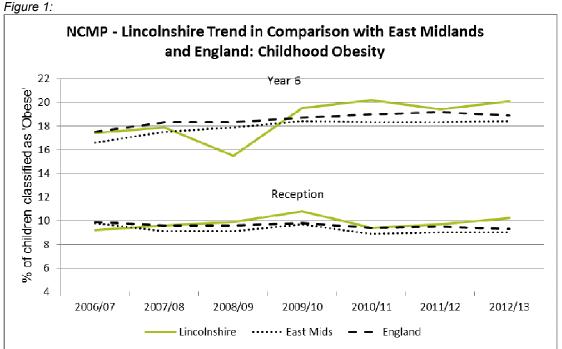
# National and Local Surveillance Data through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

The NCMP takes place annually between September and June during the school academic year. The children involved are those in reception year (aged 4/5 years of age) and year 6 (aged 10/11 years of age).

Data from the National Child Measurement Programme demonstrates that the level of obesity amongst Lincolnshire's children is currently higher than both the England and East Midlands values, as can be seen in Figures 1 and 2 below. This highlights the importance of healthy lifestyle and weight reduction programmes in supporting schools, parents and children to make healthy choices and ultimately embed healthy lifestyles.

There are interventions currently commissioned that focus on healthy eating and on physical activity, and these are available to schools, children and families across Lincolnshire. The primary locations of these interventions are schools and Children's Centres.

As is mentioned in the summary above the proportion of Lincolnshire's children who are overweight has increased since 2006/07 amongst children in Reception and in Year 6. However these proportions have remained reasonably stable since 2009/10, so although there is no sign yet of a decrease in excess weight in children, there is evidence here that the rate of increase has slowed.



Source: NHS LincoInshire 2010/11



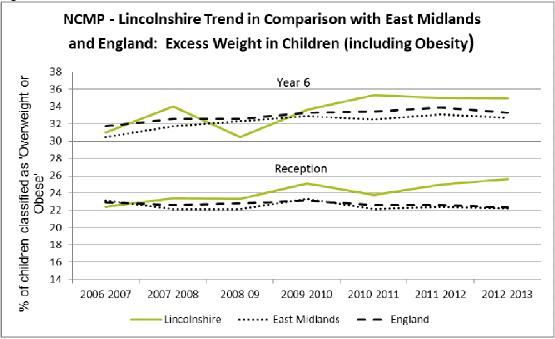
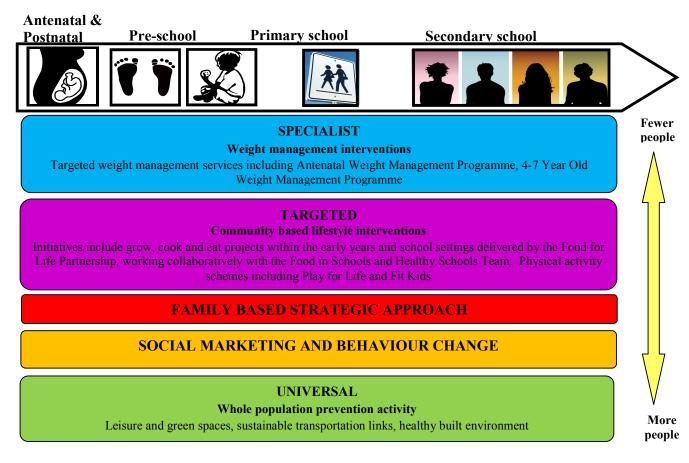


Figure 2 illustrates the levels of children measured as being overweight or obese in Lincolnshire remains above the East Midlands and England averages for both reception year and year 6 children.

# Implementing a life course approach to reduce childhood obesity

The 'Life Course' approach recognises that there are important stages in peoples' lives where they are more likely to change their behaviour or come into contact with health services. We have taken this evidence-based approach as one of the key themes for tackling childhood obesity in Lincolnshire to ensure that we provide a comprehensive map of interventions to target children across their life stages. Over the last 12 months a number of interventions have been developed or are planned to be piloted in the near future according to this Life Course approach. Figure 12 shows the Life Course approach in Lincolnshire where a range of interventions are implemented at different tiers (universal, targeted and specialist).

Figure 12: Description of the Life Course approach to reducing Childhood Obesity in Lincolnshire



Descriptions and outcomes / outputs for the key initiatives implemented this year to combat childhood obesity are detailed below.

**Food for Life Partnership**: This organisation is commissioned to work with schools to provide teacher & supervisor training, food sourcing workshops, award ceremonies and school farmers' markets. Current interventions are underway in schools on the east coast, in Boston and in Lincoln.

**Healthy Schools**: This team are available to work with every school in the county. 353 schools have so far gained 'healthy school' status. There is a Healthy Eating Advisor currently working with Lincolnshire's schools and the Children's Food Trust's 'Eat Better, Start Better' programme. 45 schools are currently working towards 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' priority (36 primary), and 4 have achieved this award.

**Beacon Healthy Lifestyles**: This is a new pilot intervention working in schools delivered by Healthy Schools staff working with the Food for Life Partnership.

**Fit Kids:** This is a dedicated weight-reduction programme for 7 to 11 year-olds. Sport Lincolnshire co-ordinate this scheme which runs in every Lincolnshire district. 217 children were enrolled in 2012/13 on the 12 week course of which 169 children

completed all 12 weeks. Referrals are taken from health professionals but many families self-refer.

**Play4Life**: This is a physical play intervention for children aged 0-5, consisting of an 8 week training course involving 2 hours of contact per week for parents, carers and childcare practitioners. Open to all, but focussed in areas of higher deprivation, it is primarily based in Children's Centres. The current target is 10 courses per year, and a total of 120 participants.

**Legacy Challenge**: This is a sports-based programme run by Inspire+ working with schools to train ambassadors (pupils and teachers), develop 'challenges' for pupils and to facilitate Change4Life sports clubs and their promotion.

**Antenatal Weight Management Service**: This service is based in both Lincoln County Hospital and Boston Pilgrim Hospital and works with new and expectant mothers to promote healthy behaviours.

**Early Years Healthy Weight/Healthy Lifestyle:** This is a new service that will be developed and rolled out post April 2014. Working with the Children's Centre team, this service will be offered in a number of Children's Centres around the county offering young parents/carers face to face and online tailored healthy weight/healthy lifestyle help and support.

**Health Visitors:** Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) health visiting staff work with all new mothers and families within the county and will encourage and support breastfeeding and healthy behaviours.

# What more can be done?

Services commissioned in Lincolnshire have not made sufficient progress to achieve measurable improvement in childhood obesity to date which has been highlighted by the service reviews undertaken since Public Health joined the Council. This has prompted a decision to re-design services, changing some and adding others in.

The government commissioned Foresight report 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' of 2007 identified that we currently live in an obesiogenic society in which there are multiple factors that contribute to our nation's growing waistlines.

Food companies have helped to develop a culture of "heat and serve"<sup>3</sup> meals which are high in calories and low in nutritional values. Many children are bringing their poor eating habits to the school canteen.

Children are being aggressively targeted by advertisers of high calorific, nutrient poor foods a practise that is carrying on unchallenged by successive governments. Local high-streets are becoming increasingly run down with the introduction of more out of town retail parks and the influx of fast food outlets and 24 hour shops

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Moss, M. Salt, Sugar, Fat, How the food giants hooked us; 2013 p.66 Random House UK

promoting quick and easy foods. Our town planners are becoming more and more influential in our day to day living patterns and routines.

As the socio-economic gap between rich and poor grows in the UK, it is being noted that for the first time in our history the poor are getting fatter than the rich<sup>4</sup>. Picket et al (2005) showed that in areas of greater inequality a higher total calorific intake was consumed<sup>5</sup>. Obesity is a complex problem and requires action to be taken by individuals and wider society if we are going to be successful in tackling the problem.

The local authority can play a key role in reducing the obesity epidemic. Access to green spaces and leisure facilities, the over representation of cheap fast food outlets and education of citizens is something that the local authority can influence. Below are some examples of how the local authority can tackle barriers and influence local behaviour as outlined by the national obesity observatory<sup>6</sup>.

#### Parks and Green Spaces

Parks are the most frequently visited type of green space - representing 90% of overall green space use. Good quality and well maintained parks are more likely to be used and local residents report higher 'neighbourhood satisfaction' and better health as a result. Provision of high quality green space is significantly worse in deprived areas than in affluent areas. People in more deprived areas often live close to green spaces but they are infrequently used due to concerns about crime and safety. Research has shown that over half of people living in deprived areas would take more exercise if green spaces were improved. What can departments and services involved with green spaces do to tackle obesity?

- Work together to improve the provision of high quality, local, accessible and safe green space in line with recommendations by organisations including The Design Council CABE.
- Improve the aesthetics of green space, alongside appropriate safety and crime prevention initiatives to encourage people to use their local green space.
- Promote and encourage the use of existing green spaces.

# Transport

Increased reliance on the car over the last fifty years has contributed to a major decline in walking and cycling. Public Health England has produced a <u>report</u> that summarises the importance of action on obesity with a specific focus on active travel, and outlines the regulatory and policy approaches that can be taken.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Lang, T & Raynor. Overcoming policy cacophony on obesity. 165-181, London : Obesity reviews, 2006, Vol.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> **Pickett, K.E., Kelly, S., Brunner, E., Lobstein, T., & Wilkinson, R.G.** *Wider income gaps, Wider waistbands? A ecological study of obesity and income equality.* 670-674, s.l. : Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health , 2005, Vol. 59(8)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> http://www.noo.org.uk/LA/tackling accessed 26/3/14

Why is tackling obesity important to local authority departments and services involved with transport?

- Working to tackle obesity by boosting active travel supports the achievement of the active transport components of local transport plans.
- Active travel schemes (for example traffic-free routes linking schools to their communities) can be a more cost-effective investment option for local authorities than traditional transport schemes.
- Encouraging active travel is in line with evidence-based guidance from the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). See NICE 'Physical Activity' and 'Walking and Cycling' local government briefings.
- Such work also supports the policy call to 'Take action on active travel' produced by the Association of Directors of Public Health, which recommends the allocation of 10% of transport budgets to active travel and 20mph speed limits in towns and villages.

# Planning and Environment

Planning and environment colleagues share common agendas concerned with access to physical activity, availability of healthy food choices, liveability and the quality of public spaces. These shared priorities create valuable opportunities for collaboration. What can Planning and Environment Departments and services do to tackle obesity?

- Increase access to, and opportunities for, physical activity and healthy food, for example provision of, and access to, green open space and opportunities for play and food growing.
- Ensure that health and wellbeing are prioritised and integrated throughout the planning system.
- Restrict access to unhealthy food choices, for example by working with existing hot food take aways and sandwich shops to reformulate their menus to reduce the sugar, salt and fat content of food and to provide healthy options and control the proliferation of hot food takeaways in specific areas, such as near schools. Protect land for food growing from inappropriate development, particularly the best and most versatile agricultural land.
- Conduct health impact assessments to ensure that all parties think about proposed developments from a health perspective, specifically the impact on levels of physical activity and healthy food choices.
- Provide training and support to elected members and senior officers in order to secure strong leadership and commitment to health at all levels and in all policies.

# Leisure and Culture

Access to appropriate leisure opportunities is a key factor in the prevention and management of obesity. Local authorities play an important role in the provision of opportunities for activity at all levels and stages of an obesity care pathway. Libraries and other local authority venues are important sources of information and signposting to local leisure opportunities and support services.

# Education and Learning

There are close links between health, education and achievement. Education departments, and through them schools, have key roles to play in tackling obesity. What can departments and services involved with education and learning do to tackle obesity?

- Encourage use of the school food plan. This plan contains a series of actions, each of which is the responsibility of a named person or organisation, outlining what needs to happen to transform what children eat at school, and how they learn about food.
- Encourage and support local Healthy Schools Programmes using Healthy Schools resources and toolkits. (These toolkits are still available although the programme ended in 2011.)
- Encourage participation in the 'Eat Better, Do Better' programme.
- Support initiatives in schools and communities to improve children's wellbeing and self-esteem through physical activity and healthy eating.
- Ensure that there is full participation in the National Child Measurement Programme so that trends in child weight can be reliably monitored.
- Health and Social Care
- Obesity increases the risk of many serious long term conditions such as psychiatric disorders, diabetes, cardiovascular, respiratory and liver disease, muscular skeletal disorders and some cancers. More advanced treatments for such diseases, along with greater life expectancy and increasing obesity prevalence, means that more people than ever are living in ill health. This presents significant challenges to the health and social care system.

# Housing

The type of housing and the communities in which people live have an impact on their access to opportunities to live a healthy and active life. Housing is closely linked to the provision of accessible, safe green space, which in turn can influence obesity. What can departments and services involved with housing do to tackle obesity?

• Improve availability of unstructured opportunities for physical activity, such as access to parks and open spaces and safe play areas.

# 3. Consultation

# a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not Applicable

# 4. Background Papers

The following background papers as	Where the document can be viewed
defined in the Local Government Act	
1972 were relied upon in the writing of	
this report. Document Title	
Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A	http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
Cross Government Strategy for	20100407220245/http:/www.dh.gov.uk/pr
England (2008)	od consum dh/groups/dh digitalassets/d
	ocuments/digitalasset/dh_084024.pdf
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our	https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio
strategy for Public Health in England	ns/healthy-lives-healthy-people-our-
(2010)	strategy-for-public-health-in-england
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: A call	https://www.gov.uk/government/publicatio
to action on obesity in England (2011)	ns/healthy-lives-healthy-people-a-call-to- action-on-obesity-in-england
	action-on-obesity-in-england
The School Food Plan (2013)	http://www.education.gov.uk/schoolfoodpl
	an
Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Needs	http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Joint-
Assessment (2012)	Strategic-Needs-Assessment.aspx
Lincolnshire Joint Health & Wellbeing	http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/searchRes
Strategy 2013 -2018	ults.aspx?qsearch=1&keywords=joint+he
	alth+%26+wellbeing+strategy

This report was written by Richard Cumbers, Programme Manager, Public Health, who can be contacted on 01522 554192 or <a href="mailto:richard.cumbers@lincolnshire.gov.uk">richard.cumbers@lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>

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Working for a better future

**Policy and Scrutiny** 

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, the Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	25 April 2014
Subject:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2014

# Summary:

This item enables the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider its own work programme for the coming year.

# Actions Required:

- (1) To comment and agree on the content of the work programme, as set out in Appendix A to this report.
- (2) To note the content of the Children's Services Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix B to this report.

# 1. Background

# Current Work Programme

At every meeting of the Committee, Members are invited to consider their future Work Programme and to agree on items to be included in the Work Programme. The current work programme for the Committee is attached at Appendix A to this report.

# Forward Plan

Also attached at Appendix B for the Committee's consideration is a list of the intended decisions of the Executive or Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services, which fall within the remit of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

#### Scrutiny Activity Definitions

Set out below are the definitions used to describe the types of scrutiny, relating to the items:

<u>Budget Scrutiny</u> - The Committee is scrutinising the previous year's budget, the current year's budget or proposals for the future year's budget.

<u>Pre-Decision Scrutiny</u> - The Committee is scrutinising a proposal, prior to a decision on the proposal by the Executive, the Executive Councillor or a senior officer.

<u>Performance Scrutiny</u> - The Committee is scrutinising periodic performance, issue specific performance or external inspection reports.

<u>Policy Development</u> - The Committee is involved in the development of policy, usually at an early stage, where a range of options are being considered.

<u>Consultation</u> - The Committee is responding to (or making arrangements to respond to) a consultation, either formally or informally. This includes preconsultation engagement.

<u>Status Report</u> - The Committee is considering a topic for the first time where a specific issue has been raised or members wish to gain a greater understanding.

<u>Update Report</u> - The Committee is scrutinising an item following earlier consideration.

<u>Scrutiny Review Activity</u> - This includes discussion on possible scrutiny review items; finalising the scoping for the review; monitoring or interim reports; approval of the final report; and the response to the report.

# 2. Conclusion

That consideration is given to the content of this report.

# 3. Consultation

# a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

No policy proofing is required for this report.

# 4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report						
Appendix A	Children and	Young	People	Scrutiny	Committee	Work
	Programme	_	-	-		
Appendix B	Children's Serv	ices Forw	ard Plan			

# 5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Tracy Johnson, who can be contacted on 01522 552164 or <u>Tracy.Johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u>.

# CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Theme: "That every child, in every part of the county should achieve their potential"

Chairman: Councillor John Hough Vice Chairman: Councillor Bob Adams

25 April 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Sensory Education and	Michelle White	Status Report	
Support Service	CWD Team Manager		
Discretionary Home to	David Robinson	Status Report	
School and College	School Services Manager		
Transport			
	Andrew McLean		
	Head of Service		
	Commissioning		
Opportunities for Young	Maggie Freeman	Priority Activity Scrutiny	
People Post 16	Head of Service 11-19		
The framework for the	Keith Batty	Status Report	
inspection of local	Assistant Director		
authority arrangements for	CfBT Education Services		
supporting school			
improvement: Self- Evaluation			
Corporate Parenting Panel	Cllr David Brailsford	Member Report	
Update	Chairman of Panel	Member Report	
Childhood Obesity –	Tony McGinty	Status Report	
Progress Report following	Assistant Director of		
Director of Public Health	Public Health		
Annual Report 2012			

13 June 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Proposal to expand	Michelle Andrews	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	
the capacity at Scampton	Interim Head of Property	(Executive Councillor	
Pollyplatt Primary School	and Technology	decision on 27 June 2014)	
(Final Decision)	Management		
Proposal to expand	Michelle Andrews	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	
the capacity at Cranwell		(Executive Councillor	
Primary School (Final		decision on 27 June 2014)	
Decision)			
Changes to the	Hilary Wells	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	
Appointment of	Principal Administrative	(Executive Councillor	
Local Authority	Officer, Governor Support	decision on 27 June 2014)	
Governors	and Development		
Frontline Social Workers	Tracy Johnson	Scrutiny Review Activity	
and Safeguarding Scrutiny	Scrutiny Officer		
Review – Draft Final			

13 June 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Report			
Theme Performance:	Stuart Carlton	Performance Scrutiny	
Quarter 4	Assistant Director		
Lincolnshire Safeguarding	Cllr Ron Oxby	Member Report	
Boards Scrutiny Sub-	Chairman of the Scrutiny		
Group Update	Sub Group		
Transitions Plans	Stuart Carlton	Status Report	
	Assistant Director		
	Sheridan Dodsworth		
	Head of Service		
	SEND		

25 July 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln The Sir Francis Hill Community Primary School (Final Decision)	Michelle Andrews	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 8 August 2014)	
Proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln St Faith's CofE Infant & St Faith and St Martin CofE Junior schools (Final Decision)	Michelle Andrews	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 8 August 2014)	
Proposal to amend the age range at Ash Villa School	Paul Copping Head of Service for Special Schools	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive Councillor decision on 8 August 2014)	
Commissioning of Youth Housing Services	Phil Taylor Lincolnshire Youth Housing Coordinator	Pre-Decision Scrutiny (Executive decision on 2 September 2014)	
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford	Member Report	
Universal Free School Meals	Tony McGinty	Status Report	

12 September 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Selection of an operator	Michelle Andrews	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	
for a new primary		(Executive Councillor	
academy in North		decision on 26 September	
Hykeham (Final Decision)		2014)	
Strategic Priorities for 16 –	Stuart Carlton	Pre-Decision Scrutiny	
19 (25) Education and		(Executive decision on 7	
Training for 2015/16		October 2014)	
Theme Performance:	Stuart Carlton	Performance Scrutiny	
Quarter 1			
Lincolnshire Safeguarding	Cllr Ron Oxby	Member Report	

12 September 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Boards Scrutiny Sub-			
Group Update			
Education Support	Debbie Barnes	Status Report	
Services (CfBT) including	Executive Director of		
Governance	Children's Services		
Arrangements			
Additional Item			

17 October 2014			
Item	Contributor	Purpose	
Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review – Executive Response	Cllr Mrs Patricia Bradwell Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health Services, and Children's Services	Scrutiny Review Activity	
School Admissions and Exclusions Scrutiny Review – Monitoring Update	John O'Connor Head of Service School Support	Scrutiny Review Activity	
Corporate Parenting Panel Update	Cllr David Brailsford	Member Report	
Additional Item			
Additional Item			
Additional Item			

28 November 2014							
Item	Contributor	Purpose					
Theme Performance:	Stuart Carlton	Performance Scrutiny					
Quarter 2							
Lincolnshire Safeguarding	Cllr Ron Oxby	Member Report					
Boards Scrutiny Sub-							
Group Update							
Additional Item							
Additional Item							
Additional Item							
Additional Item							

# Items to be Scheduled

Support and Aspiration for	Sheridan Dodsworth	Status Report
Children with Special		
Educational Needs	John O'Connor	
Overview of Education	Debbie Barnes	Status Report
Inclusion Review	Keith Batty	Status Report
Strategies for Recruiting	Janice Spencer	Status Report
Qualified and Experienced	Assistant Director	
Social Workers		
Strengthening	ТВС	Status Report
partnerships between		
Diocesan church school		
providers and LA		
providers for education		
Community Access to	Keith Batty	Update Report
School Facilities – Interim		
report		
Stamford Endowed	Keith Batty	Update Report
Schools Scholarship		
Tapering- Interim (4th		
Year) Review	Time Qualmine	Lindata Daviart
Closing the Gap - an	Tim Culpin	Update Report
update from the	Head of School	
Programme Board (including updates on	Improvement	
closing the gap for pupils	Maggie Freeman	
eligible for FSM)	Head of Service 11-19	
Youth Housing Strategy –	Phil Taylor	Update Report
Implementation Update	Lincolnshire Youth	
	Housing Coordinator	
School PE, Sport and	Philip Garner	Update Report
Physical Activity: The	Specialist Programme	
development of the	Manager	
Legacy Challenge across	Public Health	
Lincolnshire		
Regional Commissioners	ТВС	Status Report
Child Poverty Action Plan	Andrew McLean	Update Report
Themes - Poverty of	Head of Service,	
Access, Economic	Children's Services	
Poverty, Poverty of	Commissioning	
Aspiration		
Anti Bullying	ТВС	Status Report

# Theme Outcomes

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is aligned to the five principles set out in the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015:

# 1. Early Intervention and Prevention

• Strong universal services, providing early action and intensive support to vulnerable children and young people.

# 2. Safeguarding and Best Start in Life

- Ensuring children are safe in every environment.
- Encouraging community responsibility for safeguarding.

# 3. Aspiration and Well Being

- Ensuring all those working with children champion the importance of aspiration.
- Develop self-esteem, self-belief and resilience in all children, young people and their families.

# 4. Learning and Achievement

- All children being the best that they can be.
- Closing the gap between vulnerable groups and children living in disadvantaged communities.

# 5. Best Use of Resources

- Integrating delivery with a focus on outcomes, life chances and opportunities.
- Effective use of resources to provide better services locally.
- Empower communities, creating opportunities for them to engage.

For more information about the work of this Committee please contact Tracy Johnson, Scrutiny Officer, on 01522 552164 or by e-mail at <u>tracy.johnson@lincolnshire.gov.uk</u>

# **APPENDIX B**

# FORWARD PLAN OF DECISIONS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM 1 MAY 2014

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW TO COMMENT ON THE DECISION BEFORE IT IS MADE AND THE DATE BY WHICH COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
1006794 New!	Changes to the Appointment of Local Authority Governors	Monday, 2 June 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services		Report	Executive Director of Children's Services Tel: 01522 553200 Email: debbie.barnes@lincolns hi re.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	No	All Divisions
<sup>1006427</sup> New! Page 16	Proposal to expand the capacity at Cranwell Primary School (Final Decision)	Friday, 27 June 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County District and Parish Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Head of Property and Technology Management Tel: 01522 553269 Email: michelle.andrews@lincol nshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Ruskington and Cranwell; Sleaford; Sleaford West and Leasingham
0006428 New!	Proposal to expand the capacity at Scampton Pollyplatt Primary School (Final Decision)	Friday, 27 June 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County District and Parish Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Head of Property and Technology Management Tel: 01522 553269 Email: michelle.andrews@lincol nshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Gainsborough Rural South; Nettleham and Saxilby; Welton Rural

1006621	Proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln The Sir Francis Hill Community Primary School (Final Decision)	Friday, 8 August 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County and District Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Head of Property and Technology Management Tel: 01522 553269 Email: michelle.andrews@lincol nshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Bassingham Rural; Lincoln Birchwood; Lincoln Boultham; Lincoln Bracebridge; Lincoln East; Lincoln Glebe; Lincoln Hartsholme; Lincoln Moorland; Lincoln North; Lincoln North; Lincoln Park; Lincoln West; Skellingthorpe and Hykeham South
Page	Proposal to amend the age range at Ash Villa School (Final Decision)	Friday, 8 August 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County and District Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Head of Service - Vulnerable Children (CFBT) Tel: 01522 553342 Email: pcopping@cfbt.com	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Ruskington and Cranwell; Sleaford; Sleaford Rural South; Sleaford West and Leasingham
<b>A</b> 1006626	Proposal to expand the capacity at Lincoln St Faith's CofE Infant and St Faith and St Martin CofE Junior Schools (Final Decision)	Friday, 8 August 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County and District Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Head of Property and Technology Management Tel: 01522 553269 Email: michelle.andrews@lincol nshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Bassingham Rural; Hykeham Forum; Lincoln Birchwood; Lincoln Boultham; Lincoln Bracebridge; Lincoln East; Lincoln Glebe; Lincoln Hartsholme; Lincoln Moorland; Lincoln North; Lincoln Park; Lincoln West; Skellingthorpe and Hykeham South

1006812 <mark>New!</mark>	Selection of an operator for a new primary academy in North Hykeham (Final Decision)	Friday, 26 September 2014	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services	Interested parties as DfE guidance including parents, school staff, neighbouring schools, County District and Parish Councils, MPs, Trade Unions and Diocese	Report	Head of Service - Property and Technology Management Tel: 01522 553269 Email: michelle.andrews@lincol nshire.gov.uk	Executive Councillor: Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services	Yes	Hykeham Forum; Skellingthorpe and Hykeham South
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