

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES
 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 13 DECEMBER 2022**

RESENT: COUNCILLOR N H PEPPER (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors Mrs J Brockway, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, A Dani and A M Key.

Councillors: L A Cawrey (Executive Councillor Fire & Rescue and Cultural Services), C Matthews (Executive Support Councillor NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, registration and Coroners) and S P Roe (Executive Support Councillor Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement) attended the meeting as observers.

Officers in attendance:-

Steven Batchelor (Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Senior Manager), Mark Baxter (Chief Fire Officer), James Chapple (Head of Registration, Celebratory and Coroners Services), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Katrina Cope (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Leanne Fotherby (Commercial & Procurement Manager), Will Mason (Head of Culture), Martyn Parker (Assistant Director Public Protection), Lee Sirdifield (Assistant Director – Corporate), Ryan Stacey (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Steve Topham (Assistant Chief Fire Officer) and Zoe Walters (Community Strategy Co-Ordinator).

Thea Croxall (Principal Commissioning Officer (Learning)) attended the meeting remotely, via Teams.

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W H Gray, K E Lee, J L King, E J Sneath and A N Stokes.

An apology for absence was also received from Councillor Mrs S Woolley (Executive Councillor NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, Registration and Coroners).

It was noted that Councillors J L King and E J Sneath would be observing the meeting remotely, via Teams.

42 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of Members' interest were received at this point in the proceedings.

**43 MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
 S MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2022**

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RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the word '*negligent*' at bullet point one on page 3 on the minutes being amended to read '*negligeable*'.

44 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND CHIEF OFFICERS

The Chief Fire Officer extended his welcome to Steve Topham, the newly appointed Assistant Chief Fire Officer. The welcome was then echoed from members of the Committee.

45 CORONER'S BODY REMOVAL & TRANSPORTATION RE-PROCUREMENT

The Chairman invited James Chapple, Head of Registration, Celebratory and Coroners, and Leanne Fotherby, Commercial & Procurement Manager, to present the item, which invited the Committee to consider and comment on the Coroner's Body Removal and Transport Re-Procurement, which was due to be considered by the Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, Registration and Coroners between 16 and 23 December 2022.

The Committee was advised that under the Coroners Justice Act 2009, the Council had a statutory duty to provide appropriate and robust arrangements for the collection and return of bodies whose deaths were referred by the coroner for investigation. It was highlighted that the current agreement was due to end on the 31 May 2023, with no further option to extend. The Committee was advised further that the coroner was happy with the current contracts in place, and it was anticipated that due to the nature of the contract, it was expected that most bids would come from current suppliers, due to the infrastructure currently in place.

It was reported that the Council was intending to publish the 'Coroners Body Removal and Transport' re-procurement in February 2023, as an open tender to ensure maximum engagement with the market and to provide fixed term contracts with sufficient reassurance to both the suppliers and the service of rotas. The Committee was advised that the contracts would be awarded to the supplier(s) whose tender scored the highest per lot, and which provided the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) against the Council's chosen award criteria for each lot. Details of the geographical locations, lots, and contracted hours were shown on page 17 of the report presented.

The Committee noted that the contracts would be expected to run for three years commencing on 1 June 2023, and that there would be an option for the Council to extend by one additional period of two years.

It was reported that the contract value was £436,000 annually, and that the total value of the five-year contract was £2,180,000.

During consideration of this item, the Committee raised the following comments:

- Members raised a point in relation to post-mortem service provision which was currently being delivered at Leicester Royal Infirmary and Hull Royal Infirmary and inquired whether there were still plans for the service to return within the county. Officers confirmed that at the time United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) had no capacity to host the service back within the county, however, assurances were given that the Registrations and Coroners' Service was in active discussions with ULHT on future post-mortem provisions. Members requested that the comments captured reflected the need for resolution as this matter impacted residents who's deceased relatives were transported out of county, which ultimately caused delays on funerals and caused issues with the requirement of deaths to be declared within a five-day window. Members also emphasised on the costs associated with out of county return transportation and storage outside the county;
- Members sought clarity and assurances around the streamlining of the service, following contractual agreements being in place, and on the safety of providers accessing and uploading documents onto the Coroners Service portal. Officers clarified that the system in place (WWP) was used by a number of coronial services across England and Wales. In Lincolnshire the system (WWP) had been procured through the official Council Procurement method, and offered a safe and secure system that removed administrative burdens for providers and allowed them to feed directly into the service without any data protection concerns;
- Members inquired about the level of communication between the Service/Officers and the providers to capture the latter's views as to how the possible improvements could be made before moving ahead with the contracts. Assurance was offered that an active dialogue was maintained with providers; that feedback was obtained throughout the contract; and that engagement that had taken place with the providers' involved which had led to the proposed changes;
- Further information was sought in relation to existing backlogs and the measures used to address these. Members were pleased to hear that the overall referral rate had reached a plateau and had returned to pre-pandemic levels. It was noted that recently, the service had undertaken recruitment of coroners' officers which was anticipated to be a drastic mitigation against backlogs. In addition, approval has been obtained from the Chief Coroners' Office to recruit to the position of the Acting Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire post. Officers noted that a historic record number of inquests heard had been reached during the year with over 500 cases being undertaken;
- Members suggested that a breakdown of the costs incurred by an exemplar single case would have been helpful to understand better the make-up of the total contract cost and how that was estimated. Members also asked what the price per collection was, and what costs, per bands of miles to be covered by providers, were accounted for and whether costs were expected to change in line with the inflation. Officers explained that the contract was based on a fixed price for the number of removals and transportations anticipated (approx. £214/collection). Further information concerning current prices by Lot per journey was offered as a follow up action.

Assurances were given that inflationary costs were accounted for and were reflected in the contracts;

- Members inquired what the award criteria was for the providers. Officers explained that award criteria were based around the specifications, how the provider intended to deliver aspects of the specification and was also focused around areas of quality. Officers agreed to provide members of the Committee with the full list of the award criteria;
- Members expressed concerns on the lack of information provided regarding the capacity of providers to perform their contractual obligations and requested specifications on the type and condition of vehicles used for conveying the deceased and requested assurance that the vehicles were fit for purpose. Officers explained that vehicles were fit for purpose as these were designed to store bodies at the required temperature and each vehicle could hold up to a maximum of 4 deceased persons; it was also acknowledged that providers were expected to use that max transportation capacity regularly to maximise profits. Officers added that the providers were individually assessed as they entered the bidding process and emphasised that the coroner was aware and satisfied that these conditions were met;
- Members queried what happened when one of the providers carried out work within the other provider's area and how they were being reimbursed, to which Officers responded that the rota in place was robust. Cases as such were going to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and appropriate actions would be taken accordingly. Officers also agreed to investigate whether on a contractual level, providers were allowed to be subsidised when they were out of capacity; and
- Finally, assurance was given that the adoption of proposed recommendations provided continuity to the coronial service function and that the new arrangements mirrored existing ones in terms of case specification and outputs.

RESOLVED

1. That the report presented be endorsed and that the recommendations to the Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, Registration and Coroners as detailed on page 15 of the Executive Councillor report be unanimously supported.
2. That the comments and suggestions from the Committee be passed on to the Executive Councillor for NHS Liaison, Community Engagement, Registration and Coroners for their consideration.

46 SERVICE LEVEL PERFORMANCE REPORTING AGAINST THE SUCCESS FRAMEWORK 2022-2023 - QUARTER 2

The Committee considered a report from Martyn Parker, Assistant Director - Public Protection, Nicole Hilton, Assistant Director – Communities, Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director Corporate, Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer and Steven Batchelor, Senior Manager,

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, which summarised the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022/23 for Quarter 2 that were within the remit of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee.

Ryan Stacey, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Will Mason, Head of Culture were also in attendance for this item.

During consideration of the new Power BI dashboard, some of the following comments were raised:

- Further information was sought regarding the Friendship and Emotions workshop. Officers agreed to forward on details of the workshop content, and when and where they were being held on to members of the Committee. The Committee noted that all schools booked in through the co-ordinators and that workshops were offered to all schools across the county. It was noted that at the end of the previous year the workshops were online, but now there was a hybrid model as well as face to face sessions. It was highlighted that the Stay Safe Partnership was looking into how the impact of the workshops could be recorded and that this was still work in progress. The Committee also noted that the team had contact with safeguarding officers within schools and that more work being done around emotions and healthy relationships as this had seen a rise in the number of disclosures received;
- Whether any work was being carried out to improve Teacher/pupil relationships. Officers advised that they were not aware of any issues, but would look into the matter raised;
- Some concern was raised regarding safeguarding and service provision for children in travelling communities. It was agreed that this was a matter for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and that information would be circulated to members of the Committee after the meeting;
- Reassurance was sought that with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings operating virtually, that no one was being missed. The Committee was advised that meetings were being held virtually as it had enabled more services to be engaged in the meeting as they found it easier. It was highlighted that a formal review of MARAC was taking place to ensure that partners abilities were being maximised. The Committee was advised that the review was due to be completed in April 2023;
- What had been the impact of the shortage of veterinary surgeons on inspections; and whether the in-house training had been implemented and whether any adverts had been placed in veterinary publications. It was agreed that a response would be sought from members of staff within the trading standards team;
- Whether any complaints had been received regarding the pricing in shops or the quality of the service. It was agreed that a response would be made available to members of the Committee;
- Thanks were extended to the trading standards team for all the work carried out removing dangerous goods and counterfeit goods from market venues;

- One member enquired whether libraries were still issuing CD's and DVD's and whether libraries were able to accept CD and DVD donations . The Committee was advised that libraries did still issue CD's and DVD's and that officers would look into the donation suggestion;
- Whether libraries were promoted to school children. The Committee noted that libraries were promoted, and that libraries provided various events to encourage young people to use libraries. The Committee noted that story time was well attended by young children and that promotional work was incredibly essential for the service to maintain usage;
- Reference was made to the recent Lincoln Christmas Market and some concerns were raised regarding overcrowding, and to the general feeling that some people felt unsafe. The Committee was advised that the points highlighted would be relayed back into the feedback session;
- Thanks were extended to the Heritage and Libraries teams for all their hard work;
- One member advised that Donnington library was going from strength to strength with several groups wanting to use the library outside of normal opening hours;
- Assurance was given that there was not one library underperforming compared to another, and that the library service was being enhanced as a result of community use;
- One member enquired whether there was still the opportunity for villages without a library to apply to have one. Confirmation was given that was the case and that there was still some budget provision available;
- Some concern was expressed regarding access to some libraries for children was limited due to their opening hours. The Committee noted that as part of reviewing the successes of libraries from 2016; opening hours would be one area that would be looked at;
- Whether training was available in Lincolnshire to help adults get jobs. The Committee was advised that training was offered through the voluntary portal which had a range of topics such as diversity, health and safety, disability awareness etc. It was not known however how many of the courses were qualification courses. It was agreed that further information would be circulated to members of the Committee in this regard;
- One member highlighted a new charity that had been set up within their area for mothers with disabled children to be able to leave them to be cared for whilst they were shopping or having a coffee. Officers agreed to look into this after the meeting;
- Thanks, were also extended to the Donnington fire station for supporting various events in the village;
- An enquiry was made as to whether Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue attended Parish/Town Council meeting to promote fire safety. It was reported that local fire crews were encouraged to engage with the local community;
- Whether the fire service had support in place to help its staff when required. Assurance was given that LFR staff had access to help and that there were processes in place following a critical incident, and that staff also had access to council

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counselling services. It was also noted that staff were also trained to be mental health first aiders and that there was also access to a peer support team within LFR;

- Some concern was expressed regarding LFR access into Boston when train barriers were down. The Committee noted that this was not just an issue in Boston it was an issue across the county, as there were several level crossings. It was reported that crews were in constant communication with the fire control room; with each vehicle having automatic location systems (GPS) fitted. If the control room was aware that a fire appliance was delayed at a crossing, the control room was able to mobilise the next nearest asset. It was also noted that in some circumstances, the barrier was able to be lifted to allow access;
- Some concerns were expressed relating for the need for some road signs to advise motorists to be careful in adverse weather conditions. The Lincolnshire Road Safety (LRSP) representative agreed to speak to Highways colleagues regarding this matter;
- One member enquired whether there was a media campaign, which advised motorists not to double park due to the access required by emergency vehicles. Assurance was given that work was undertaken with partners in this regard;
- The target of 10,000 home visits as referred to on page 29 of the report pack. The Committee noted that the stretch target of 10,000 was agreed as a result of the service wanting to drive a behavioural change, by encouraging staff to apply a different approach to solving a problem, to that done previously;
- Whether the fire service used volunteers to help with their community work. It was noted that the service had to be careful around safeguarding issues, as they operated in a position of trust, having access to some of the most vulnerable people's homes. As a result, any move to using volunteers would need to be looked at with a degree of caution and suitable vetting, but it was an area that would be looked into;
- The risk implications of missing deadlines for building regulation applications. The Committee noted that LFR always worked with building control to advise when a deadline was going to be missed. It was reported that 95% of applications were dealt with within the 15 working days. Those that took a little bit longer were the applications that were more complex;
- Total fires - Whether providing training to watch managers and crew managers would help with reduce the number of incidents. The Committee noted that training was provided to supervisory managers on the ground who were in charge of the fire engines. It was also noted that there had been a change to the regulations around fire investigation standards which would be coming into force, particularly around the collection of forensic data;
- Congratulations were extended to LFR for all their hard work in dealing with wildfires throughout the very hot summer and whether any public information was going to be scheduled for the coming year. It was reported that the service would be promoting the dangers of wildfires, by working with bodies and partners;
- Whether the 2020 casualty targets had been met. It was noted that this had been a question raised at the previous meeting. The Committee was advised that there had been a 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured from 2000 to 2010. It was highlighted that LRSP were looking to achieve another 20% reduction

on top of that. It was highlighted that this had been achieved in 2015, but the reduction had not been subsequently maintained;

- Whether there was any anecdotal evidence of a higher percentage of traffic offences having involved foreign nationals in Lincolnshire. It was reported that a request had been made to Lincolnshire Police, but unfortunately the 2021 census data had been delayed until January 2023. It was expected that it would be reported back to the Committee for its March 2023 meeting;
- Thanks were extended to the Donnington Fire station for all their support with local events;
- Whether the service provided any guidance regarding open fires now that colder weather was had arrived. It was noted that the service was working with the National Fire Chief's Council to ensure that a consistent message was delivered across the country. Work was also ongoing with partners regarding the most vulnerable, to make sure they were able to heat their homes safely;
- Some concern was raised regarding speeding vehicles through rural villages and to the fact that that when speeding surveys were received, they just indicated the mean speed of vehicles and did not focus on the number of vehicles that were speeding. There was recognition to the frustrations raised, and it was emphasised that enforcement was not solely based on average speed, the average speed demonstrated the speed most vehicles were travelling. Reassurance was given that when surveys were reviewed, consideration was given to a combination of factors for example the number of slight/serious injuries, number, and the causes; the average speed of vehicles; the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit by a level that enforcement would commence; those exceeding the speed limit by 10 miles an hour or more. It was highlighted that all this information provided data as to what was going on the roads in Lincolnshire. One member advised that several villages within his electoral division were buying the flashing light speed indicators, and that these were having a huge impact;
- Increase awareness for drivers of winter driving. The Committee was advised that the LRSPs Communication Officer had retired, and as a result, the LRSP were not leading on the winter drink and drug driving campaign this year it was being led by Lincolnshire Police's communication team, supported with funding from the LRSP. It was noted that throughout the months of December and January a winter driving campaign was being undertaken;
- The use of car horns in the vicinity of Derby Street in Boston because of the low bridge. The local member advised that there needed to be a message to advise drivers that the use of the car horn was not necessary, as there was enough room for two cars to pass. The LRSP agreed to take the matter up with Highways colleagues;
- The high number of killed or seriously injured casualties (445) in Lincolnshire in comparison to statistical neighbours. The Committee was advised that excessive or inappropriate speed were contributory factors. It was highlighted that more than 90% of collisions throughout the UK involved some form of driver error. Most being unintentional. It was highlighted that for fatalities from last year, careless and reckless and, in a hurry had been the highest contributory factor; and failing to judge another person's powerful speed and to look properly was second with failing to

look properly coming in third. The Committee noted that the LRSP worked with statistical neighbours to share lessons learnt; and

- Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. Reassurance was given that the LRSP was doing all it could to reduce the number (24).

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thanks to the presenters.

RESOLVED

That the report presented be received and that the comments raised be taken into consideration by relevant lead officers and Executive Portfolio Holders.

47 FIRE AND RESCUE STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

Consideration was given to a report from Mark Baxter, Chief Fire Officer, which invited the Committee to consider and comment on the content of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority's Statement of Assurance for 2021/22.

Attached at Appendix A to the report was a copy of the of the Statement of Assurance document for 2021/22 for the Committee to consider.

The Committee was advised that Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Authority was satisfied that the systems and measures it had in place with respect to financial governance and operational matters for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 were fit for purpose and effective.

During consideration of this item, the Committee raised some of the following comments:-

- Media coverage regarding diversity and bullying issues some fire and rescue services were encountering and how the service was ensuring it was not happening in Lincolnshire. The Chief Fire Officer advised that he found reports of what was happening within his sector to be very troubling. The Committee was assured that LFR had strong cultures and behaviours throughout the organisation, and that it was the LFR commitment that whenever there had been any evidence of poor behaviour, these were addressed immediately. The Committee noted that there were systems in place to allow staff to report any issues or concerns confidentially, through independent reporting lines;
- Engagement with foreign nationals – The Committee was advised that local crews and community safety teams actively engaged with their local communities. It was noted that messages were delivered to communities in as many languages as possible; and that the LFR also had a proactive recruitment campaign with all communities within Lincolnshire as the service was keen that the diversity of its crews mirrored the same diversities within communities;
- Recruitment Campaign – It was reported that during the last 12 months there had been a healthy number of applicants for whole time fire fighters. With regard to on-call personnel, again there had been a significant number, but more had to be done

to ensure that these staff were retained. It was highlighted that the service lost approximately the same number of staff it recruited each year. It was highlighted that Lincolnshire was competing with other services across the country, so there had been a focus of training existing staff within the organisation, as well as external recruitment;

- Whether there were any issues or projects the service would like to carry out to improve the service. Issues highlighted included IMT services how these could be streamlined to make the service more efficient;
- Whether IMT packages were being updated. It was noted that due to pressures of IMT across the whole council, some updates had not been received as timely as they might have been. It was highlighted that updates would be received before the end of the year. It was highlighted further that there was a programme looking at how the service could system optimise all its IMT packages; to try and to reduce reporting streams, which would then increase capacity within existing teams;
- Collaborative working arrangements with Norfolk, Humberside and Hertfordshire fire and rescue services. The Committee was advised following a recent procurement exercise to evaluate what options were going to be for future control systems, after 2024/25, Lincolnshire would no longer be part of the East Coast Consortium, and that this had been a joint decision made by all the collaboratives. The Committee was advised further that fire services would be looking at future provisions either independently or through alternative partnership arrangements. It was highlighted that LFR were looking into options for the most efficient and effective way of continuing the vital critical function. Reassurance was given there would not be any reduction in service; and
- Page 51 advised that the service received 19,167 calls during 2021/22 and had attended 8,004 operational incidents including 2,253 medical response calls. This highlighted that there was still a difference between the number of calls received and calls attended. A request was made as to why this was so, and whether a breakdown of calls could be provided to members of the Committee. The Committee noted that the joint ambulance conveyance project was now at two stations, so there had been a bit of a reduction in service in this area. It was highlighted that the ambulance from the Stamford area was not required anymore and that following discussions, it had been agreed that the ambulance would be taken back to East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). The Committee was advised that a breakdown of the information requested would be made available to the Committee.

The Chairman extended his thanks to the Chief Fire Officer for his presentation.

RESOLVED

That the report presented be endorsed and that the comments raised from the debate be taken into consideration.

The Committee considered a report from Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager – Economic Development, which provided an update on the progress made to deliver the Multiply Programme in 2022/23.

Appendix A to the report provided details of the 2022/23 Multiply Programme - Location of Provision by Delivery Organisation for the Committee to consider and highlight any additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents to inform future planning.

During consideration of this item, the Committee raised some of the following comments:

- Assurance was sought as to whether funds allocated to the programme had been utilised up to 31 March 2023. The Committee was advised that all the money allocated would be spent in year one;
- The teaching of entrepreneurial skills through crafting in Lincolnshire, one member enquired as crafting was expensive to get started in, whether any money was available to help individuals to get set up; The Committee was advised that there was not any further funding through the programme, however, through the wider adult learning programme, courses were available such as setting up your own business, which would make the learner aware of grants that might be able available to apply for;
- The uptake of for numeracy courses undertaken by prisoners, or those recently released from prison. The Committee was advised that to date, there had been very little interest. It was however noted that a lot of partnership working was being done with organisations such as Lincolnshire Action Trust to raise awareness and increase interest to ensure that this vulnerable group was included;
- Of the nineteen projects received, seventeen were shown on pages 63 and 64. For the two not included, what criteria had not been met. It was reported that one provider who had been offered a project unfortunately did not have the capacity to deliver that and another project. The Committee noted that one of the biggest challenges was ensuring there was provision across Lincolnshire for the ten interventions being delivered;
- What could be done better going forward to attract more participants. The Committee noted that some really creative programmes were coming forward to help bring maths to life, such as money management and feeding your family, which would be delivered in a more practical way, making it more relevant for the people of Lincolnshire;
- Whether there was an expectation for the projects to carry on in the coming years or whether providers would have to re-apply. It was reported that projects were monitored monthly, to ensure that providers had met the target they signed up for at the beginning of the programme. Later in the programme, officers would then be looking at the impact of the programme on individual learners; and
- What support was offered to providers delivering the programme. The Committee was advised that there was experienced staff already in place who supported adult learning providers, and they were using those skills to support organisations

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delivering the Multiply programme, in terms of empathy, promoting courses, engaging with learners etc.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thanks to the presenter.

RESOLVED

That the progress made to deliver the Multiply Programme for 2022/23 be received and that the comments raised by the Committee during debate be taken into consideration.

49 **PUBLIC PROTECTION AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chairman invited Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, to present the report which invited the Committee to review the work programme as detailed on pages 66 to 68 of the report pack and to highlight any additional scrutiny activity to be included for consideration in the work programme.

RESOLVED

That the work programme as detailed on pages 66 to 68 of the report pack presented be agreed.

The meeting of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee ended at 12:44pm.

50 **THE WORK OF THE SAFER LINCOLNSHIRE PARTNERSHIP: REDUCING REOFFENDING**

SITING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report from Zoe Walters, Community Safety Strategy Co-Ordinator, which provided an overview of the actions being undertaken by the Reducing Reoffending Core Priority Group (RRO CPG), including key areas of activity to be completed under the new delivery plan.

It was reported that the current Delivery Plan (April 2022 – March 2025) focused on female offenders; and those aged 18-24; and aimed to provide alternatives to the Criminal Justice System, that would lead to a reduction in repeat offending. The Committee noted that work was in the very early stages of planning and delivery, and that more in-depth information on specific areas could be made available for the Committee to consider at a future meeting.

The Committee was advised of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) and the IOM Cohort details; the Lincolnshire Women's Strategy: Supporting Women and Girls at Risk of entering the Criminal Justice System (further details were provided on page 72 of the report); the Lincolnshire Prisoner Release Housing Protocol (further details were provided on

page 73 of the report); and the Lincolnshire Mental Health Treatment Requirement Programme Site (details of which were provided on pages 73 and 74 of the report).

In conclusion, the Committee noted that the remit of the Reducing Re-offending Core Priority Group was numerous and varied due to the complexity of the priority areas on which it was focused. It was noted that the work streams being focused on were evidence based and included a focus on diversion and early intervention. It was noted further that the work streams evidenced strong partnership working with external partners and across Directorates within the council.

During consideration of this item, the Committee raised some of the following comments were raised:

- The measures that were in place to reduce reoffending. It was reported that the various work streams mentioned in the report were targeted at a particular area to address the factors. It was highlighted that a performance framework was being developed around some of the elements mentioned in the report; and that further information in this regard could be made available to the Committee at a future meeting;
- Whether prisoners when discharged were provided with a help pack. It was reported that there were numerous support mechanisms in place to help prisoners. Reference was made to the departure lounge that was being led by the Lincolnshire Action Trust; and the partnership approach in terms of how to get their initial supervision appointment; links to the Department for Works and Pensions for their benefits; maintaining abstinence from substances; and the role of the Community Offender Manager within Probation etc;
- The success of the Manchester approach regarding mental health problems;
- Some members felt that they were not able to scrutinise, as more information was necessary, as to what was being done regarding each area of work. A request was made for a further report with reference to one or more of the workstreams being highlighted, which would help the Committee understand the subject better and improve their knowledge in what was a very complex area of understanding. It was felt that the inclusion of links to other documents would assist members in their quest for further information;
- Further clarification was sought regarding the Lincolnshire adopted cohorts (shown on page 71 of the report pack); and
- Some concern was expressed that the Lincolnshire Women's Strategy advised that Lincolnshire was behind other areas in providing women's services and an explanation was sought as to why this was the case.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee extended his thanks to the presenter.

RESOLVED

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That the report presented be received, and that further in-depth reports be received in relation to the various work streams be presented to future meetings of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 1.01 pm