

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2016**

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

### **CRIME REDUCTION**

#### **Safer Communities**

The Service has continued to facilitate the anti-social behaviour case management project. A workshop has been held which saw attendance from a number of partners. Using the information gathered during this event and subsequent project meetings, a report is being prepared and will be presented to the next Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Management Board (SMB).

The Substance Misuse SMB has a target to reduce the number of alcohol related police incidents. The first two quarters of this year saw reductions, however in quarter three incidents were 1.8% higher than the same quarter the previous year. There are a number of projects which are in place which it is anticipated will have a positive impact on the indicator. Op Quicksand in Lincoln has been adapted to incorporate a Pubwatch ban as well as a fine if the awareness course (offered for being drunk and committing a low level offence) is not taken up. The Blue Light Outreach project is seeing a reduction in the amount of incidents those engaging with the scheme are involved in. The Chamber of Commerce have been commissioned to develop a standardised Pubwatch across the county and ensure they are implemented in areas where there isn't one currently. A dual diagnosis strategy has also been developed with the commissioners of mental health and substance misuse services.

To support the Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) priority of sexual violence, a profile of this area has been produced. The intention behind the profile was to provide partners with a greater understanding of sexual violence in the county in order to help inform the development of a delivery plan. The Substance Misuse Co-ordinator has been tasked with providing a co-ordination role to sexual violence. As such, in line with the LCSP structure, a Sexual Violence SMB and Sexual Violence Delivery Group have been established. Using the findings of the profile, a delivery plan will be written and implemented by these groups.

Positively, incidents of domestic abuse reported to the police are 4.2% higher than the same quarter last year. However, the county has seen one domestic homicide this year; a domestic homicide review (DHR) is underway.

A strategic overview of domestic abuse has been produced and members of the SMB have worked through the report to explore the data, identify gaps and make recommendations which will form part of the delivery plan going forward. The Domestic Abuse Protocol was successfully launched at an event which saw over 150 practitioners in attendance. The partnership has experienced a significant challenge in securing funding for support services for 2016/17. Whilst this has been achieved, the partnership faces difficulties maintaining these services longer term.

In relation to reducing offending, the key piece of work being progressed this year is the re-design of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) model. Historically, this has been delivered by Police and Probation and has failed to engage social care or focus on the complex reasons for offending. The previous model was populated from offenders who committed Serious Acquisitive Crime (theft from cars, shop lifting, or burglary) and failed to address perpetrators of domestic abuse, violence, sexual crime etc. The new model brings together a team drawn from Police, Youth Offending Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Families Working Together, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT), Prison Service, Housing and Department for Work and Pensions. The model will be populated by those offenders who pose the most threat and risk (top 2% {130} who commit 13% of offences where the offender is known) and focus on the cause of the problem rather than the symptoms. We are also integrating the LFPT commissioned domestic abuse perpetrator work into this programme.

In January 2016 a joint (Police and LCSP) strategic review was completed. The purpose of the document was to review the crime and disorder areas in order to assess whether the existing priorities are still appropriate and whether there are any emerging issues to consider. Whilst violence was recommended as a priority, the LCSP felt that this was addressed through the existing priorities of domestic abuse, sexual violence, substance misuse and serious & organised crime). The service, however, having identified a trend in increasing levels of violence crime are due to carry out some analysis to explore this in more detail. Other areas recommended as priorities were:

- Terrorism - LCSP felt they could enhance their contribution in this area
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Indecent Images of Children – both areas are currently led by the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board
- Cyber Crime, Modern Slavery and Fraud – the LCSP already has a Serious & Organised Crime priority which covers these areas

The service works effectively in partnership to ensure appropriate joint working takes place and no duplication of effort occurs. Whilst this happens routinely, more recognised arrangements are in place via the Board Business Managers meeting and the Public Protection Board.

The service also continues to co-ordinate the LCSP. As reported above, we have jointly produced the strategic review in partnership with the police. Proposals for the development of the LCSP website have been agreed and are in the process of being implemented. We have also enhanced the performance management of the LCSP via agreeing suitable indicators for each priority and collating these in to a dashboard

### **Youth Offending**

The Youth Offending Service continues to perform to a very high standard. However, last year the service experienced a significant reduction in funding from LCC, OPCC and the Youth Justice Board. To enable the service to continue to deliver its statutory outcomes, which are: 1. reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system and 2. reduce the number of young people re-offending, the service

has withdrawn resource from the early intervention project. Early intervention worked across partners in tackling young people who were showing early signs of offending, i.e. exclusion from school, low level ASB or have siblings who are offending, the objective was to prevent offending in the first place. The focus is now on young people referred, by police, following offending and those referred by the court following serious offending. It should be noted, the service are still waiting for the 2016/17 YJB settlement. It is anticipated that the grant will be reduced by another 12%, which will have a significant impact on the service. Plans are in place to manage this.

The service was inspected by HMIP in November, the HMIP summaries their report as follows:

### **Summary**

*The published reoffending rate for Lincolnshire was 29.3%. This was better than the previous year and better than the England and Wales average of 37.4%.*

*Overall, we found the YOS committed to achieving positive outcomes. It provided good advice to courts for sentencing, engaged well with children and young people and their parents/carers and demonstrated much good practice. However, there was work to be done to ensure practice was consistently effective, especially when managing risk of harm and vulnerability.*

*The YOS will be disappointed that performance has dipped since our last inspection. However, we were encouraged by its commitment to improvement and trust, as it enters a time of stability after restructure, that it will use the findings of this SQS to further inform its development.*

The service has in place an improvement action plan, in place before the inspection, which has progressed significantly since Nov 2015. The service will undergo a Peer review in the summer to test progress.

## **PEOPLE MANAGEMENT**

### **Apprenticeship Reforms - Update**

#### Background Information

As part of the Autumn Spending review, the Government announced the introduction of an Apprentice Levy due to be implemented from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The levy will be applicable to employers with a wage bill in excess of £3 million at a rate of 0.5% and will be collected through PAYE alongside income tax and national insurance. This will mean the levy for the Council will be approx. £500,000 based on the Council's current 'pay bill'. There will also be a £15,000 fixed annual allowance for employers to offset against their levy.

The levy will be used to support apprenticeships for all ages and all levels up to degree where appropriate. Organisations will be able to recoup the levy if they meet the required performance in employing apprenticeships. They will be able to do this via electronic vouchers to commission training and development for apprenticeships from accredited colleges, universities and private training providers.

Apprenticeship targets for the public sector have been proposed as 'starts per annum' of 2.3 % of the total workforce headcount. The government has consulted on proposed apprenticeship targets and the result of that consultation is expected to be published early June 2016.

A new national body – the Institute for Apprenticeships will be established in April 2017 whose responsibility will be to oversee and approve all new apprenticeship standards and to 'ensure the quality of apprenticeships'

#### **Council response to the Consultation**

The current government proposal is that Fire and Rescue Services will be set a separate target. In view of the fact that Lincolnshire has a combined Fire and Rescue Service, the Council has responded that this should be a joint target for both the Council and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

The consultation also proposed that the target for maintained schools would sit with the local authority. The Council have responded that we do not agree that this should be the case; again, we await the government response expected in June.

#### **Preparation plans for the introduction of the Apprenticeship Reforms,**

The Director with responsibility for People Management has established a Strategy Group with representation from service areas to plan for the changes.

A project plan has been developed and approved which will be reviewed and amended as updates and new information are received from Government.

The Group have started to assess current apprenticeship activity within the Council, including the current apprenticeship contract that is held with Lincoln City Council, and evaluate how the current arrangement will be affected by the reforms.

A mapping exercise is being carried out through the service areas leads to look at which existing and vacant roles can be mapped across to both the new and developing apprenticeship standards, and to identify opportunities to grow the apprenticeship programme, in particular where it can be used to replace 'non apprenticeship' training and development currently taking place with the Council.

The aim will be to ensure that at the very least, the Council recoups its full levy payment, however a full financial plan will be difficult to confirm until the final funding rules are known, which we have been advised by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will not be published until December 2016.

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

Legal Services Lincolnshire continues to provide legal support to the County Councils initiatives. Noteworthy achievements include property support to the library project and the successful obtaining of approval for the order for implementing the Lincoln Eastern bypass. Current priorities include implementation of the devolution deal and Better Care Fund and supporting work to pool the Lincolnshire Pension Fund.

This page is intentionally left blank