

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

**Statement from: Councillor B Young, Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management**

### **CRIME REDUCTION**

#### **Safer Communities**

The service continues to work with partners to develop improved systems to manage victims and incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) including the most vulnerable victims the worst perpetrators and problem locations. The focus on vulnerability requires a need to link into other safeguarding mechanisms. Following a slight increase at the end of 2015-16, ASB incidents have reduced between April and June Q1 and are 3% lower than the same time last year. Most categories of ASB have followed the decrease but cyber enabled ASB is up compared to the same quarter last year (64.7%).

Work continues to drive success across partner organisations in tackling issues linked to the abuse of alcohol and drugs. There continues to be good success working with some of the most problematic drinkers in the Blue Light Alcohol Concern Project reducing up to 30% incidents, crimes and attendances by police and at hospitals, of this difficult group. Alcohol related incidents have seen a decrease this quarter (down 9.9% compared to Q1 2015-16). Transport incidents which are alcohol related are still higher than they have been for the previous five years although the increase compared to the same quarter last year is much smaller than it has been.

Reports of sexual violence and abuse crime continue to increase. Although some of this increase is linked to historic cases much of it is very recent, often linked to alcohol and the night time economy. Organisations including the University of Lincoln are working together on a preventative campaign #NOMORE which launches in September 2016.

Positively, incidents of domestic abuse **reported** to the police are marginally higher than the same quarter last year. However, the county has seen a number of tragic incidents over the last few months resulting in domestic homicides; four new Domestic Homicide Reviews have been commissioned. As LCC lead on the administration of the reviews this is putting particular pressure on the Community Safety team, which now have the management of 6 active reviews.

Lincolnshire remains one of the safest places to live and work. Overall recorded crime is down by 1.3% compared to the same quarter last year. Whereas property crime (all acquisitive and damage offences) is decreasing, personal crime (all violent, public order and sexual offences) continues to rise. Against the same quarter last year, personal crime is up 12.7%. The Safer Communities team will continue to engage with partners to tackle the areas of crime that cause most harm to communities and individuals.

## **YOUTH OFFENDING**

The service continues to maintain positive performance around the three key performance indicators (Custody, re-offending and first time entrants). Lincolnshire YOS received its budget settlement from the Youth Justice Board for 2016/17 which amounted to a further reduction of approximately 9%.

For some time the service has anticipated the publication of the national review of youth justice undertaken by Charlie Taylor which was commissioned by the then Justice Secretary, Michael Gove. The changes within government have once again delayed the publication and there is no clear date as to when this may be published or clarity on the likely content or recommendations.

Youth justice has an important role within the re-launched integrated offender management model (ARC) and the emerging plans around devolution within Greater Lincolnshire. There are clear opportunities within devolution to drive innovation in how youth justice is delivered and we will work in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice to progress this as part of a wider criminal justice model.

Finally, in late 2015 the service piloted the 'Status' programme for young males aged 14 and above who were convicted of violent offences. This is a focused cognitive group work intervention designed to challenge the beliefs and attitudes which support violence and minimise the likelihood of further violence. The programme has been warmly received by magistrates and community panel members in Lincolnshire and will roll out formally as a dedicated condition within Court Orders from September 2016.

## TRADING STANDARDS

### Scam Mail Project

The Scam Mail project continues to roll out across the county, with visits to individuals who are known to be responding to scam mail as their mail has been intercepted at the perpetrators of the scam. Happily, in some cases we have been able to return cash or cheques to the victims or their name is showing on a 'suckers list'. The officers involved are working with individuals many of them who are very lonely or isolated to break the cycle of responding to the scams often to fill their day with activity. Referrals are being made to the Wellbeing Service and charitable organisations. Feedback from one victim stated *"Thank you for your wonderful assistance - now it's up to me to BE STRONG"*.

It is known nationally that: only 5% of victims report being scammed to the authorities; fraud costs the UK economy £52 billion every year; the average age of a scam victim is 74, and the average loss is £1000 per victim. However it is not uncommon for victims to lose hundreds of thousands of pounds and a scam victim is 2.4 times more likely to die or require extra care in the two years after a scam. These national facts are playing out in Lincolnshire.

### Black Economy

Work continues at Lincolnshire's largest markets and car boot sales to address the issue of counterfeit items. Two successful prosecutions resulted in prison sentences for traders who had continued to sell counterfeit clothing and goods including cigarettes. In handing down a six month sentence the judge stated that *"this type of crime is deceitful to the public and deprives the Treasury"*. Officers have worked with market owners and organisers to ensure that local markets are not exploited for 'black economy' purposes. The teams efforts in this area were recognised by an award from the National Markets Group which includes HMRC, DWP and Police at the Chartered Trading Standards Institute Conference in June.

## **PEOPLE MANAGEMENT**

On Friday 12 August 2016, the Department of Education released the proposals for the Apprentice funding and asked for feedback to be submitted back to them by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The policy proposals will then be released by October.

Unfortunately, the results of the consultation were not released as expected at the end of June, which means that it is still unclear whether Fire and Rescue or schools will be included in the Levy we also still await confirmation of the proposed public sector target originally floated as 2.3% of the total workforce headcount for apprenticeships starts.

In the meantime, the Apprenticeship Strategy Group have commenced role mapping against the new apprenticeship standards with approximately 100 job roles currently being mapped. The next stage will be to ascertain how many of the mapped roles will be/are vacancies and how many will be staff conversions. The staff conversions will be dependent on the confirmation of the eligibility criteria, which is expected to be included in the updated funding policy as above.

We currently have a graduate management trainee working in the People Management Team, investigating and researching the existing early career progressions that exist within the Council. A paper is being prepared along with recommendations to go to the Director with responsibility for People Management by the end of September. In addition a paper is also being prepared on the recommendations for payment of all age apprenticeships with effect from April 2017.

## **LEGAL SERVICES**

In July Legal Services Lincolnshire underwent an annual assessment of its LEXCEL quality award.

LEXCEL is a Law Society approved and accredited quality standard recognised across the profession as demonstrating excellence in practice management and client care. The assessment involved a two day visit evaluating the risk management arrangements of the service as well as the professional practice of a cross-section of staff in the service.

The assessment was positive with only a small number of minor issues identified, which have already been addressed. The service was re-accredited for a further year.

Legal Services has been identified as hard to recruit to area of the Council and engagement with People Management has already commenced to address recruitment difficulties in key areas including commercial law and planning.

From November solicitors employed by the Council will be subject to significantly changed obligations in relation to demonstrating and certifying their continued competence. New training and development processes have been implemented to reflect the changes.

Legal Services Lincolnshire continues to provide legal support to the work of the County Council and partners. Principal areas of change and complexity continue to be devolution and the pooling of pension funds. Significant projects being supported include Blue Light Collaboration and the establishment of a Teckal company to take over transport contracts in the south of the county.

Looking ahead, the service will be monitoring any changes in law resulting from the referendum decision of 23 June 2016

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