

Open Report on behalf of Les Britzman, Chief Fire Officer

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	29 October 2019
Subject:	Performance Review: Adults Reoffending

Summary:

This report provides an update on the Adult Reoffending performance measure in the Council Business Plan, as requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The report also provides information on the prevalence and composition of offending in Lincolnshire, and the key actions currently being undertaken to address offending in the county.

Actions Required:

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

1. Consider and comment on the contents of this report and seek assurance on the performance of the Adult Reoffending Measure in the Council Business Plan.
2. Highlight any additional recommendations on the specific contribution being made by the County Council to tackle offending in Lincolnshire.

1. Reduce Adult Reoffending

One of the priorities for Lincolnshire County Council is to reduce adult reoffending, and an Adult Reoffending Measure in the Council Business Plan enables the Council to monitor and report progress in achieving this outcome. This measure is local to Lincolnshire, it does not replace the existing Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Reoffending Rate, but is meant to compliment it and allow for a more timely and practical analysis. The methodology is intended to mirror the format of the MoJ Reoffending Rate, however the final figures will not be the same due to slightly different cohort composition.

The Adult Reoffending Measure is reported cumulatively to the Council Business Plan, however data provided in this report is from a snap shot of the latest available data (Q1 2019-20) and relates to data reported in Q2 2019-20 Council Business Plan.

2. Prevalence and composition of reoffending in Lincolnshire

The reoffending rate for adult offenders in Lincolnshire has remained around 29.6% each quarter on average for the last two years and is subject to random

variance in offending behaviours. On average there are 443 re-offenders and a cohort size of 1500 offenders per quarter (note the same offender can appear in more than one quarter).

Reoffending following the most serious of offences, such as violence, is low. The offence type with the largest cohort of offenders and reoffenders is shoplifting (binary rate 43.7%, reoffenders = 114). Those offenders whose index offence is shoplifting go on to commit an average of 5.4 further offences (not necessarily shoplifting) in the following 12 months. Other offences with high reoffending rates but that relate to a smaller number of reoffenders is drug possession (binary rate = 30.2%, reoffenders = 49) and public disorder (binary rate = 30.1%, reoffenders = 47).

The largest cohort of offenders are 20-24 years old and the reoffending rate for this age group is high (31.1%) however the reoffending rate for those aged 35-39 at the time of committing their index offence is much higher at 38.3%. Those aged 18 at the time of their index offence also have a particularly high reoffending rate (36.7%) although the cohort and the number of reoffenders is small.

According to the most recent national reoffending statistics (July 2017 to September 2017), those offenders released from custody had a substantially higher rate of proven reoffending at 47.6%, this rose to 62.2% for those who had served sentences of less than 12 months and rose still further to 64.8% for those released from sentences of less than 6 months.

3. Partnership Context

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) and its collective members, of which Lincolnshire County Council is one, are committed to working collaboratively with the objective of keeping people in Lincolnshire safe. Reducing offending is one of the priority areas for the partnership, and work is overseen by the Reducing Offending Core Priority Group (RO CPG). The RO CPG's strategic aim is to reduce offending and the impact it has on victims and communities. Lincolnshire County Council makes a significant contribution to the Reducing Offending agenda, by providing co-ordination and administration support to the RO CPG, as well as support and resources to projects designed to reduce offending, such as the Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration (ARC) scheme.

4. Activity to Reduce Offending

The Reducing Offending CPG is currently working on a series of actions set by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership following a detailed strategic assessment in 2018. This report covers the most prominent pieces of work and the progress/achievements made to date.

In Lincolnshire, as recognised nationally, a disproportionately high proportion of crime is committed by a small number of prolific offenders. It has long been recognised that the needs of these offenders are often entrenched and complex, however, what has been less well understood until recently has been the diversity and range of behaviours that many of the most prolific offenders exhibit. These range not just between different types of recorded crime (1 in 3 of the top 2% most prolific offenders will commit more than 5 different types of crime in a year), but

also many other associated types of damaging behaviour, such as domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour (nearly a quarter of the top 2% most prolific offenders perpetrate domestic abuse and nearly half at least one incident of ASB within twelve months).

These offenders have a significant social impact upon our communities and impart an unacceptable physical, emotional and financial impact upon victims, as well as a substantial resource burden upon agencies both within and outside criminal justice. Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration (ARC) was launched in Lincolnshire in 2016 to tackle the most prolific offenders in the county, regardless of age, gender or geography and regardless of the types of crime being committed. The joint-agency arrangement seeks to work with the most prolific offenders to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour, in order to reduce the likelihood of further offending and thereby reduce the number of victims affected by their criminality. Where rehabilitation is not possible, the scheme ensures perpetrators are tackled effectively using both informal and formal powers and tools.

ARC's early progress was reported to this Committee in 2018. Reports have shown a significant reduction in reoffending rates, both in frequency and severity of offending, for those adopted onto the scheme. Whilst the principle objective and measure of success of ARC is reduced re-offending, it is recognised that by tackling the underlying cause of offending other positive outcomes are likely to be achieved. Work is currently being undertaken to develop a more sophisticated method of evaluation to ensure other outcomes and longer term impacts can be captured.

The ARC scheme has recently undergone a 'root and branch' review and a number of recommendations have been made to ensure the schemes continued advancement. The new 'Safer Together' collaborative working arrangement between Lincolnshire Police and Lincolnshire County Council's Safer Communities Service will ensure there is collective energy to drive this work forward.

Partners continue to explore opportunities to align ARC with other similar multi-agency schemes for offenders and those with complex needs, in order to make best use of resources, avoid duplication and maximise impact and outcomes. The County Council is now host to ARC, Action Lincs (entrenched rough sleeping) and Blue Light (treatment-resistant drinkers) all of whom work in close collaboration to support and address the complex needs presented by their respective cohorts.

Given the high reoffending rates seen by those who have served custodial sentences, particularly short custodial sentences, the Reducing Offending CPG is rightly committed to exploring opportunities to maximise rehabilitation and reduce reoffending by those newly released from prison and settling back into our local communities. A Task and Finish group has been set up to review the services, systems and processes in place and, where necessary/possible, improve these to give newly released prisoners the very best chance of success. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has begun a piece of work to identify any gaps in provision and any process/ procedural issues, which will help give focus to the wider piece of work being undertaken by the Partnership.

The work of the SLP/ Reducing Offending CPG is supported and informed by analysis undertaken by the Safer Communities Service, thereby ensuring the partnership works in an informed way. Routine horizon scanning work has identified an emerging trend; in Lincolnshire, crime is increasing at a faster rate for females. The number of female victims increased by 49% in Q1 of 2019/20 compared to previous quarters, and the number of female perpetrators/suspects increased by 34%. In response to this, the Reducing Offending CPG has set up a Task and Finish Group to consider the data and work on a strategy to improve the experience and outcomes for female offenders in Lincolnshire.

5. Conclusion

The Reducing Offending CPG continues to make progress in delivering the key actions detailed in its delivery plan, and the County Council is pivotal in this work by providing co-ordination and administration support, and investment in key strands of activity. Performance against adult reoffending measures is an improving picture in Lincolnshire, and the objective to reduce adult reoffending by 2% continues to be a driving focus for the partnership.

6. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Yes

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Adult Reoffending Performance Measure

8. Background Papers

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

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