



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director – Resources**

Report to:	<b>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>25 January 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Update</b>

**Summary:**

This report provides an update on the activity of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership over the past year as well as summarising the next steps and future areas of focus for the partnership. An overview of the contribution made by Lincolnshire County Council is also included.

**Actions Required:**

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

- (1) Consider and comment on the contents of the report; and
- (2) Endorse the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership plan to reduce crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour in the county of Lincolnshire.

**1. Background- Legislative**

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) is the single strategic multi-agency forum for partners to address community safety priorities that impact across Lincolnshire. The SLP serves as the county's Community Safety Partnership; required under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998. The SLP has a number of statutory duties as follows:

- prepare and implement a partnership plan that sets out a strategy for the reduction of reoffending, combating substance misuse, crime and disorder and addressing the priorities identified in the strategic assessment
- regularly engage and consult with the public about their community safety priorities and issues
- hold one or more public meetings during each year
- set up protocols and systems for information sharing

- commission Domestic Homicide Reviews following notification from the Police of a domestic homicide.

## **2. Current Strategy and Progress**

The Strategic Assessment developed by LCC Community Safety Analysts in 2017 informed the partnerships priorities for the 2018-21 Strategy (extended for a further year to end March 2022 due to the COVID19 pandemic). The priorities being anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, reducing offending and serious & organised crime (specifically fraud and modern slavery). The following provides a brief summary of the activity taken in respect of each of these over the past year lead by a 'Core Priority Groups' (CPG); multiagency groups in place to deliver the plan as set out by the SLP Strategy Group.

### **2.1 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

The case management system procured by the partnership for Anti-Social Behaviour (ECINS) is now well embedded in practice. An e-learning training package has recently launched; this is a mandatory course for all system users and will ensure consistency of usage by practitioners. Additional support mechanisms introduced over the past year include the establishment of an ECINS Working Group, the purpose of which is to ensure compliance with the ECINS Partnership Agreement and identify future developments and SPOCs (Single Point of Contacts) within key organisations which will offer resilience for training and day to day queries.

During July, the Core Priority Group participated in ASB Awareness week. This saw a very successful multi-agency approach to the development of a media campaign, whereby set themes were promoted per day consistently across the range of partners.

In addition, the CPG have undertaken specific activities to support victims; this includes a refresh of the Community Trigger<sup>1</sup> process, the finer details for which are currently been finalised. A significant project has also taken place to ensure a smooth customer journey, ensuring that victims understand, and are able to access, the appropriate reporting and support agency first time.

### **2.2 Domestic Abuse**

Following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, a new Domestic Abuse Partnership has been established. Much of the focus over the past year has been on preparation for the new Act and setting up of the Partnership. In particular this has included the production of a needs assessment to direct the development of a strategy. Themes identified are: Early Intervention, Safe Accommodation, Community Engagement, Perpetrator Response and Business Intelligence. A series of multi-agency workshops took place during September to aid the drafting of the strategy and delivery plan.

### 2.3 Fraud

The Fraud CPG has benefited from the establishment of a dedicated Co-ordinated post, previously the only group not to have this support. Since been in post, a number of task and finish groups have been created by the Co-ordinator to take forward the specific elements of the delivery plan. These are:

- a) Communications: the group intend to prepare a suite of communications which can be adapted and directed as appropriate when patterns or trends in fraud are identified.
- b) Training: Utilising training material from Friends Against Scams, training is being provided to professionals within the County. To date, a lot of training has been undertaken within Adult Social Care. The group are also conducting a scoping exercise to identify and ensure training is targeted at the right audience. Whilst recognising the benefits of face-to-face training, an e-learning package is also being explored.
- c) Intelligence/Intervention: a group yet to commence, however will focus on victim identification and risk assessment.
- d) Victim Intervention: The focus for this group has been to identify the need to collate a directory of resources following feedback received from partners.
- e) Co-ordinated Enforcement: This group was created to help enhance understanding of agencies expertise and role. This is particularly focussed on the Lincolnshire Police and Trading Standards relationship and devising a system to close gaps and duplication when working collaboratively. As part of this, SPOCs were identified, and Lincolnshire Police have put together an information bulletin for Police Officers and PCSOs to create understanding of the benefits of working with Trading Standards and sharing intelligence.

### 2.4 Modern Slavery

During the year there has been a refresh of the CPG objectives resulting in more streamlined and focused activity. A training programme, raising awareness of modern slavery has been delivered, by Hope for Justice, to volunteers and staff. The training was oversubscribed, and feedback was wholly positive. As a result of the relationship with Hope for Justice, further training will be provided free of charge.

The group have also done a lot to promote the Unseen Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline. This includes delivery of two sessions attended by approximately 200 people to raise awareness of the helpline, development of pharmacy bags, printed up with the helpline details which were used in all Lincs Co-op pharmacies during October 2021, and development of a social media resource pack to be used across all partners.

### 2.5 Reducing Offending

The CPG are currently involved in a plethora of activity to support the reducing offending agenda. With the support of Lincolnshire Action Trust, awarded specific funding from the

Ministry of Justice, a Women's Strategy has been developed. This includes seven strategic aims which all contribute to the overarching objective of ensuring the availability of community-based provision for female offenders.

A Prison Release Housing Protocol has also been drawn up. This protocol is an agreement between all Lincolnshire Local Housing Authorities, the Probation and Shelter and will apply to people released from HMP Lincoln, HMP North Sea Camp and Approved Premises within Lincolnshire. The aims of the protocol are to contribute towards the Government's aim of: eliminating rough sleeping by 2023/24.

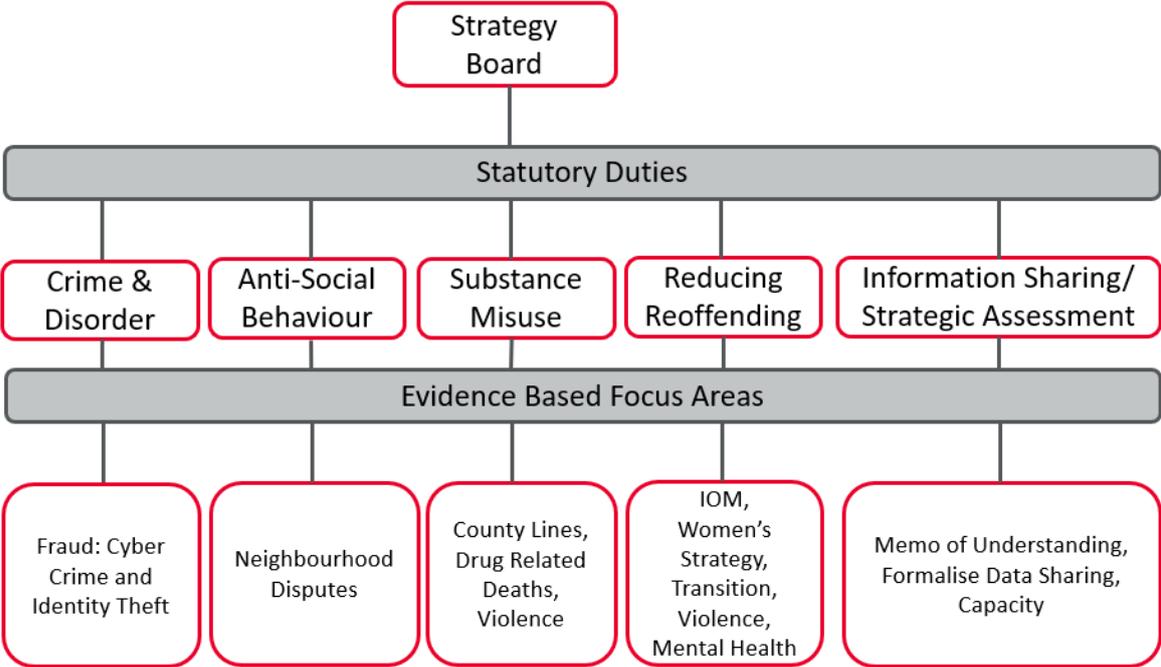
**3. Planning for 2022**

As referenced above, the current Strategy is due to expire March 2022. As such a new Strategic Assessment has been produced from which future areas of focus have been identified and a revised strategy will be developed. This activity has been run in parallel with a health check of the partnership. More details on both follow below:

3.1 Strategic Assessment

The strategic assessment has been produced as a tri-board product serving not only the SLP but also the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP). As an agreed principle, it was a holistic and forward-looking assessment of community safety and safeguarding issues, taking into account the changing environment including the impact of the pandemic.

Following presentation to the SLP Strategy Board, the following areas of focus have been identified, set under the partnership's statutory duties. A new delivery plan will be drawn up in readiness for implementation as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.



The SLP is also committed to working jointly with the LSAB, LSCP and the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership to address the cross-cutting priorities identified via the assessment, namely prevention and analysis.

### 3.1 Health Check

The overarching aims of the health check were:

- Ensure compliance with statutory duties
- Understand the efficiency and effectiveness of current governance arrangements
- Understand the efficiency and effectiveness of the current operating and delivery model

A number of elements were analysed as part of the comprehensive health; these included a desktop assessment (looking at agency/representative attendance, action logs, risk register, delivery plan and research into other area Community Safety Partnerships), interviews with attendees from across the partnership, compliance with statutory duties, workshops and a survey of Core Priority Groups.

In conclusion the review found the partnership to be compliant with statutory duties and operating well. The ethos of the partnership however is one of continuous development and, as such, there were some opportunities identified within the review which will be implemented in preparation for the commencement of the new strategy period. This includes a revision to the structure to remove the Overview & Scrutiny Committee instead utilising the statutory Crime & Disorder Committees within each local authority, enhancing our community engagement and increase the emphasis on analysis and measuring our successes.

## **4. Support to the Partnership by Lincolnshire County Council**

Lincolnshire County Council provides business support, co-ordination, analysis and management of the SLP structure as well as taking an active role in each of the meetings. The Safer Communities Service also carries out a range of other functions that support the work of the SLP including contribution to procurement and contract management (e.g., Domestic Abuse Support Services and the ECINS case management system).

## **5. Conclusion**

The partnership has made significant progress against its strategy over the past year. In addition, the extensive and comprehensive work on both the Strategic Assessment and Health Check has put the SLP in an incredibly strong position moving into the new period.

## **6. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **7. 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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### Footnote:

1. The Community Trigger is the victim's right to request a review of their case if they feel that no effective action has been taken to resolve it. The community trigger is not about apportioning blame. Its focus is on problem solving the case, utilising the expertise of partner agencies, to identify a resolution roadmap