



**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,  
Executive Director – Adult Care & Community Wellbeing**

Report to:	<b>Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>20 September 2022</b>
Subject:	<b>Stay Safe Partnership Annual Update</b>

**Summary:**

This paper provides an update on the Stay Safe Partnership project, its achievements to date and future plans. The project is aimed at ensuring every secondary school age child in Lincolnshire receives preventative education to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the content of this report and offer comment on the continued delivery of the Stay Safe Partnership project in the proposed format.

## **1. Background**

The Stay Safe Partnership (SSP) began in 2015, with the aim of delivering preventative education in Lincolnshire secondary schools and academies in a more coordinated way. The partnership sought to bring together a number of organisations and voluntary agencies to deliver age-appropriate safety workshops, staff training, e-learning and online resources for secondary school pupils, in one convenient place. Since its inception, the need to engage with a younger audience on relevant safety issues has become increasingly apparent, and as a result age-appropriate online resources and workshops for primary school children and teachers have been developed as well.

All courses and trainers are quality checked and assured so education providers can be sure they are getting the best quality and most effective workshops and training for their young people and staff.

The key objectives for the project are:

- To make the most effective and efficient use of public resources currently utilised in delivering preventative education to children and young people in a school setting.
- Tackle existing and developing priorities effecting young people.
- Consider the engagement and education of children, teachers, other professionals and parents.

**2. Stay Safe Offer to Schools**

The Stay Safe Partnership comprises of staff within Lincolnshire County Council's Community Safety 'Stay Safe' team, Lincolnshire Police Crime Prevention Team, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, We Are with You (provider of the county’s Substance Misuse services) and South of Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Service. Collectively, these partners offer schools 'Stay Safe' Days; multi agency workshops delivered on the same day in five key safety areas. The workshop sessions differ between year groups, as shown below:

Workshops	Year 7 & 8	Year 9 & 10
Online safety	✓	✓
Anti-social behaviour	✓	
Healthy relationships	✓	✓
Alcohol and Drug awareness	✓	
Drug awareness		✓
Fire safety	✓	
Road safety		✓
County Lines and Knife Crime		✓

Every secondary school in Lincolnshire is offered two 'Stay Safe' Days in every academic year, at no cost. Schools are able to request additional days, but these are chargeable.

The partnership has worked to ensure 'Stay Safe' Days are accessible to all, including those pupils with behavioural or additional learning needs. For establishments such as special schools and Pupil Referral Units, the partnership offers a deconstructed 'Stay Safe' Day. The team works with the school prior to delivery, to establish student need. Presenters adapt sessions to ensure best engagement; often shortening sessions and making them more practical in content. The 5 sessions are offered as stand-alone sessions, so that the topics can be delivered over the course of a month rather than a day, so as not to overload students. De-Constructed 'Stay Safe' Days are also offered to Further Education

Colleges within the county as this allows for messages to reach the most students without impacting on their vocational studies.

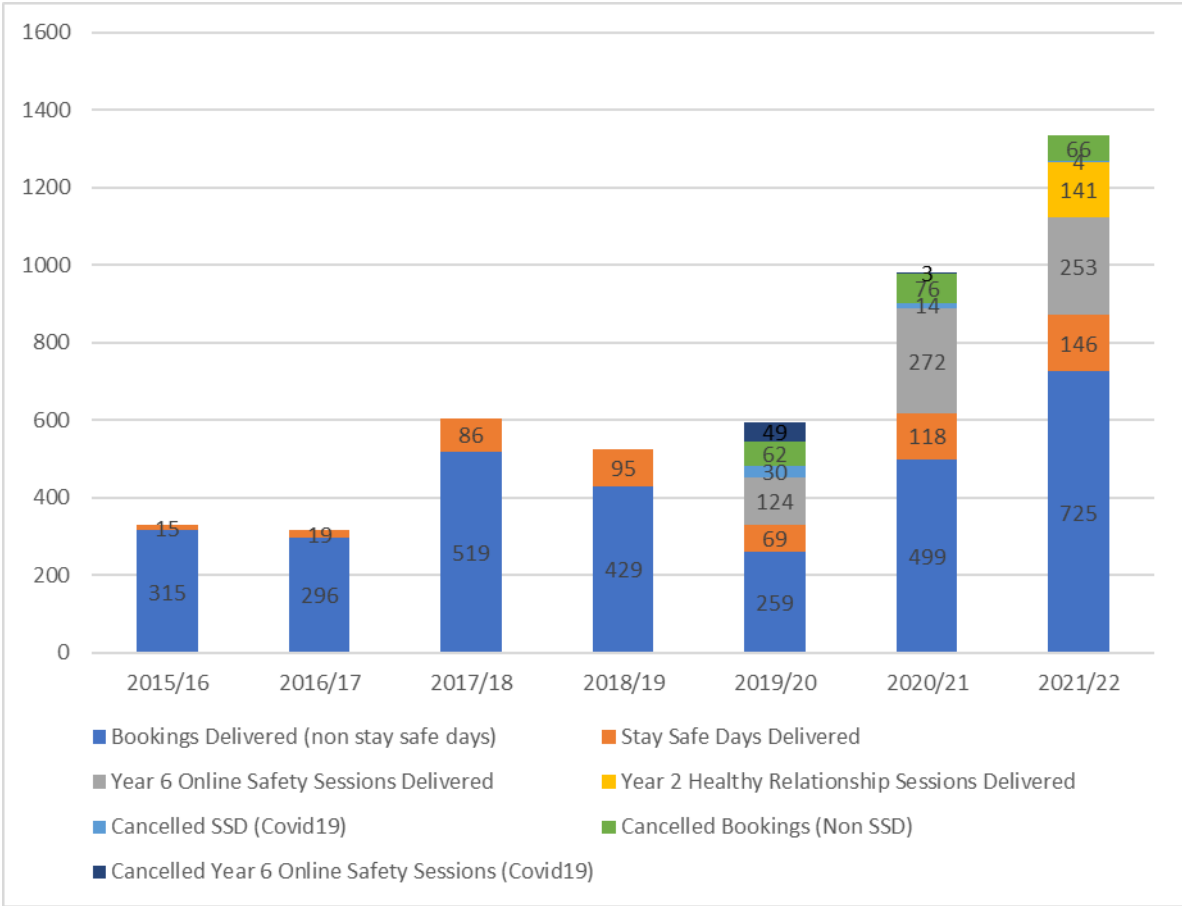
In addition to 'Stay Safe' Days, primary and secondary schools can book from a range of individual sessions offered by agencies through the LCC Stay Safe Directory. Many of these sessions are free to schools, a small number charge or ask for donations. There are currently 66 resource packages available to primary schools and 86 available for secondary schools and colleges, ranging from e-safety for primary school pupils to Prevent awareness, modern slavery, mental health, knife crime, sexual health and hate crime. A full list of resource packages can be viewed at:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/stay-safe-partnership/>

The Stay Safe Directory serves as a 'one-stop shop' resource for schools on prevention education, as well as serving as a single booking system for agencies.

**3. Reach of Stay Safe Preventative Education**

Since its inception in September 2015, the Stay Safe Partnership has delivered staff training and student workshops to all mainstream secondary schools and 99% of primary schools across Lincolnshire, equating to over 276,000 students and staff. This does not include those schools or pupils who have accessed the free online resources.



The delivery of 'Stay Safe' Days and Year 6 Online Safety sessions were impacted by CoVID restrictions and school closures during the latter part of 2019/20, and for all the 2020/2021 academic year. In response, the Stay Safe Partnership created a blended learning approach to delivery. Stay Safe Days were offered as online independent learning modules for students during school closures and online teacher led modules for class delivery during strict CoVID restrictions. Along with face-to-face delivery when possible, the team managed to deliver at least one 'Stay Safe' Day to 89% of mainstream secondary schools in Lincolnshire during the 2020/21 academic year; ensuring safety messages continued to be delivered to children and young people, at a time when some of the risks have been more pronounced.

The demand for interventions offered by the partnership increases year on year; bookings in the academic year 2020/2021 increased by 39.6% compared to the previous year and by 26.4% in 2021/2022 compared to 2020/2021. 'Stay Safe' Day bookings increased by 25% in 2020/2021 and a further 12% in 2021/2022.

In terms of pupil numbers, the partnership delivered sessions (either face-to-face or virtual) to 19,141 secondary and 10,265 primary school pupils by the end of the 2021/2022 academic year. Whilst not wishing to underplay this achievement, this equates to just 27% of Lincolnshire's school children (according to May 2022 Lincolnshire Observatory Students on Roll data). Improving this % figure will prove particularly challenging given the demographic projections for Lincolnshire, which show a 9% increase in 10-14 year olds and an 11% increase in 15-19 year olds during 2020/2024.

#### **4. Programme Development**

For impactful prevention to occur, evidence shows this should be offered at the earliest age, when children are forming their core values and beliefs. A key ambition of the Stay Safe Partnership then, is to extend its reach to all primary age children, and the partnership has made some progress in realising this ambition this year.

Healthy Relationships: one of the key priorities for Lincolnshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership ('Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024), is to develop the early intervention response to domestic abuse through school and early years engagement. This has resulted in the investment in additional staff resource to deliver a 'Friendship and Emotions' workshop to Year 2 pupils. The workshop has been designed to educate pupils on healthy relationships and how to process and address emotions in a positive way. This workshop has been offered since January 2022 and has already been delivered 141 times to date to 3,481 students. With further investment, this curriculum could be extended to Year 2 – Year 11 pupils (6-17 years). With this in mind, Lincolnshire County Councils Stay

Safe Team in partnership with Lincolnshire Police and Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership, submitted a bid for Home Office 'Children Affected by Domestic Abuse' funding. If successful, this bid will equate to £1,515,399 over 3 years. This funding would be used to expand delivery of education programmes in relation to Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls from Year 2 through to Year 6, as well as expand intervention programmes to bolster current service provision. The outcome of that bid is expected on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.

Online Safety: intervention in this area is particularly important given what we know about online trends:

- Time spent online varies by age, peaking at age 15-16 years when nearly 5 hours are spent online every day.
- Despite most platforms setting their minimum user age at 13, by the age of 11 the majority (59%) of UK children use social media. By the age of 15, this rises to 95%
- A third (32%) of video sharing site/app UK users uploaded content in 2020, rising to half (47%) of all 13-17 year old female users.

Source: Ofcom, [Online Nation 2021](#)

Given the routine use of online technology by the county's children and young people, the partnership is currently in the process of creating an online safety curriculum for year 2 to year 11. This will add extra workshops to the Online Safety catalogue, but the extent of delivery will be dependent on capacity within the team.

To reach large volumes of young people, and in a manner that is most familiar to them, Lincolnshire County Councils Online Safety Officer has held YouTube livestream events for primary and secondary pupils, which have received over 4000 views. Topics such as group chats, gaming, fake news, online bullying, inappropriate image sharing and malicious communications have all been covered; to encourage pupils to reflect on how they behave in the digital world. Two live Online Safety livestream events have also been held for parents, which have received 831 views to date. This was followed up with a parent Q&A session held through Microsoft Teams, to which 225 parents joined, and a professionals Q&A session; attended by 67 teachers, Early Help workers, Children's Home staff and police officers. Given the success of these events, they are now scheduled to be held bi-annually.

## **5. Impact and effectiveness**

The partnership is not complacent, and continually strives to better its offer to schools if possible. Qualitative and quantitative data is collated and used to monitor the impact of

Stay Safe interventions on pupils thinking and decision-making. Students and teachers are provided with a feedback form to complete at the end of each session. The form includes questions on how helpful they found the session, the delivery and presentation style and if it will inform their future decision/actions.

Student feedback from 2020/21 academic year:

- "I think the day is a good idea because it gives good advice to us and is very helpful and different from a normal school day"
- "I liked how it talked about how the topics play out in real life."
- "It was very interesting and I loved it - it will help me in the future and I can take some of the things with me"
- "The sessions were very fun and I learnt a lot throughout the day."
- "This was very fun and the information will definitely stick to me and make me think about my safety"

Student feedback from 2021/22 academic year:

- "These sessions should happen for all years"
- "Liked how they really explained each topic - they answered everyone's questions"
- "All the sessions were fun - the visitors tried to make it as fun as possible"
- "They were really honest about what goes on and did not try to hide anything from us because of how horrible it is."

Teacher feedback from 2020/21 academic year:

- "Each time we have a Stay Safe Day it gets better.....topics covered are relevant. We have had a significant reduction in the amount of sexting".
- "I think the main value we get from the day is creating awareness of safety from different perspectives and encourage conversations both at home and in school.
- "Our students are definitely more proactive in caring for each other and coming forwards with their own worries and disclosures, most recently around sexting. They are more aware of what constitutes a healthy relationship and what is right from wrong. One year group - significant incident - handled very maturely by students."

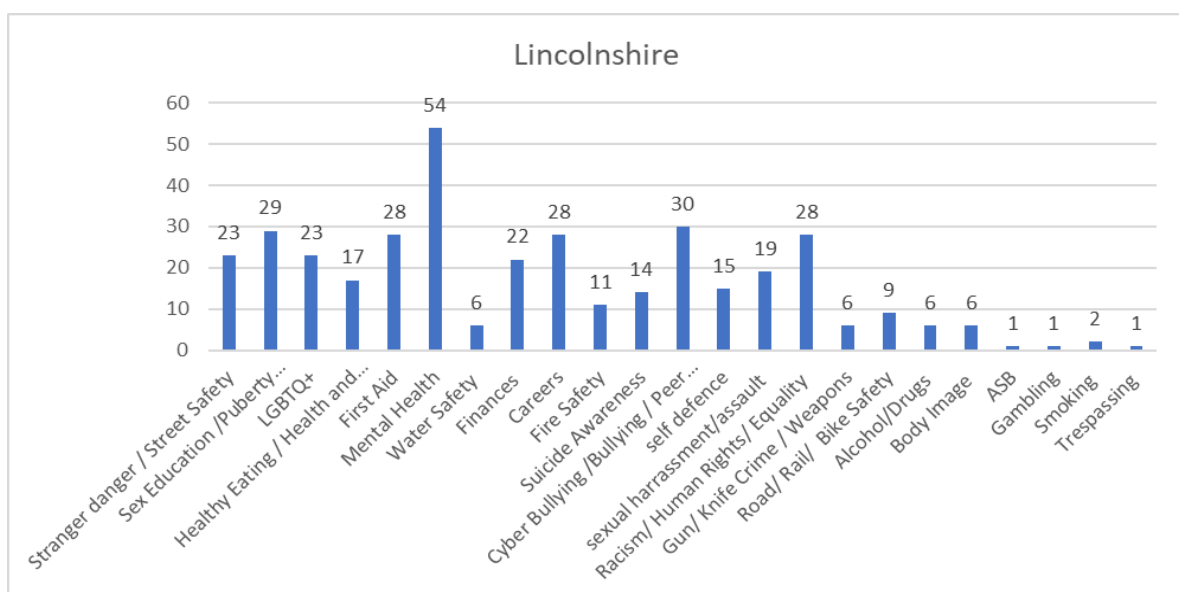
Teacher feedback from 2021/22 academic year:

- "On the day and for a few days/weeks immediately following the event - we saw a surge in disclosures and students being more open with staff as a direct result

of the event. This highlighted to us the need for these events to be held at the start of each academic turn and repeated throughout the year.”

- “Issues/disclosures are raised following some of these sessions. In particular with regard to healthy relationships, students come away and have regularly commented about the consent and appropriate contact between peers”
- “Pupils have been open with regard to their behaviours online and reflecting what makes for a healthy relationship”

Pupils are also asked about their greatest areas of concern, to ensure the partnership are offering interventions or resources on subject matter that pupils are most concerned about. Responses from the 2021/2022 academic year can be seen below:



The primary concerns for pupils relate to mental health and include eating disorders, anxiety, depression and self-harm. Financial issues, including managing money and careers, was also high on young people’s worries. In response, the partnership are currently working with HSBC to develop a suite of Money Management packages which will be included on the Stay Safe Directory from September for schools to access.

Due to the personal nature of the topics discussed in the 'Stay Safe' Day sessions, disclosures are sometimes made by students, and these are managed in the appropriate way with the relevant school. The number of disclosures has been recorded since 2018/2019, and up to and including the 2020/2021 academic year there had been 116 disclosures made during 'Stay Safe' Days. Of note, is that in the 2021/2022 academic year alone the team have had 117 disclosures, 101% more than the 3 previous years combined. These disclosures related to domestic abuse, abusive peer relationships and stalking, alcohol and drug misuse, knife crime, county lines, online exploitation, and road and fire safety concerns. It is possible that without this intervention having taken place, these

children and young people may have remained hidden victims and never been able to access any form of support.

## **6. Future Development Opportunities**

The Stay Safe Partnership continues to evolve, particularly in terms of its reach and the nature of the interventions offered. The demand from primary schools for preventative education/ safety messaging is particularly significant. To impact on future generations the partnership is aware of the need to offer preventative messaging at an earlier age. Expanding the curriculum within primary schools will ensure there is a programme of prevention interventions that follows students from Year 2 through to college.

The Stay Safe Partnerships 'universal offer' to schools is impressive, but for the partnership to have the greatest impact, there is also a need for a targeted and reactive response to safety concerns. By interpreting crime data and intelligence, and layering that with information from schools, pupils and other professionals, the partnership can respond to concerns 'real time'. As an example, monitoring of Operation Encompass data (early information sharing regarding school children experiencing domestic abuse) could highlight schools/localities where there are peaks of child victims, and prevention/intervention work could then be offered. Likewise, monitoring trends amongst young people's crime rates and crime types, and those areas particularly effected by such, could inform a more reactive preventative programme to be delivered.

## **7. Conclusion**

The Stay Safe Partnership has established itself as a primary deliverer of safety messages to children and young people, and a trusted source of preventative education for schools and academies in the county. The Stay Safe Partnership has responded well to emerging safety concerns for children and young people, as well as the challenges presented by the pandemic over the last few years.

Future investment and growth within the partnership will ensure it is able to expand its general preventative offer to primary school children, as well as develop an evidence led targeted response to safety concerns; imperative if we wish to positively impact on our future generations and communities.

## **8. Consultation**

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



N/A

## **9. 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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