



**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,
Executive Director - Adult Care and Community Wellbeing**

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 September 2023
Subject:	Stay Safe Partnership Annual Update

Summary:

This report provides an update on the achievements of the Stay Safe Partnership during the course of the 2022/23 academic year and plans for the coming year. The partnership was commissioned to deliver preventative education to all secondary aged children in Lincolnshire, to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe. Over the years, with further investment, this offer has been extended to include primary aged children.

Actions Required:

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

2. Stay Safe Offer to Schools

The Stay Safe Partnership comprises of staff within Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) 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		✓

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

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 71 resource packages available to primary schools and 82 available for secondary schools and colleges, ranging from online safety, Prevent awareness, gambling harm prevention, 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/>

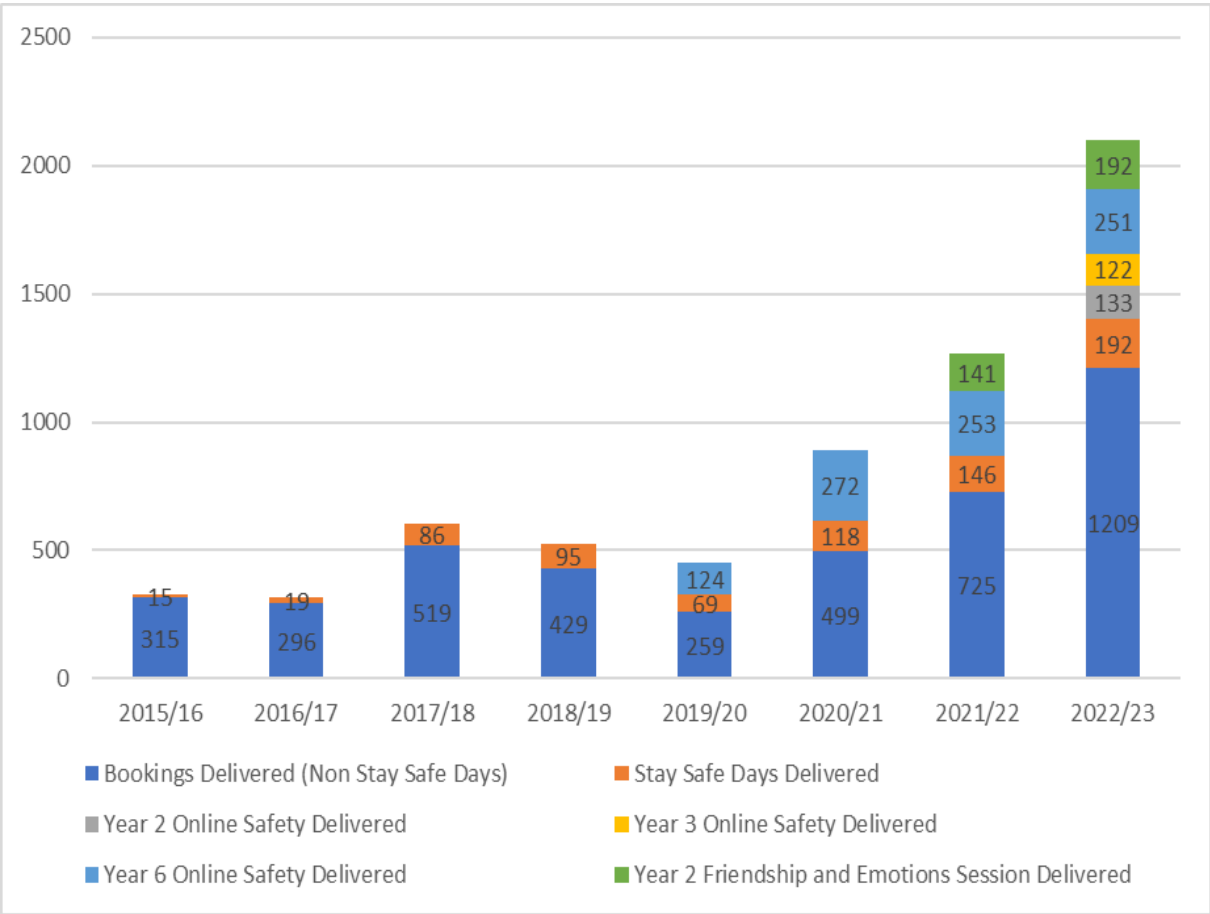
The Stay Safe Directory serves as a 'one-stop shop' resource for schools on preventative education, as well as serving as a single booking system for agencies.

As well as face to face delivery, the Stay Safe Team have developed a range of resources that can be accessed online by pupils, staff and/or parents. For example, the team have filmed the Childnet resource "Smartie the Penguin", which covers topics such as upsetting images, unreliable information and communicating with strangers online, all in an age-appropriate manner for 3–7-year-olds. To date, this resource has been viewed on the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) YouTube channel 483 times. The Stay Safe Teams additional early years resource around the Funny Tummy Song, linked to the

CEOP Jessie and Friends series, explores how to get support when things go wrong. This continues to do well on the LSCP YouTube channel, with 3,191 views to date.

3. Reach of Stay Safe Preventative Education

Since its inception the Stay Safe Partnership has delivered workshops to over 344,751 students and staff. This does not include those schools or pupils who have accessed the free online resources referenced above. The graph below details the number of sessions delivered in each academic year, broken down into the different session types. This visually demonstrates the year on year increase in sessions delivered by the partnership since 2015:



For the academic year 2022/23, the partnership delivered sessions to 20,978 secondary and 17,762 primary students. This is an increase of 1,837 secondary students and 7,407 primary students from academic year 2021/2022. This increase is a result of investment in additional staff, detailed later on in this report, and delivering a blended offer of online and in person workshops to respond to school need.

The Partnership strives to ensure the most vulnerable children in Lincolnshire have access to our secondary 'Stay Safe' Days, and delivery of 'Stay Safe' Days to Special Educational Need Provisions increased by 58% in the academic year 2022/2023. 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 or adding sensory elements for non-verbal students. The five 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:

"I just want to say a massive thankyou for meeting our needs and providing a bespoke package of training. This was very effective for our pupils in terms of engagement and participation, in particular Dan's e-safety session with our early years/pre-verbal group. Well done to everyone involved." Sandon Specialist School, Grantham.

3. Increased capacity to do more

Demand for Stay Safe interventions has increased year on year. The partnership has been keen to respond positively to this demand, particular those requests for preventative work in primary schools, and additional funding has enabled the partnership to do just that.

One of the key priorities of Lincolnshire's Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP) 'Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024', is to develop an early intervention response to domestic abuse through school and early years engagement. Additional Government grant funding has enabled LDAP to appoint two Domestic Abuse (DA) Stay Safe Officers, to develop and deliver age-appropriate 'Friendships and Emotions' sessions to primary age children. These sessions aim to teach these children the skills and values required to have healthy relationships in the future. Children learn about emotions, how they cause our bodies to react and strategies to manage them. Other sessions include celebrating differences, communication skills, conflict resolution, positive boundaries, and identity. This will lay a positive foundation of the healthy qualities and emotional resilience at a point when students are more likely to engage and adapt their behaviour through education.

These additional DA Stay Safe Officers have enabled the Stay Safe Partnership to reach an additional 42 primary schools during 2022/23; delivering an additional 51 sessions to an additional 1,218 children, compared with the previous academic year. The LDAP plan to expand the Healthy Relationship Curriculum from Year 2 to college age in the coming year, so we anticipate these figures to increase again next academic year.

During the same period, the Community Safety service recruited a term time only Stay Safe Officer to expand its delivery of Online Safety Workshops so that, from academic year 2023/24 onwards, there will be a full curriculum offer from Year 2 to college age; of particular importance given what we know about the routine use of online technology by the county's children and young people. These workshops aim to increase the critical thinking skills of children and young people to make safer choices online, by delivering advice and guidance around:

- How to recognise misinformation online
- What constitutes cyberbullying and how to respond
- How to keep personal information secure
- How to identify grooming techniques
- Consequences of sending nude images

- Effects of social media on our wellbeing
- Where to get help and support when things go wrong.

This additional staff resource has enabled the delivery of at least one Online Safety workshop to 203 (of 266) primary schools or 76% of the county's primary provision. This is an increase of 253 additional workshops delivered to an additional 6,189 students, compared with the previous academic year.

Lincolnshire Police have also received additional investment from the Home Office to fund a Violence Against Women and Girl's (VAWG) Coordinator who will begin to cover topics in schools, through the Stay Safe Partnership, such as the realities of pornography with Year 6+ students. They will also be tackling issues of inappropriate touching and consent, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. All workshops are offered at an age-appropriate level to provoke discussion, educate children and young people and dispel myths.

4. Parental Engagement

The first line of defence regarding prevention for children and young people is their parents. We recognise the positive impact parents can have in safeguarding their children and young people. To support parents, we seek to provide information in an easy to access and understandable format. We currently offer biannual workshops over Microsoft Teams for parents on 'Online Safety', and in 2023 LDAP offered an additional workshop on 'Navigating Teenage Relationships'. This academic year 716 parents attended our 'Online Safety' Q+A virtual session, and 216 parents attended the 'Navigating Teenage Relationships' workshop. Some parental feedback:

"Gave me more ideas as to how to talk about online safety with my child. I did anyway, but the event mentioned a few things I hadn't thought about".

"It was brilliant, speakers were knowledgeable and informative, complimented each other well. I don't think you could improve on this. Sensitive topics handled well".

"Thank you for putting on this event and for delivery being so supportive. I am an open-minded mum who's had open conversations with my girls but it hasn't stopped us running into issues we've found hard to deal with. It has reassured me a lot of the time I've got it right and give useful strategies and information on further support".

These events are recorded and links with further reading are sent out following the event. Parents therefore can watch the event back at a time that is convenient for them.

The Stay Safe Team intend to develop parental support further, by creating a section on the Stay Safe Directory specifically for parents. Alongside this resource, the team will be creating a range of "how to" online safety videos, to host on the LSCP YouTube Channel.

5. Impact and effectiveness

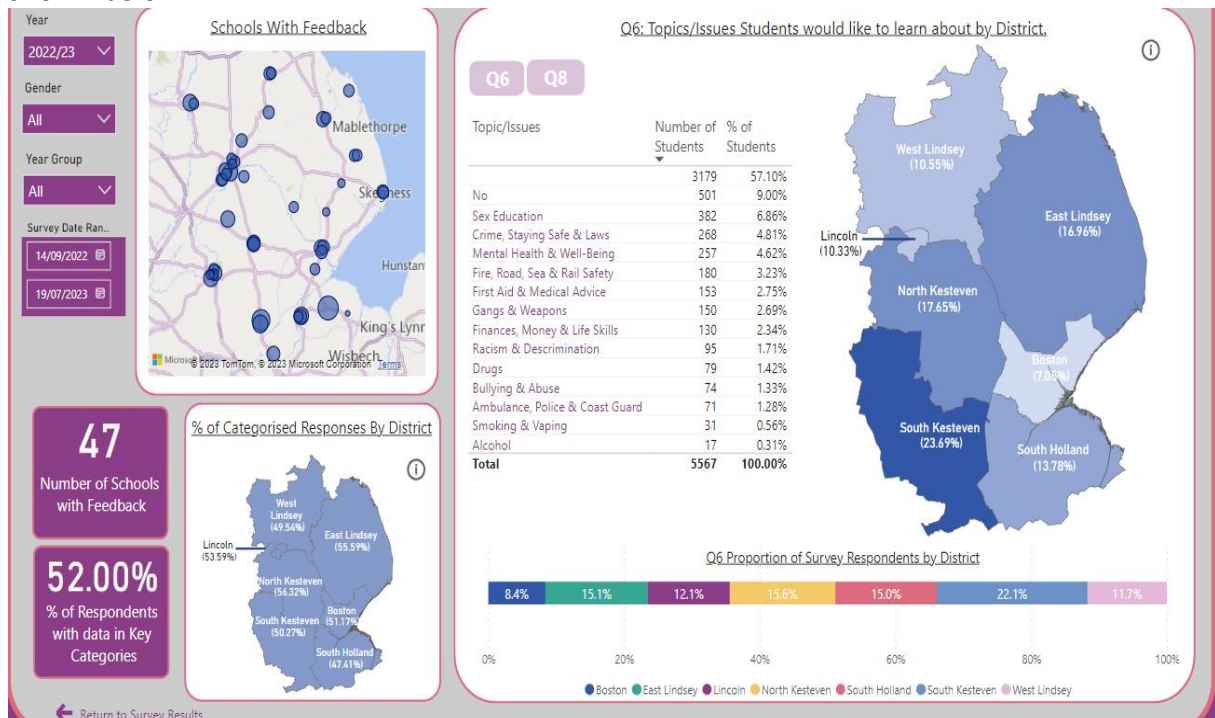
Qualitative and quantitative data is collated and used to monitor the impact of Stay Safe interventions on pupils thinking and decision-making. This year the partnership moved to

collating feedback online, with students being asked to offer feedback electronically using either QR codes or tablets. From Year 7 to 11 students, 11,868 responses were received and from this 97.4% of students said the information would help with their future decisions, 97.7% found the information within the sessions helpful, and 98% found the sessions well presented and explained.

Impact: one session can leave a lasting impression...

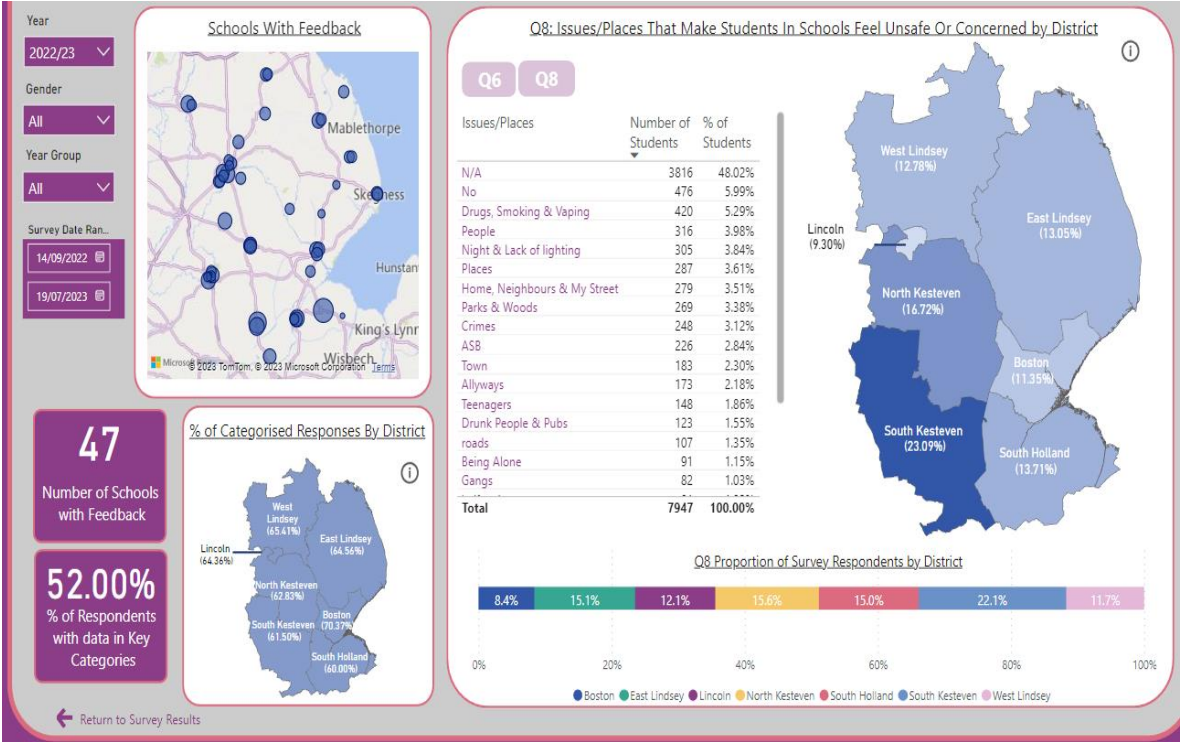


Students are also asked about additional topics they would like to learn about. The Stay Safe dashboard pulled common words that appeared within the feedback, to compile the list as shown below:



The greatest rise from the previous year has been the request for more education around sexual relationships and consent.

Students fear of crime was also gathered during this year’s Stay Safe Survey. Most students reported feeling safe/ having no issues in respect of feelings of safety within their communities. However, for those who did share concerns, these were most commonly in relation to drugs, smoking and vaping:



These results have been shared with Neighbourhood Policing Teams and District Council Community Safety Managers to ensure young people’s concerns about their safety are heard and responded to.

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. Last academic year we reported that disclosures had risen by 101% more than the previous three academic years combined. This academic year disclosures have remained high, but have dropped by 23% compared to 2021/2022, to 90 disclosures. Three months after a 'Stay Safe' Day, teachers are asked for further information to inform the evaluation. From those staff responses, a further 29 disclosures had been subsequently made by pupils as a consequence of the material delivered. Disclosures emanating from primary school sessions accounted for 5% of all those disclosures.

As in previous years, these disclosures related to domestic abuse, abusive peer relationships and stalking, alcohol and drug misuse, knife crime, county lines, online exploitation, access to pornography, sending indecent images, 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. Evidence led intervention

For impactful prevention to occur, evidence shows this should be offered at the earliest age, when children are forming their core values and beliefs. This, coupled with the fact that the partnership continues to see issues being raised in primary schools that were previously only reported in secondary schools, evidences the need to offer preventative messaging at an earlier age. The additional funding referenced earlier in this report is enabling the partnership to reach children at a younger age than ever before, and primary schools are welcoming of this support.

As highlighted in last year's report to this Committee, the '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 specific concerns in 'real time'. Analytical support is now available to the Stay Safe Team. This has resulted in the creation of a dashboard which has supported the team's performance management capabilities, but this will be expanded to include an additional dashboard that will combine relevant crime and school exclusion data. This will give the Partnership the ability to identify rising issues/trends in specific areas, and to respond appropriately.

7. Conclusion

The Stay Safe Partnership continues to evolve, in terms of its reach and the nature of the interventions offered. It is widely considered to be the primary vehicle for preventative education in Lincolnshire, combining the efforts of a range of organisations and services for the benefit of the county's children and young people.

The Stay Safe Partnership has responded well to emerging safety concerns for children and young people, and continues to strive to reach the most vulnerable and hard to reach groups. Further financial investment during this academic year has enabled the partnership to expand its reach, and ensure it has positively impacted on more children than ever before. The Committee is asked to give its support to this initiative, and to promote it/bring it to the attention of others that they liaise with within their constituencies.

8. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable.

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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