

Present: Councillor Calum Watt (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Joshua Wells, Councillor Debbie Armiger,
Councillor Martin Christopher, Councillor Matthew Fido,
Councillor Jackie Kirk, Councillor Jane Loffhagen and
Councillor Naomi Twedde

Also in Attendance: Rachel Wright, CEO, (Shine Lincolnshire), Kerry Stocks,
Operations Manager, (Shine Lincolnshire), Martin
Walmsley, Head of Shared Revenues & Benefits, Kate
Bell, Climate Change Manager and Victoria Poulson,
Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Hilton Spratt, Councillor Rachel Storer and
Councillor Emily Wood

28. Confirmation of Minutes - 6 December 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

29. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Joshua Wells wished it recorded that he was employed by Age UK

Councillor Debbie Armiger wished it recorded that she was employed by Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT)

30. Suicide Rates in the City of Lincoln

Councillor Calum Watt, Chair of the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee, opened the meeting with a brief introduction to guest speakers and the topics of discussion which were Suicide Rates within the City of Lincoln and an update on the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

The Committee received a presentation from Rachel Wright, (CEO, Shine Lincolnshire) and Kerry Stocks, (Operations Manager, Shine Lincolnshire). During consideration of the presentation, the following points were noted: -

- Shine Lincolnshire was established in 2011 through funding from the Managed Care Network, Mental Health Promotion Fund via Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT)
- During the years of 2011-2019, Shine's primary work included mapping, the development of a newsletter, helping individuals to connect with local support and a Peer Link Worker (PLW) pilot scheme in Gainsborough and Louth
- In 2020/21, Shine was given a new role within Lincolnshire's Mental Health Transformation and worked with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and Lincolnshire's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (ICB)
- Shine offered independent third sector infrastructure support and was not a direct delivery service

- Shine worked to ensure community support services for individuals with mental health illnesses were available locally and worked collaboratively with partner agencies
- As a support network, Shine ensured information was shared through community mapping and not siloed.
- Shine had a commitment to supporting local voluntary and community organisations grow, develop, and deliver services within their own communities
- The 360° support offered by the charity included:
 - Assistance with interpretation of the tender and requirements
 - Support with application
 - Host employment if required
 - Implementation support
 - Training and development
- Shine worked with LCC, LPFT and Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support mental health investment programmes through a Grant Administration
- The Community Asset Development (CAD) funding aimed to support people to live independently in their own homes which contributed to improved health
- CAD funding contributed to a total of 79 projects and 7479 beneficiaries
- Suicide Prevention Innovation Funding was secured from NHS England in 2020 and was aimed at males aged 24-59
- Year 1 commenced in April 2021 and supported 14 projects collectively. This benefitted 2319 males across the County
- Year 2 commenced in early 2022 and supported anyone over the age of eighteen. A total of 12 projects supported approximately 1898 individuals across the County
- Year 3 projects were due to commence on 1 March 2023 and would again, work with all adults over the age of 18. In addition, collaboration with Public Health on the development and launch of a suicide prevention campaign across the County
- The Managed Care Network (MCN) was underpinned by the Mental Health Promotion Fund which historically had been provided by LCC and LPFT. The management of the network was awarded to Shine in 2021/22
- The MCN supported 67 projects and 8797 beneficiaries
- In January 2023, Shine announced a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Investment Fund which would be divided between a large Sustainability Fund and a smaller Innovation Fund on a 70/30% basis
- Projects within the Innovation Fund would be for a maximum of 12 months to pilot new and innovative ideas within the community
- The Sustainability Fund offered successful existing projects 3 year agreements and the impact of investment went far beyond beneficiaries.
- Shine was commissioned to lead the procurement exercise and the recommendation report to the Commissioner, following seven local scoring panels, would be written by Rachel Wright, CEO
- Shine was contracted by LPFT to deploy paid Peer Support Workers (PSW), embedded within local place based teams. There were 13 PSW's currently.
- In May 2022, Shine developed their training offer and included multi-sector managers, employees, volunteers and practitioners

- The ability to recognise the signs and symptoms and response to a mental or physical health need improved the likelihood of providing early intervention.

The Chair thanked guest speakers for their work, informative presentation and welcomed comments and questions from the Committee. As a result of the discussions between Members and speakers, the following points were made: -

Comment: Members recognised the remarkable progress that had been made within two years. The services had been remarkably transformed.

Comment: Councillor Thomas Dyer, wished it recorded that as Conservative Councillor for Lincolnshire County Council, his thanks for the service offer be noted on record.

Question: Were there any examples of what would present as a great bid for investment within the scheme? Could further details on the Long Covid-19 Peer Support Volunteering be provided?

Response: Concentration over the previous two years had been focussed on supporting those who Shine worked with. It was now important to raise Shine's profile. Shine's work to date, had supported 180 organisations within the third sector which ranged from smaller organisations and included YMCA, Age UK and The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Every level had accessed funds and therefore projects were broad and included mental health and wellbeing. Funding had been granted for CAB for financial difficulties. In contrast, there were physical support-based activities which included work with Boston, Lincoln and Gainsborough Football Foundations.

Long Covid-19 support was funded through Lincolnshire's award of the money raised by Captain Tom Moore. The NHS felt Long Covid-19 was a significant issue, in particular those who suffered with chronic fatigue. Support included work with Active Lincolnshire to highlight physical activity and Peer Support work.

Note: Kate Bell, Climate Change Manage, joined proceedings at this stage.

Question: How had the training gone so far and what did Shine's competitors look like within Lincoln?

Response: LIVE was the biggest competitor for Shine. A great deal has been achieved over the previous two years however the future focus was a training offer. Future aspirations included adult education offerings.

Question: Had Shine considered a project bid for funding under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)?

Response: Shine had not submitted a project bid under the UKSPF award for Lincoln.

Comment: Members agreed that it would be beneficial for Shine to be made known to Kate Ellis, Major Development Director, and Francesca Bell, Assistant Director of Growth and Development.

Question: Did Shine work with organisations that specialised in gambling? Could examples be provided for organisations within Lincoln that Shine had helped?

Response: There were projects that gave recognition to the issue of gambling. All staff at Shine had gambling training via GamCare to support relevant organisations. Consideration was given to suicide clusters and projects would be

identified for areas of key issue. Shine had helped a number of organisations within Lincoln and included Active Arena, YMCA, Go Grow and Voluntary Centre Services (VCS).

Question: Were there results from work with Business students at the University of Lincoln?

Response: There had been engagement with both the University of Lincoln and Bishop Grosseteste University to consider encouragement of work placements and business models. Engagement work included Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team (LVET) and Age UK.

Question: How was Shine funded? Had Shine considered a bid for UK Shared Prosperity Funding?

Response: Shine received funding from LCC for Grants Administration work. Shine were contracted by LPFT for the Peer Support Work. Revenue was also raised from training sales as well as business donations. During the first six months of Shine, there were two members of staff. The organisation had increased this figure to thirty members of staff and increased in size by 50% during the last twelve months. The key issue experienced had been rapid increase in capacity. The next twelve months would be crucial for consideration of sustainability. There had been donations from large businesses within the City which had supported Shine's expansion into a training offering.

Question: How was the Grant Administration Funding (GAF) decided?

Response: There was a contract between LCC and Shine for the Grant Administration. Whilst Shine was a registered Charity with a Board of Trustees, there was also a Project Board of which Shine were answerable to. This included LPFT, LCC and Public Health. Local funding panels with a broad membership were put in place to ensure correct oversight, joint consideration, and a partnership approach. Once a recommendation paper had been created, based on the findings of the Panel, it would be submitted to the project board & LCC for final sign off.

Comment: CAB had seen a reduction in funding over previous years. There appeared to be a world of third sector funding that wasn't known.

Comment: The transformation that Shine had undergone had been phenomenal. It was fair to conclude that Shine offered support the 'supporter'.

Response: It was important for Shine to remain neutral and unbiased within the sector. Shine did not offer face to face community work and therefore were able to manage funding in a clear and transparent way. There was a review process for new funds and memberships for seven panels created to include LPFT, District Council representative, Active Lincolnshire, LCC, Shine CEO and Community Connectors and Neighbourhood Lead. In addition, two individuals with lived experience to offer co production.

Comment: The Committee had welcomed LocalMotion in September 2022. The model within LocalMotion was made up from 50% Councillors and 50% of individuals with real lived experiences.

Question: Peer support workers came from individuals with lived experience. It was important for co-production to not become a tokenistic gesture. There had been engagement with long standing Shine volunteers. How were individuals chosen for seat on the panel?

Response: Volunteers could be requested. In addition, individuals could be sought through mailing lists and social meetings.

Question: How did partnerships start and how did that look for the future?

Response: The future looked bright, and everyone was treated as equals. The partnership with LPFT originated further to the consideration of what peer support would look like. Collective and collaborative work was at the centre of everything Shine did.

Members expressed their gratitude to guest speakers for the information provided within discussions and for their work for suicide prevention.

The Chair echoed comments from members and thanked both guest speakers for their attendance and contributions to discussions.

31. Cost of Living Crisis Update

The Committee received a presentation from Martin Walmsley, Assistant Director Shared Revenues & Benefits and Kate Bell, Climate Change Manager regarding the Cost-of-Living Crisis update and the support available to residents. During consideration of the presentation, the following points were noted: -

- There was a button on our website to direct readers to the cost-of-living support available. In addition, we had been circulating a cost-of-living support leaflet
- There had been the delivery of national and local schemes and the focus was on residents' and business' needs
- There had been a promotion of regional and national guidance
- The recent focus had been on help with food and collaborative work had taken place with Community Grocery through Towns Fund monies. It was located close to Citizens Advice (CA) and Job Centre which resulted in a positive geographical location
- Work had been ongoing with food banks and demand had increased exponentially. It was noted that there had been no decrease in demand and January was a difficult time for those in debt
- Officers commented that Greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership was a valuable website and was updated regularly
- Work was ongoing with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) for free school meals
- The recognition and demand of 'Warm Spaces' had grown considerably
- The Household Support Fund had seen significant funding through LCC from central Government. The demand resulted in the funds in December 2022 only lasting two days
- Examples of support that we had delivered included:
 - Test and Trace Support payments which totalled more than £1m
 - Household Support Fund payment which totally more than £746,000
 - Covid Additional Relief Fund of £852,032
 - Expanded Retail Discount of more than £40m
 - Discretionary Housing Payments of £132,000 due to be paid out in 2022/23
 - Council Tax Energy rebates which totalled more than £6m
 - Council Tax Support Fund in Lincoln of £222,803
 - Home Energy Upgrade Scheme of £750,304

- We were currently in the process of sending £250 through the Post Office to recipients of Housing Benefit that did not benefit from the National Cost of Living Payment scheme
- The cost-of-living support offered to businesses included a 75% reduction for 2023/24 – up from 50% in 2022/23

The Chair gave thanks to Officers for an informative presentation and welcome comments and questions from Members of the Committee. During discussions, the following points were noted: -

Comment: Thanks were given for the statistics within the presentation. Communications was a concern and the importance of making sure word reached the public on the support available.

Response: When the Household Support Fund (HSF) went live, it was important to individuals who approached referral partners, for example CA, to be referred for vouchers. Social media was a fantastic tool but concerns were raised regarding an increase in demand further to social media posts. There was the potential for additional funding of £60,000 for February and March 2023. Conversations with foodbanks were ongoing and they were asked how they felt the support offering was best approached. A great number of residents were supported with the HSF but concerns were raised regarding the future of the HSF and what legacy could be left. Communications with Lincolnshire County Council and other districts would aim to try and reduce dependency.

Comment: Members were looking forward to seeing the Community Grocery.

Question: Where was Citizens Advice (CA) going?

Response: It was staying within City Hall and meeting with CA took place every 4-6 weeks to ensure methods worked well and individuals were correctly signposted to support.

Question: There were 2-3 Warm Spaces within Minster Ward. Churches had been instrumental in the utilisation of funds available and the result was phenomenal. Could officers track how many times the cost-of living support button had been pressed on the website?

Response: Recognition was given to Churches and the support they had offered residents. Individuals within the County had considered next winter and the measures that could be taken to best prepare. Moving forward, preparations would include best practise and working within a team in an attempt to secure additional resources. Analytics from the cost-of-living crisis button on our website could be sought and send further to the meeting.

Comment: It was positive that consideration had been given to next winter, but it was important to consider how to market the support that could be available. Warm Spaces had been heavily stigmatised because of what it represented. Marketing Warm Spaces as 'A Free Cup Tea' could remove the stigma attached to it.

Response: Warm Spaces fell under the remit of Paul Carrick, Neighbourhood Manager Central and marketing was very important to ensure the stigma of Warm Spaces was removed.

Question: In times of crisis and emergency, support and schemes were often arranged with little notice and future. From a local perspective, was there anything that could be put in place to future proof the work?

Response: The cost-of-living crisis had affected people who had never needed support previously. It would also affect individuals when the time came to renew their mortgage. It would be useful to consider the previous credit crunch of 2008 and give consideration to work that was carried out at that time to ensure successful briefing. Funding for one year seemed positive as ordinarily, it would be available for a number of months only. Food bank dependency was a concern and the demand for the Community Grocery had increase significantly. The Community Grocery ensured individuals were offered mainstream shopping to promote independence and budgeting and we able to shop for £4.00. It was hoped that there would be a significant amount of money available for Lincolnshire under the Household Support Fund 2023/24. There had been presentations made that concerned 'a permanent welfare local provision pot' however nothing had been agreed formally.

Question: It was positive to hear information on the Home Upgrade Grant. We were pooling money with other districts?

Response: There was a consortium between West Lindsay District Council and North Kesteven District Council. The figure awarded was per authority and if there was an underspend at one authority, spending could occur within the consortium. There were very few off gas homes and those we had, were built in approximately 1990 and therefore, were relatively energy efficient. We had found only 2. Any surplus funds would be used within the consortium. The scheme was available to applicants with a household income lower than £30,000 and an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E, F or G. We had a considerable number of properties in Lincoln with an EPC rating D. There were 58 applicants on the waiting list that we were unable to process as we would exceed allocation. There had been an introduction of the ECO4 Scheme to offer improvement of the energy efficiency of housing stock occupied by low income and vulnerable households. Any homes that were unable to proceed through the Home Upgrade Grant would be signposted to the ECO4 scheme due to be introduced in April 2022.

Comment: Members offered praise to the Council for the creation of a hub for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), CA and the Community Grocery – that did not require a referral for use and therefore, offered a very positive resource for individuals in need. Recognition was given to the cost-of-living support leaflets and it was confirmed that they were well received. There were a large number of individuals that did not have access to the internet and as such, the leaflets ensured information was shared more widely.

Response: Digital inclusion was important and during implementation of the Council Tax Support scheme, 11% of individuals contacted did not have access to the internet or were unable to complete the relevant forms. The leaflet would be reviewed regularly to ensure it contained the most up to date information.

Question: What was the process of securing an EPC rating for a property in the instance that it did not have one?

Response: The scheme paid for an EPC rating if a property did not have one and it would pay for the rating before and after installation. An EPC rating was effective for a period of ten years. A rental property would have an EPC rating and it would be needed for a house to be listed on the property market for sale.

Question: In March 2021, central Government announced the Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) to offer support to businesses affected by the pandemic. Had there been consultation with local business to discover what they had experienced? There was a concern that businesses were struggling and at

risk of closure. If businesses did not grow, there would be less opportunity to help people into work.

Response: Following the announcement of the CARF from central Government, subsequent guidance and funding allocations were not received until a number of months later. During the time elapse, many businesses had closed and others had thrived. Therefore, despite campaigning, we were unable to utilise the full allocation available and the scheme closed on 30 September 2022. Further discussions would be best directed at Kate Ellis, Major Development Director.

Comment: A number of warm spaces were now entitled 'Warm Welcome' and offered networking, tea, coffee and discussions which felt more presentable.

Response: 'Warm Welcome' gave warm spaces a café style feel.

Question: Were there contingency plans in place for when Government withdraws support for gas and electric to ensure more individuals do not fall into poverty?

Response: Work within the Corporate Management Team (CMT) was ongoing to signpost contingency plans and a high priority within workloads. Further information could be provided to the Committee when more information was available.

Question: Were there any comparisons that could be drawn from other areas and regions regarding the support they offered residents and what we were doing?

Response: There was ongoing dialogue with other Councils and third sectors within the City which had worked well. There was a strong sense of goodwill within the City and it had great neighbourly relationships.

Comment: Warm Spaces should be viewed as a sociable facility, not a charitable one. Global gas prices had reduced recently however there was a lag as companies secured gas many months in advance. Businesses with high energy usage were affected considerably by large utility bills.

Response: Energy prices were reducing and the reduction was reported within the media.

Question: The total award to businesses under the CARF scheme was £850,000. How much more could have been spent from the total allocation.

Response: The total funding figure received was £2.7m. Delay of central Government guidance and funding had caused significant issues in identifying businesses in need.

Question: Were there restrictions to be successful in an award for support to be granted?

Response: The guidance received was a requirement for businesses to demonstrate a 30% reduction in revenue of which many businesses could not do. Therefore, we moved to demonstration of a 20% loss in revenue as the 30% requirement was guidance only.

Comment: Local businesses had experienced a rise of over double in their utility expenditure. Hospitality businesses were not thriving and had not risen their prices in line with rising expenditure to continue operating. In addition, owing to the cost-of-living crisis, many households had reduced the number of times they dined out.

The Chair gave thanks to Officers for the information provided and for the remarkable work carried out for residents within the City.

Note: Councillor Rebecca Longbottom left proceedings at this stage.

32. Work Programme 2023

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme. The Democratic Services Officer confirmed amendments to the work programme further to scoping discussions. The focus of the Committee's work for the remainder of the municipal year would include consideration of Assets of Community Value and an update on the Cultural Consortium. It was agreed that these items of business would be brought before the Committee in March 2023.

The Chair confirmed that the Committee's work for the remainder of the calendar year would include an update on the Poverty Truth Commission from LocalMotion. It was agreed that this item would be brought before the Committee in June 2023. The Democratic Services Officer added that confirmation of attendance had been received from Charlotte Brookes, Director, LocalMotion. The Chair requested that officers work with the communications team to arrange a press release for the meeting.

The Chair confirmed that the Committee's work would include consideration of Low Wages in the City. The Democratic Services Officer added that attendance would be sought from Resolution Foundation, Federation of Small Businesses and Trades Union Congress further to scoping discussions. It was agreed that this item would be brought before the Committee in June 2023.

The Chair sought the views of Members with regard to proposals for a revised meeting schedule, effective from July 2023 in which the Committee would meet on a monthly basis. The Democratic Services Officer advised that discussions were ongoing with officers and consideration of all Council business would be necessary prior to agreement of proposals. Members expressed concerns regarding the necessity of scrutiny training and potential constitutional and membership changes further to the Elections in May 2023.

RESOLVED that: -

- The meeting scheduled for 28 March 2023 be brought forward to 8 March 2023.
- The Democratic Services Officer would escalate the proposal of monthly meetings to relevant Officers for consideration and comment prior to final determination.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8 March 2023.