

- Present:** Councillors Councillor Gary Hewson (*in the Chair*), Bob Bushell, Andy Kerry, Jackie Kirk and Fay Smith
- Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Karen Lee and Councillor Edmund Strengiel
- Also in Attendance:** Marion Cooney and Chief Superintendent Paula Woods

1. To Receive Minutes of Meeting Held 1 July 2014

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting which was sitting as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2014 were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

Sam Barstow, Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour, Service Manager, delivered a power point presentation on the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and how it affected Lincoln.

He explained that the CSP was a legal statutory body that worked with multiple agencies (statutory and non-statutory) and its requirement was to establish a joint community safety plan and consult with the public on community safety issues. The CSP did not have a budget.

Sam Barstow continued by explaining in detail the following:

- Every 3 years priorities were set and these were chosen from
 - Volume crime
 - High harm areas
 - Multi agency involvement
- Partnership process
- High harm areas
- Priority areas established Strategic Management Boards
- Priority areas established a strategic plan

He explained the detail within the three tiers in his presentation:

- Strategic tier
- Tactical tier
- Operational tier

Sam Barstow concluded by suggesting that this committee would be a suitable forum to scrutinise the work that the CSP carried out.

4. Lincoln Crime Figures

Simon Walters, Assistant Director – Strategic Development, delivered a power point presentation about Lincoln Crime Figures. The presentation covered the categories of crime in Lincoln with comparison to its CIPFA nearest neighbours. Different categories of crime were compared with Lincoln and other towns in Lincolnshire. The presentation also identified crime hot spots in Lincoln. The time line for categories of crime comparisons was between 2013-2014 and 2014–2015.

Simon Walters explained that the two crime data sources used in the presentation were from:

- ONS (Office for National Statistics)
- Police.uk

When compared to its nearest neighbours during the period 2014/15 Lincoln had the highest rate per 1,000 people for:

- bicycle theft
- miscellaneous crimes against society
- shoplifting
- theft from person
- homicide(3 murders)

The presentation concluded with Simon Walters asking members of the committee and guests for comments and questions.

5. Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour

Sam Barstow as Service Manager for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour delivered a power point briefing on the key projects, implementation and review of policies and new regulations. He explained that there had been:

- 89 prosecutions in the previous 12 months and 35 of these were under the legislation introduced in 2015.
- 20 prosecuted breaches of the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) .
- 457 fixed penalty notices issued since November 2015
- 89% payment rates and 100% successful prosecutions for non- payment of fixed penalties

Sam Barstow concluded the presentation by asking members of the committee for their comments and questions.

6. Debate: Issues Raised

Comment: The figure of 94.6 per thousand for crime for Lincoln city seemed very high in comparison to the figure for East Midlands of 57 per 1,000.

Response: As Lincoln is the urban centre of a much wider area, people tend to come to the city to work and enjoy their leisure time. Therefore crimes tend to follow and offenders didn't necessarily reside in the city.

Question: Where does funding come from for the CSP and why isn't more money directed towards Lincoln?

Response: As stated earlier the CSP does not have a budget, the strategic management boards feeding into the CSP received funding in their own right for example:

- The County Council and Public Health fund Domestic Abuse

Comment: The statistics for Lincoln did show the city in a poor light.

Response: It was noted that there were caveats with the statistics. Unfortunately the ONS didn't show that outsiders came into the city to commit crime and all cities faced this problem. The ONS figures were for 2014/15.

The CSP wanted to promote their progress year on year. A police snapshot as of the 26 July 2016 showed that 2,700 crimes were committed since April and this was a down turn. There was an issue that nationally violent crimes were rising. Lincolnshire Police were not happy just to accept that and were working closely with partners to 'buck' the national trend.

Chief Superintendent Woods stated that Lincoln was the 3rd best performing force in the UK and they would continue to provide a quality service with quality investigation.

Question: What was classed as 'other crime' listed in the ONS statistics?

Response: These consisted of miscellaneous crimes which covered a large range of crime types including:

- Going equipped
- Handling stolen goods
- Assisting suicide
- Dangerous driving

Question: What would happen when the inevitable further cuts happened?

Response: Prioritisation would be required along with partners coming together and not working in isolation. Money could not be wasted and it would be important to ensure enough officers were in the right areas, this would be ongoing with regular scrutiny. More support was needed from Mental Health within the NHS.

Comment: The police statistics showed an increase in violent offences.

Response: Violence against the person with injuries could include bodily harm, endangering road users and injuries from dogs. Violence without injury included assaults on police and letters with intent. Chief Inspector Woods explained that the main time for violence had been during the night time economy however more people were now drinking at home. Victims of violent abuse in the home were being encouraged to report these incidents. Nationally Lincolnshire was performing well but they were not complacent. Chief Superintendent Woods stated that there had been an increase in sexual offences, both historical and new. Specialist teams were required to deal with these offences as they were often very complex.

Sam Barstow advised that one of the key focuses of the Domestic Abuse Charter was for other agencies to identify early signs of domestic abuse for intervention to be made at the earliest opportunity. People from other agencies could be GPs, health visitors, housing officers etc.

Comment: There was a large amount of ASB incidents reported around the City Centre.

Response: Marion Cooney of Lincoln BIG commented that she was a licensee on the Brayford and stated night time wardens did help when funding had been available. Businesses were now being encouraged to join the Lincoln City Centre Security Group to deal with daytime and night time incidents. Even with the PSPO, street drinking still occurred in places and businesses were encouraged to report these offences to 101 via 'pub watch' or radios. The University were working on advising students about 'pre-loading' in Fresher's week.

Sam Barstow agreed with the points Marion had made but stated that often the offenders were in a repetitive circle i.e.

- mental health issues
- drug/alcohol/substance misuse
- housing issues
- domestic abuse

He stated that the best outcome would be to get individual support for these people and urged members not to totally look at enforcement as a way forward.

Comment: At the Health Scrutiny Committee it had been discussed that a mental health expert would be invaluable sitting in with GP's or by being part of the staff at the practice.

Response: Sam Barstow agreed that it was often difficult to decide which to treat first – substance misuse or a mental health issue and it was important that the partnership was integral and that a clear pathway was laid out for all parties

Marion Cooney stated that there was an issue with members of the public giving money to people begging as many of these were already engaging with services and the money was not helping them with their issues. At the Fresher's fair students would be asked not to give money and be educated about 'diverting giving'.

Comment: the mental health crisis had overtaken the drugs/drink problem and larger cities were running joint police/ambulance/mental health cars to try to address these problems.

Response: Chief Superintendent Woods stated that putting someone in a cell was the last resort. Police officers had some mental health training and expectations of the service were being evaluated.

Comment: There were rumours that homeless people came to Lincoln as they were assured help here.

Response: The local authority had a statutory requirement to house homeless people but one of the conditions was that they had a local connection to the area. Other 3rd parties and charitable organisations did not have the same requirement. People could be put in rooms for a short period of time but when moved from there they wouldn't be immediately entitled to go into social housing. If there was no local connection people had been sent back to where they came from and on occasions this had meant paying their rail fare.

Question: With the recent boundary changes are the police areas in line with the local boundaries? Would it be possible to find out which PCSO's cover which areas.

Response: Chief Superintendent Woods responded that she would consult with Inspector Pat Coates about the boundary issue. She stated that neighbourhood policing had been reviewed and a vulnerable location index had been drawn up. This identified where to put resources and PCSO's were publicised on the police.uk website.

7. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

8. Lincolnshire Police Performance Overview

Chief Superintendent Paula Woods presented the Police Performance Overview for Lincoln which covered the period up to July 2016. The report showed that there was a reduction in overall crime for this period and members of the committee noted the contents.