

Annual Report

2022 - 2023



Marc Jones
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

LINCOLNSHIRE - SAFER TOGETHER



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Introduction



The role of a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) covers a wide range of duties across policing, crime, criminal justice and community safety, but none more important than the central responsibility to be the public's voice to policing.

Core to that mission is appointing the Chief Constable, creating and delivering a police and crime plan; agreeing the budget jointly with the Chief and then holding him accountable for the policing service we all receive across Lincolnshire.

However, a significant amount of my time, and that of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, is spent striving to ensure all agencies, authorities and charities who can positively support the reduction in the number of crimes committed, harm caused and victims created work together effectively, which in turn reduces the demand upon the limited resources of the police.

In Lincolnshire, we are rightly proud of the way all of those spending public money are so willing to come together to spend it wisely and deliver efficient and effective services for our communities but there is always more to do.

This year has seen my team leading the way in partnership working in areas as diverse as serious violence, sexual crimes, domestic abuse, fraud and scams, rural crime, dementia support, abuse of children, reduction of re-offending and safer roads to mention just a few.

With regards to policing in the county, much has been delivered to create a police force we can all be proud of – and I am delighted to report that the Force has made great strides forward in the past year.

I want to thank the continued support of Lincolnshire taxpayers who have been steadfast in their support for ongoing investment in policing their communities. This support, coupled with the additional funding from Government, has enabled recruitment of 199 officers who will, over coming decades, serve across our community to help keep us feeling and being safe.

Without this financial support, as well as prudent financial planning and investment in innovation and new technology, we could not have created one of the most effective and efficient forces in the UK.

During the 2022/23 financial year, that support meant I was able to provide the funds to the Chief Constable for investment in a raft of innovations aimed at keeping our communities safe.

A new Roads Policing Team, a Rural Crime Team, 13 additional Community Beat Managers and an enhanced

forensics capability - to name but a few - were all launched in Lincolnshire with a singular focus on deterring, identifying, tracking down and arresting criminals.

We cannot afford to stand still. Our Force must continue to find new ways to evolve its crime fighting capabilities, deploy its resources ever more effectively and find new policing models that can best protect our communities.

Plans are in place to reinforce the unit protecting the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities and to significantly increase the number of call-taking professionals to improve the 101 service, something I know we all want to see.

One of the biggest innovations and investments in recent years was the introduction of a new cutting-edge command and control system which is game changing in sending the best trained and equipped officers to residents in need as quickly as possible.

One of the greatest successes of the past year has been a significant breakthrough in reviewing the Government's police funding formula. I have invested time and effort – with the support of all the Lincolnshire Members of Parliament – in pressing home the need to re-think funding for our county and working to shape the new way funding will be distributed.

That review is now well underway, and I am hopeful we will see fairer and more appropriate funding and a more secure

financial future for policing in the county.

I am also delighted to see the positive outcomes emerge from the creation of the new units funded by my Office for deployment by Lincolnshire Police. Both the Roads Policing and Rural Crime Action Teams are making significant differences in our communities with major successes within months of full deployment.

The Roads Policing Team are having remarkable success and there are many examples of the great work being done to keep our roads safe and crime free. From visible patrols to deter dangerous driving practices, to the use of highly specialist tactics to locate and detain criminals, this unit is active across the whole county.

The Rural Crime Action Team is also making great strides. Over the summer period alone the team recovered approximately £500,000 of stolen property and slashed the number of crimes happening across our most rural locations.

We have a Chief Constable who is determined to bear down on crime and I am equally determined to provide him with the resources he needs to do just that and on your behalf to challenge him to deliver more of your priorities and expectations.



Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner

Community safety and prevention in partnership



I am committed to building on and strengthening collaborative working with all our partners – across policing, local and national government, health, parliamentarians, criminal justice, and the voluntary sector. It is only through working together that we can successfully tackle some of the big system wide issues and make a real difference to the communities we serve.

I plan to bring all partners together to work towards reducing crime. This includes councils, health services, probation, voluntary and community organisations, the courts and the public. Resources are limited and the more we do together the safer we all will be. Prevention is critical to success. Spending time and money after a crime is committed and harm has been done is less effective than working to stop crime through good prevention. We need to focus on those crimes and offenders that cause the most harm and reduce their impact. I will also work with communities to increase active citizenship and reduce dependency and demand by engaging them in identifying the issues and providing funding to pilot community led solutions.

Call blocker devices

A successful bid was made to National Trading Standards which enabled the purchase of 44 True Call Secure+ call blocker devices. Lincolnshire Police's Crime Prevention Team identified suitable recipients and undertook the installation and management of the call blockers.

These additional units brought the number of call blockers installed in Lincolnshire homes to 70. During the year, these call blockers screened 8,093 nuisance calls, blocked 2,210 scam calls and

prevented 13 scams – saving those individuals an estimated £60,371.

Lincolnshire Drugs Strategy

During Spring, the Lincolnshire Drugs Strategy was launched.

The Strategy will now be built upon to form a Substance Misuse Strategy and this work will be taken forward through the newly established Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Substance Misuse Core Priority Group.

The strategy can be found at <https://bit.ly/lincsdugstrategy>

The PCC has funded the purchase of a Bruker drug testing device - bringing an opportunity to charge or dispose upon first arrest. The Bruker Alpha II is a drug testing machine which uses an infrared Spectrometer that can identify the chemical makeup of a particular substance. It assists in identifying some of the hundreds of substances Lincolnshire Police receive each year. At present many substances that aren't drugs are submitted for forensic examination including crushed paracetamol, medicines and counterfeit medicines, tobacco – even oregano and washing powder. Initial testing on Bruker prevents unnecessary submissions - costing time and money - and allows finalisation at the earliest opportunity, avoiding long waiting periods for those previously released under investigation.

Prisoner Release Housing Protocol

Through the Reducing Re-Offending Group of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (chaired by the OPCC Director of Strategy and Operations) a Prisoner Release Housing Protocol has been developed and agreed. The Protocol was launched in June and currently applies to prisoners who are being released from Lincolnshire prisons and approved premises.

The protocol is an agreement between partner agencies to work together to try to reduce homelessness amongst people on release from prison.

"It is imperative that we make use of the latest technology in our fight to keep our communities safe. The purchase of the Bruker device has already had significant impact on our police and the safety of our communities, whilst saving the taxpayer money. Early identification of bad drug batches that reach our streets and come to police attention enables swift action in reaching out to partners and putting safeguarding procedures in place."

Marc Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner



Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Charter

The PCC has supported and signed up to this Charter, which includes a number of pledges to promote safer communities and challenge negative and corrosive behaviours.

Neighbourhood Watch activity is co-ordinated on the Lincolnshire Alert system, also used by the OPCC. This system will be a key enabler in delivering against the pledges of the Charter.

Lincolnshire Lowland Search and Rescue (LLSAR)

The PCC has committed just under £4,000 of funding to enable LLSAR (part of the UK Search and Rescue that cover the areas not supported by Mountain Rescue) to update their technical and radio equipment. This will allow better sharing of information and facilitate joint working when providing support to Lincolnshire Police search teams.

Safer Streets Fund

The PCC successfully secured a further £400,000 of funding from the Government to install the

latest in high resolution CCTV in Spalding, Skegness and Boston. This builds on previously successful bids elsewhere in the county which have proved invaluable in protecting vulnerable people and detecting criminals. The funding also included the introduction of Community Ambassador and Young Ambassador Programmes incorporating awareness raising, reporting and training on violence against women and girls and anti-social behaviour. In addition, 45 Lincolnshire Police officers were given trauma informed training.

This successful bid reflects the PCC's intent to seek every opportunity to bring in additional funding to Lincolnshire to keep our communities feeling and being safe.

County-wide review of CCTV

The PCC engaged an external provider to undertake a county-wide review of CCTV. The review commenced in early 2023 and will involve scoping of the fixed and mobile/hotspot public space CCTV managed and operated by local government partners. The output will be a consistent, county-wide vision for the use of CCTV between district councils and Lincolnshire Police, improving service and value for the public.

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Philip Clark, who took up post in January 2022, has attended over 60 national, regional and local meetings and events - representing the PCC and ensuring the voice of the Lincolnshire communities are heard and taken into account. The scope of the role is wide ranging and examples include:

- Observing the delivery of the Twinning Project at Lincoln Prison – helping to reduce offending upon release through increased employment opportunities.
- Lincolnshire Rape Scrutiny Panel.
- Project Adder roundtable - national drugs and substance misuse meeting with the Policing Minister.
- National Rural Crime Summit
- Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Serious Violence and Youth Crime Prevention Through Sport Board.

The full list of meetings and events attended are published on the PCC's website.

The Deputy PCC also co-chairs the Lincolnshire Criminal Justice Board and Serious Violence Core Priority Group.



In 2022, the Deputy PCC spent some time teaching university students enrolled on the policing degree about the role of the PCC and functions of the Office.

"The Professional Policing degree students at Lincoln College have been fortunate to be addressed by the Deputy PCC. Phil has facilitated informative sessions with the students, the most recent in respect to decision making and police accountability. As most students want to apply to join Lincolnshire Police upon graduation, the opportunity afforded by engaging with such experienced and astute leaders and speakers is 'priceless'."

Lincoln College Tutor



Listening, responding and being accountable

Effective engagement with all sections of the community, partners and the public is a fundamental part of my role as PCC; representing the public and their voice in policing. I recognise that the needs and concerns of communities differ and that we cannot adopt a 'one size fits all' approach to consultation and engagement. Everyone deserves a say in what we do and I will listen and respond to voices across the county and will engage with all communities. I will ensure that engagement is fair and representative in terms of geography, demography, and identity, and includes those who may be underrepresented, seldom heard or disengaged.

I will undertake ongoing engagement, recognising that need, opinions and perceptions change over time. I also recognise that public expectations of how they interact with policing and the wider Criminal Justice System are changing and we need to be responsive to this, providing a range of mechanisms for communication in both the real world and the virtual. I will use my role to hold partners as well as the police to account for what they do so that all public money is used wisely to provide effective, responsive services. I will explore opportunities to work collaboratively with partner agencies to minimise duplication and share skills, resources and the results of consultation and engagement activity across partner agencies.

Public Opinion Survey

The PCC's annual consultation continues to get wide public support with this year's survey receiving 3,843 completed returns – the highest response ever achieved. The results were shared with the senior leadership of Lincolnshire Police and with the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. Responses were used to inform policing priorities and the setting of the precept, with nearly two thirds (65%) of respondents

supporting a Council Tax increase of at least 5%. Even when factoring in those who were not prepared to pay more, the average preferred percentage increases in police precept ranged from 8.15% to 9.75% - both well in excess of the actual increase of 5.4%, which equates to an extra 29p per week on a Band D property.



Personal engagement

The PCC continues to make accessibility a priority and has continued to engage with many individuals, organisations and groups who are dedicated to making their communities better places to live. During 2022/23 he participated in just over 460 meetings and events both in person and virtually to ensure the community's views are heard and are placed at the centre of decision making.

Correspondence and social media

Over the course of 2022/23 the OPCC has received almost 3,500 pieces of correspondence (excluding routine correspondence from policing bodies) and 57 Freedom of Information requests. The PCC personally engages with the public on social media alongside official engagement via the OPCC social media channels. In addition, the PCC has a widely promoted email address to facilitate direct enquiries from the public.

Representing Lincolnshire on the national stage

In May 2021, the PCC was elected as the Chair of the national Association of Police and Crime

Commissioners for two years – the first PCC to be elected for more than a single year. The role involves representing all PCCs - including mayoralities and other police governance bodies such as those representing the City of London, British Transport Police and Civil Nuclear - in discussions with national organisations and Government. He also ensures that the issues important to Lincolnshire are voiced at a national level.

The PCC has been appointed to join the Board of the national College of Policing - the professional body for policing in England and Wales. The College sets standards for policing, shares knowledge and good practice, and delivers training in leadership, creating authorised professional practice and guidance for the whole of policing. The appointment was approved directly by the Home Secretary.





Partnership working

A great deal of the work undertaken by the OPCC is devoted to the “crime” element of the title rather than the “police” element. In that capacity, there is an enormous amount of work that goes on to seek, establish and improve partnerships with other agencies and organisations to ensure the public sector provides the most effective and efficient services for our communities as possible.

The PCC and his Office are engaged with, and sit on boards for, a wide range of organisations such as Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, National Rural Crime Network, child protection

agencies, various health and wellbeing boards – each designed to help deliver joined up services for the residents of the county. A full list can be found on the PCC's website.

Public Assurance Meeting (PAM)

The PCC continues to hold regular accountability meetings with the Chief Constable to review police performance. These meetings are open to the public, to provide the opportunity for residents to be well informed and ask questions about the performance of their Police Force. The meetings are recorded and all papers and the video recordings are made available on the PCC's website and YouTube channel.

Lincolnshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

PCCs have a statutory duty to maintain an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, in which local members of the public volunteer to serve as Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) making regular, unannounced visits to police custody suites to check on the rights, entitlements and wellbeing of detained persons, as well as the conditions they are held in. The primary aim of the scheme is to increase public confidence in the treatment of persons detained in police custody.

In Lincolnshire, a total of 192 custody visits were originally scheduled for 2022/23 and split between the four local visiting panels serving Lincoln, Grantham, Boston and Skegness police custody suites. A total of 157 (81%)

visits had been successfully completed by the end of March 2023. A total of 260 (89%) detained persons who were available at the time a custody visit was conducted, gave their consent to be seen by ICVs. Just over 30 (11%) of detained persons refused to be seen.

Lincolnshire Alert

The PCC took over the management of Lincolnshire Alert in 2021 and pledged to review the system. The review found the number of registered users has grown from just over 10,000 to 13,367.

Response from users has been positive. As a result, the PCC has committed to continuing with Lincolnshire Alert for a further year.

“Well done on something relevant to this area, keep up the good work, keep us well informed on crime and scams please.”

Lincolnshire Alert user



www.lincolnshirealert.co.uk

Safer Together Team

The team attended around 350 events, activities or professional meetings across the county in 2022. They have represented the OPCC at events including the Uffington Scarecrow Festival, RAF Waddington Prevent, and Gainsborough South West Ward Walk Arounds. This has enabled the team to develop an understanding of local community issues which are then shared with partners, Lincolnshire Police and the PCC as appropriate.

Engagement activities have also taken place with partnership agencies and events including Neighbourhood Policing Teams,

Voluntary Centre Services, Cyber and Rural Crime organisations, Lincolnshire County Council, and Community Alcohol Partnerships - allowing community voices to be heard in local and strategic decision making, including national funding applications and local community support.

The team also developed 'engaging communities' toolkits in conjunction with relevant specialist support groups. These are being shared with the Lincolnshire Police's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team. Toolkits developed to date include, amongst others, engaging with veterans, people who are autistic and people with visual impairment.



"The Safer Together Team have supported the work of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership by engaging with community groups to deliver fraud engagement sessions with partners. They have built strong relationships that can be relied upon to bring partners together."

**Lincolnshire County Council Fraud
Community Safety Coordinator**

Lincolnshire Strong Voices

Lincolnshire Strong Voices has been developed as a way of hearing the voices of younger residents who are statistically more likely to be victims of crime and yet are traditionally less likely to share their views on policing, crime and community safety issues.

Activities have been undertaken by the Safer Together Team on behalf of the PCC in several local schools, engaging over 1,000 young people in conversation on how they feel about their local area, what they would change and their concerns regarding community safety.

A core group of young people have been recruited to meet on an eight-weekly basis with the Safer Together Team to discuss topics of their choosing linked to community safety. These are then fed back to the OPCC as part of the priority setting process.

Informing the public how Council Tax is spent

Every year the PCC publishes information on how the extra council tax raised through the precept will be invested in front line policing and community safety. Members of the public have again received this information in hard copy along with their Council Tax bills for 2022/23. The leaflet and supporting information are also published on the PCC's website.





Protecting and supporting victims and the vulnerable

I will continue to place victims of crime at the heart of my thinking, my policies and my actions. Working in partnership with Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership we will maximise the opportunities we all have to safeguard the vulnerable of all ages from abuse and criminal exploitation and to improve community safety. I will provide supportive leadership and transparency for the criminal justice system at a local level, whilst respecting prosecutorial and judicial independence. The new probation model offers an opportunity to further develop joint working with the Probation Service to take forward work on preventing offending and reducing re-offending which I will fully embrace.

Sexual Violence Co-ordinator

A grant of £78,000 was successfully secured from NHS England to introduce a dedicated Sexual Violence Co-ordinator within Victim Lincs. The role provides an enhanced service to victims of sexual violence and abuse by completing detailed needs assessments, providing information and advice and making referrals to specialist support services.

Between September 2022 and

March 2023, 834 victims of sexual violence of all ages were referred to the Sexual Violence Co-ordinator.

Violence Reduction Programme

The PCC has budgeted £3m to prevent and tackle violence and harm across Lincolnshire. That work started by commissioning a needs assessment review, carried out by Lincolnshire County Council, ahead of creating a new partnership approach to tackle the issue. The Serious Violence Core Priority Group has now been established as part of Safer Lincolnshire Partnership and the PCC has funded a co-ordinator post for the group.



Victim
Lincs

Victim outreach support

Following consultation with victims, the public, partner agencies and Lincolnshire Police the Victim Outreach support contract was awarded to Victim Support from April 2023.

"I can now actually live my life again"

A victim of crime after receiving support from the outreach service

Victim Services Impact Report

The first report was unveiled in October 2021 and the 2022/23 report was published in June 2023 and can be viewed on the PCC's website.

The report sets out all the services available now and developments for the future – which include a fast-track counselling service and a new sexual violence co-ordinator.

The 2022/23 report shows:

- 12,991 were referred to Victims Lincs
- 865 people received support from the outreach service
- 2,045 survivors of sexual violence accessed support services

Raising awareness of violence against women and girls

The PCC funded Lincoln University to develop several videos to raise awareness of violence against women and girls. The videos highlighted what behaviours constitute harassment, how to report an incident and demonstrates the use of the Hollie Guard personal safety app. These videos were shared via the PCC's and relevant agencies' social media channels.

The PCC has also joined forces with Lincolnshire Police in backing the 'You're Right, That's Wrong' campaign which calls on men to act when they see or hear public place harassment towards women or misogynistic attitudes.

Dementia wristbands

The PCC funded the launch of new "smart" wristband which were issued to people living with dementia.



The wristbands store the names and contact details of the wearer's next of kin and can be read by smart phones using near field communication (NFC) technology.

A pilot project using 600 bands was launched in East Lindsey and supported with a £1,000 grant from the PCC, alongside additional funding from local community groups including the Royal British Legion.

The bracelets can be worn or carried by people living with dementia so, if required, police or members of the public can quickly access details of the next of kin. Details can be retrieved simply by placing a mobile phone within three centimetres of the device.

Rural spotter

Special hidden cameras have been purchased for Lincolnshire Police to combat rural crime after an investment of £20,000 from proceeds of crime money. The 20 new hi-tech cameras, complete with night vision, can be installed at secret locations around the county and can alert the police to intruders within seconds.

The Rural Spotter cameras have been developed to cope with direct sunlight or street lights and

can resist temperatures of between -25°C and 60°C and can be installed outside, in buildings or in vehicles. They are being used to target burglary, theft, wildlife, rural offences and arson in remote locations.

Enhanced support for victims of hate crime

From 1 April 2023, Victim Support has been commissioned by the PCC to provide an enhanced hate crime support service within Lincolnshire, as part of their outreach service. This service includes:

- Outreach support, including practical and emotional support to victims.
- Free 24 hour Support Line, which includes a phone line, live online chat, text relay, British Sign Language, language interpretation, email support and support request via a secure online form.

"Thank you for contacting me so soon, I'd imagine in most crimes as a victim it's easy to feel alone and like you have no one to talk to. The fact I didn't want any help but was still sent contact details in case I want help in the future proves you're good at what you do and you actually care. Keep up the good work."

A victim of crime after speaking to Victim Lincs

- My support Space, which is an online resource containing interactive guides to help victims manage the impact that crime has had on them.

Fast Track Counselling for Victims of Sexual Violence

In recognition of the need for immediate trauma counselling for victims of sexual violence, the PCC secured £65,000 of non-recurrent funding to put in place a high-quality specialist counselling service. This service is delivered by Umbrella Counselling to meet specific needs of victims and survivors of sexual violence who are 18 or over and who have attended the Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

During 2022/23, 139 survivors of sexual violence received trauma counselling.

PCC's Victim Services Provider Network

The PCC established provider forum continues to be effective in bringing together not only those victim services which the PCC commissions, but other victim support providers. The network meets on a quarterly basis in order to increase professionals' awareness and understanding of other services within Lincolnshire, support the sharing of best practice and the identification of any gaps in services.



Sexual and Domestic Violence Liaison Officer – University of Lincoln

This role delivers specialist, bespoke support to survivors of sexual violence and/or domestic violence who are students at the University of Lincoln. The role provides an initial emergency response as well as longer term support. Victims and survivors are receiving timely, professional and tailored support and are provided with options regarding the criminal justice system and access to health services.

- Umbrella Counselling
- Lincolnshire Rape Crisis
- NW Counselling Hub
- University of Lincoln for a dedicated Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence Officer.

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Pathway

Lincolnshire CSA Strategy 2022-2025 document and CSA pathway has now been developed and was launched at a multi-agency event in November 2022.

Support for victims of sexual violence

In 2022, the PCC secured £310,000 for additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA), Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and specialist therapeutic support services to victims of sexual violence including dedicated support to men and boys.

In 2022, the PCC provided a multiyear funding commitment until 24/25 to:

“I really don't know how you do your job, you've been absolutely brilliant, I couldn't have carried on without you ”

An ISVA service user

“I really had no idea what to expect from you as an ISVA, but our sessions give me hope for the future, I'm so glad I asked to be referred to the service”

An ISVA service user



Following the submission of an Expression of Interest by Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP) to partner with the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), Lincolnshire was selected as one of three pilot areas to test implementation of a newly developed CSA pathway.

The CSA Pathway is a supportive resource that aims to help multi-agency professionals identify and navigate the actions they can and should take, and the interventions they can provide to effectively identify and respond to a child's safeguarding needs when there are concerns of CSA.

The OPCC is a member of a multi-agency CSA steering group, whose objectives are to:

- Promote effective working relationships between all partners, professional groups and voluntary organisations to safeguard children from sexual abuse
- Work with the Centre of Expertise on CSA to develop and embed the CSA Pathway
- Develop and agree a LSCP CSA Strategy and promote its adoption across the partnership
- Facilitate shared learning and gain a better understanding of the profile of child sexual abuse, how to intervene and address the impact on children and families
- Identify opportunities for further commissioning to combat child sexual abuse.





Effective enforcement, help and assistance when you need it are critical to policing that works. I will hold the Chief Constable to account for the services he provides and ensure he continues to innovate and transform the service and gives the frontline officers the “right tools for the job” to respond to the diverse needs of our communities. I will continue to champion the need for appropriate funding for all Lincolnshire public services but especially for policing to support community safety and effective prevention, tackling and reducing crime across our county. Policing is about so much more than crime and I will continue to work with the force and communities to ensure that the wide range of duties placed upon the police are resourced and delivered.

Transition from G4S

Following the decision by the PCC to bring to an end the G4S contract which delivered 18 core policing services in the county, Lincolnshire Police made the decision that custody services and cleaning services would be provided by private contractors. All other service areas were transferred back to Lincolnshire Police. The complex and challenging transfer commenced in April 2022 and concluded in March 2023. The transition was deemed to have been a significant success under incredible pressure to maintain a high level of service for the public.

Roads Policing Team

The establishment of this new team, tasked with denying criminals the use of our roads and preventing deaths and serious injuries across Lincolnshire, was completed in the summer of 2022. The team is now fully operational



and deploys from two bases, one in Louth and one in Grantham, to ensure the whole county is protected. They have at their disposal both overt and covert vehicles, coupled with the best possible training to ensure they are fully equipped to challenge those using our road network with criminal intent.

Rural Crime Action Team

The team is now fully operational and consists of specially trained officers, complete with the latest equipment and training - including off road vehicles and drones. The team is further enhanced in its crime fighting task with both analytical support and investigators. Covering everything from burglary and theft to wildlife and heritage crimes, the team have already made an impressive impact across the county. Over the summer period alone, the team recovered approximately £500,000 of stolen property whilst making significant arrests of offenders who prey on our rural communities.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams

The PCC provided the funding for 13 extra Community Beat Managers to enhance Lincolnshire Police's new Neighbourhood Policing model. The model ensures every area across the county has its own dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team, which is led by an Inspector and has dedicated Police Sergeants and Constables. These teams are dedicated to tackling local issues that impact our communities the most. In addition, in areas of greatest vulnerability and need, dedicated PCSOs are embedded within those neighbourhood teams. The focus of the units will be on proactive crime prevention, engagement with the local community and targeted deployment using local information and intelligence.

Taser

In April 2021, the Force had 220 taser-trained officers. The PCC agreed funding to provide additional Tasers and training resulting in there being more than 300 officers currently trained in the use of Taser.

Lincolnshire Police Website

The new Force website, built to a common national standard (Single Online Home), became fully integrated last year and now allows the public to report non-urgent crime, traffic collisions, missing persons, make applications under the Freedom of Information Act, request Sarah's Law/Clare's Law data, inform about events and report rural crime, all from their own personal devices and without the need to talk to anyone or wait in a queue.

The PCC continues to monitor the performance of the new public facing functions of the site with the Chief Constable to ensure the service being provided to the public is effective and efficient.

999 calls

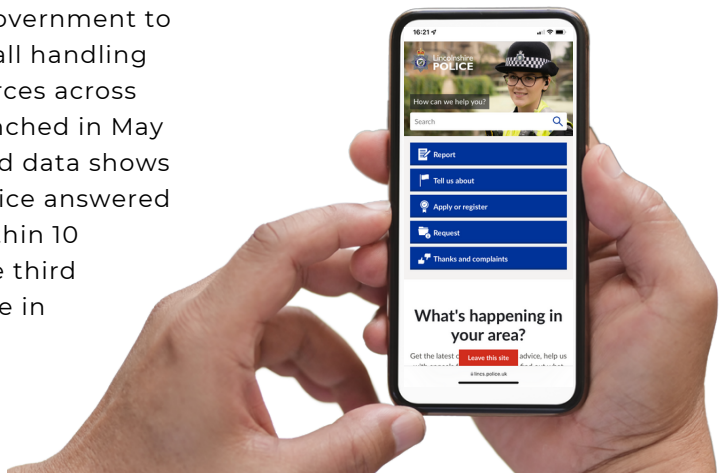
PCCs worked with Government to create a published call handling data record for all forces across the UK. This was launched in May 2022 and the released data shows that Lincolnshire Police answered 88.5% of 999 calls within 10 seconds, which is the third best performing force in the country.

Tackling fraud and scams

The PCC and the Force have committed to extending the Fraud Prevent and Protect Co-ordinator post due to its positive impact on protecting our communities from the ever-growing threat of scams and fraud. The Force has been working with the regional fraud teams and partners to identify upcoming trends, share resources and best practice.

Independent panel to review Lincolnshire Police's approach to violence against women and girls

The PCC created and launched an independent panel to study the actions being taken by the Force and report on its findings. Members of the panel, chaired by Lincolnshire YMCA Chief Executive, were tasked with bringing forward ideas and



recommendations designed to make positive change and improve confidence in policing.

The initial report of the panel will be published towards the end of 2023.

Police officer numbers

An additional 166 extra officers have been added to Lincolnshire Police as a result of the Government drive to recruit 20,000 more cross England and Wales, in addition to those funded through Council Tax. They are already making a significant difference to the capability and resilience of the Force.

Police officer training

The PCC has been consistent in his objection to a mandatory degree-only entry into policing

In late 2022 the Home Secretary met directly with the PCC to confirm her agreement with his stance. She subsequently allowed the current existing non-degree entry process to continue temporarily, with a new improved permanent non-degree route to be developed by the College of Policing at speed.

This decision by the Home Secretary allows Chief Constables to choose which recruitment routes to use, including placing a premium on life experience, not just a formal degree.



Funding

Funding, as always, has provided challenges in Lincolnshire but there are some notable successes and some bright spots on the horizon.

Firstly, the Government's Uplift Programme has continued to play an important part in bolstering the Force's front-line capabilities. The programme allowed for an additional 67 officers to be recruited during the year – bringing the total additional extra officers through Uplift to 166 extra officers. The Chief Constable's budget is now based on a strength of 1,186 officers.

In addition, the PCC and Chief Constable jointly agreed several areas for spending that would deliver against priorities in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, the Chief Constable's strategy and the national policing inspectorate's report, including:

- Increasing the number of Community Beat Managers - further increasing visible policing and protection for our communities.

- Additional cutting-edge crime fighting capability by expanding the Digital Forensics Team and investing in the latest systems to identify criminals.
- Boost the Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit to further protect the most vulnerable children and adults in our community.
- Invest in greater and more effective partnership working in Integrated Offender Management to reduce reoffending and reduce the numbers of victims.

There is also good news on the funding formula – which has hampered our level of Government grant for decades. The Government has now committed to delivering the review needed and the PCC is working with senior policing leaders to develop the basis of a new formula. It is however important to be realistic about this process. If the review recognises Lincolnshire's historic underfunding any changes to funding will be phased over a number of years. That means in the short and medium term Lincolnshire will still face challenges in how to spend the money available.

One of the most significant operational and financial challenges of the year was the transfer of G4S provided services back into the operational command of Lincolnshire Police. While it is envisaged that this will provide considerable opportunity for improving service delivery the programme has cost £2 million. The PCC has, however, been successful in securing Special Grant from the Government to offset a considerable portion of those costs.

In total the budget for the PCC was £151.490 million in the year and of that £135 million was provided to the Chief Constable.

The rest of the fundings allocation included £4.35m reserved for service developments for Lincolnshire Police, £1m for victims' services, £1.87m in pension costs and £4.3m for financing capital projects.



His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) reports

Background

From May 2018, HMICFRS changed the way in which they inspect forces. This has evolved into an intelligence-led continual assessment model, moving away from reliance on a single annual PEEL inspection and allowing for the greater use of the breadth of evidence HMICFRS collect throughout the year.

HMICFRS has now expanded its previous four-tier system of judgments to five tiers to “state more precisely where we consider

improvement is needed and highlight more effectively the best ways of doing things.”

However, these changes mean that it isn't possible to make direct comparisons between the grades awarded in the latest round of PEEL inspections with those from previous years. A reduction in grade, particularly from good to adequate, doesn't necessarily mean that there has been a reduction in performance.



PEEL Report

The latest PEEL report on Lincolnshire Police for the year 2021/22 graded Lincolnshire Police in nine areas:

- Preventing crime – adequate.
- Treatment of the public – adequate
- Protecting vulnerable people – adequate
- Developing a positive workplace – adequate
- Investigating crime – requires improvement
- Recording data about crime - requires improvement
- Responding to the public - requires improvement
- Managing offenders - requires improvement
- Good use of resources - requires improvement

Overall, the inspector concluded: “I acknowledge that the force is on a journey, having recently exited a ten-year contract with a private provider. It is also undertaking significant

programmes of changes across the organisation, which are designed to improve service for the public.

“Historically, Lincolnshire Police has been one of the lowest-funded forces in England and Wales, and this is still the case. The report should be read in this context.”

Inspection of Lincolnshire Police custody facilities

The last inspection of custody facilities was carried out in 2015. In the latest report inspectors found that, of the 43 recommendations made in 2015. In the latest report inspectors found that, of the 43 recommendations made in 2015, 32 have fully or partially been achieved.

Inspectors made two further recommendations for improvements in managing detainee risks and oversight of use of force in custody.

Serious and Organised Crime

As part of the PEEL 2021/22 inspections, HMICFRS inspected how well police forces tackle Serious and Organised Crime (SOC). This was a new approach to inspecting this aspect of policing for 2022, HMICFRS inspected ten regions, as well as the nine regional organised crime units (ROCU) throughout England and Wales, and 43 police forces. This included Lincs police and our regional ROCU. Their aim, to establish how well forces and ROCUs work together to tackle SOC.

Lincolnshire Police achieved an individual grading of Requires Improvement for SOC with four 'areas for improvement' identified. They were:

- The force needs to increase its resource and capability to effectively analyse the threat from serious and organised crime (SOC)
- The force should update the serious and organised crime (SOC) local profile to help it, and its partners, to better understand the SOC threat and the approach needed
- The force should ensure that the lead responsible officer (LRO) role is delegated to a wider group of officers with the time and expertise to do it effectively
- The force should improve how it records serious and organised crime (SOC) threats and disruptions on the national database

The regional EMSOU received an "Inadequate" grading.

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) sets out those threats which, in the Home Secretary's view, are the biggest threat to public safety and must be given due regard by PCCs when issuing or varying Police and Crime Plans. It supports PCCs as well as Chief Constables to plan, prepare and respond to these threats by clearly linking the local response to the national, highlighting the capabilities and partnerships that policing needs to ensure it can fulfil its national responsibilities.

A revised version of the SPR was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR sets out seven identified national threats. These are:

- Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)
- Terrorism
- Cyber
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Public Disorder
- Civil Emergencies
- Violence Against Women and Girls (added in 2023)

Given this annual report is for the year April 2022 to March 2023, it will not respond in detail to the revised SPR due to the timing of its publication. However the PCC has given due regard to the six threat areas identified in the previous SPR of 2015 in the Police and Crime Plan and in the role of holding the Chief Constable to account. VAWG, while not previously contained in the SPR, nonetheless is a key and pressing issue which is already covered by several projects and successes contained in this report. It will be also prioritised in future annual reports.

Key crime and force performance statistics 2021

The increases in recorded crime, compared to pre-covid and the last 12 months, are steadily reducing. In 2022 total crime across Lincolnshire increased by 7% to 58,904 – less pronounced than last year's 12.5%.

Lincolnshire is following the national trend of returning to pre-covid levels of offences, but we are tracking slightly above the national average in many offence categories.

The number of burglaries to 3,376 (a rise of 7%). Burglaries of residential properties were up to 2,309 (a rise of 10%) but commercial premises burglaries increased by less than 1% to 1,067.

Theft cases (excluding vehicles) overall were up by 19.75%, with a total number of 11,260 - with nearly half all cases of theft (5,355) recorded as shoplifting. Thefts from person grew to 170 (up 14%). Bike thefts reached 890 – a 3% increase.

Thefts of vehicles rose by 9% to 859 and thefts from vehicles rose by 17% to 1,386.

Arson and criminal damage fell slightly during the year (down 0.03%) to 6,462 and public order offences rose slightly to 5,084 (up 1.4%).

While homicides were down to 6 (a 50% decrease) Violence with injury increased by 10% to 6,968 and violence without injury still makes up the majority of violence cases - at 9,110 (up 4%).

Significant work is being undertaken in different areas of violence where there is the highest threat, such as Domestic Abuse - which accounts for a third of violence offences - Night-Time Economy and Knife Crime.

Sexual offences rose overall by 3.5% to 2,521- but rape dropped by 0.8% to 925. Stalking and harassment cases totalled 7,676 – an increase of just over 1%.

Robbery increased by 12% to 388. Drug offences increased by 5% to 1,462 of which drug possession made up two thirds of offences at 1,048.

Mental health related incidents continued to cause issues for policing with 8,737 cases recorded during the year – an 31% increase on last year and an 89% increase on pre-Covid levels.

We currently have a team of 12 mental health practitioners going through vetting/training who will work within the control room offering guidance and support to officers.

We are also finalising two rapid response vehicles which will work seven days a week to deploy to scenes as required. It is recognised that our partner agencies are also facing significant challenges with demand and capacity and we continue to work with them to find the best solutions.

A number of strategic risks have been escalated to the County Health & Wellbeing Board, to ensure the critical infrastructure for mental health crisis in Lincolnshire is fit for purpose.

Missing person cases also continue to take up considerable resources for the force – with 2,680 cases in 2022 (up 2%). The number of missing children increased by 96 to 1,438.

The proportion of offences which result in a positive outcome has improved significantly on last year (up 13%). Out of court disposals were up 60% on last year.

During the year the force received 130,055 999 calls – a 10% increase in last year. Of those calls 89% were dealt with within 10 seconds (decrease of just 1%) and only 0.79% if calls were abandoned.

The increase in 999 and 101 demand affected call handling performance, with a slight decrease in the percentage of calls answered within 3 minutes (0.1% down) and a slight increase in the number abandoned, which at 21% is 7% increase on last year.

In order to help balance the demand between 999 and 101 calls it has been recognised that the FCR needed more call-taking staff. The establishment of call-takers in April 2022 was 58. Since then, with investment from the PCC, the force has embarked on a recruitment program aimed at increasing to 90 call-takers by the end of 2023. The number has already increased to 70 and there is another intake of 14 in March 2023.

The Force Urban Response time target for urgent calls is under 15 minutes and over the last 12 months 60% of urgent incidents have been attended within this time.

The Force Rural Response time target is under 20 minutes and in

the last 12 months 66% of urgent incidents have been attended within this time.

User satisfaction across the year increased by 1% with 71% now satisfied overall with 56% satisfied with how well they were kept informed.





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