

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Annual Report

2012 - 2013

Contents

1. Police and Crime Commissioner Foreword	1
2. My Police and Crime Plan Priorities	2
<i>Reducing Crime</i>	2
<i>Rural Crime</i>	3
<i>Volunteering</i>	3
<i>Independent Custody Visiting Scheme</i>	4
<i>A Fair Deal for the People of Lincolnshire</i>	5
<i>Funding</i>	5
<i>Openness and Transparency</i>	7
<i>Value for Money</i>	7
<i>Police and Services that are There When You Need Them</i>	7
3. A Direct Link with the Public	8
4. Strategic Partnership with G4S	8
5. Working in Partnership	8
<i>East Midlands Collaboration</i>	9

Contents

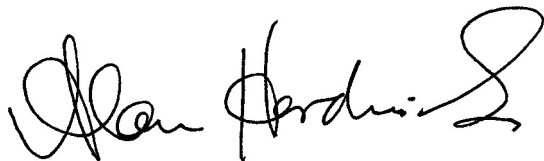
6. What Next – Looking Ahead	9
<i>Community Safety Funding</i>	9
<i>Tackling Street Drinking</i>	10
<i>Victims' Services</i>	10
<i>Greater Public Scrutiny of Policing</i>	10
7. Governance and Accountability	10
8. Financial Performance	11

1. Police and Crime Commissioner Foreword

The last year has been one of significant change for the police service and criminal justice sector, both nationally and for Lincolnshire.

1 April 2012 saw the former Lincolnshire Police Authority embarking on a major partnership with the private sector to deliver policing services in Lincolnshire and the November elections introduced, for the first time, direct electoral accountability in police governance. Government has also continued its programme of austerity, placing ever greater pressures on budgets whilst at the same time continuing the reform agenda, not just in police governance, but officer terms and conditions, services for victims, probation and the courts.

Amid all of this change, our day to day expectations of services from our Police Force and criminal justice agencies have not changed. We all want our communities to be safe, feel that we are getting value for money from our taxes and have access to the services we want, when we want them. I know this because what has changed in the last year, perhaps more than anything else, is that you can and do tell me. Not only do you tell me but what you say directly impacts on what I do on your behalf. In the next few pages I have reviewed the achievements of the last year, both those of the former police authority and since I took office. I also take a look forward as there remains much for us all to do, but in reviewing the last year I have been heartened to see that the journey has already started.



Alan Hardwick

Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire



2. My Police and Crime Plan Priorities

Reducing Crime

Last summer saw an unprecedented demand placed upon the police services of England and Wales with the fantastic programme of events the nation enjoyed such as the Olympics and the Jubilee celebrations. During this period and throughout the last year, Lincolnshire Police played its part in these national events whilst maintaining the delivery of its day to day policing operations here in the County. I am pleased to report that crime has continued to reduce in what remains one of the safest places to live in the country.

All recorded crime is down 14.2% with 6,250 fewer crimes

in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year. In March 2013, Lincolnshire was nationally ranked 12th out of 43 forces. This is an improvement from 17th position in March 2012.

Criminal damage crimes are down 25.1% (2,043 fewer crimes)

in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Incidents that cause fear and concern are down 16.5% (1,606 fewer incidents)

in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Other Anti-Social Behaviour incidents are down 15.9% (3,478 fewer incidents)

in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

The Force has implemented a number of new practices with regards to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and recording and identification of hate crime. This has included additional questions for call handlers to allow early identification of repeat and vulnerable callers, and the implementation of a Community First Volunteer Scheme to support and advise the most vulnerable victims of ASB. These new procedures and policies have assisted in the reduction of incidents across the county.

A new dedicated team has been created to focus on those areas that I and Chief Officers believe need to be prioritised. This team operates on a county wide basis and will focus on burglaries and serious violent crimes.

Violence against the person¹ crimes are down 7.5% with 567 fewer crimes

in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year.

Burglary dwelling offences are down 4.3% with 94 fewer crimes

in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year. The Force has continued to make significant reductions in burglary dwelling crimes over the last few years; reporting a 10.3% reduction (250 fewer crimes) in 2012/2013 compared to 2005/2006.

Rural Crime

In our rural county I have been keen to ensure that Lincolnshire Police are taking action to tackle the issues that are of concern to those of you who live away from our larger centres of population. Since September 2012 the Operation Galileo team has been responsible for 186 prosecutions under the Gaming or Hunting Acts. Another 90 persons have been stopped or checked and warned prior to commencing any coursing. Many of those prosecutions are still going through the Courts, but already there

have been fines and banning orders; vehicles and dogs have also been recovered. This focussed action has resulted in a significant decrease in the total number of such incidents reported to Lincolnshire Police compared to recent years and I am committed to us building on this success in the future.

Metal thefts have also been a recent priority issue for investigation. As a result of the good work carried out by Lincolnshire Police, neighbouring forces and partner agencies, 6 people have been sentenced for a total of 20 years related to £1 million of metal thefts and damage across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Metal thefts have reduced over the last 12 months from 13,998 to 11,685 - a reduction of 16.5%. Later this year I will be holding a public event, specifically focussed on rural crime issues in order to help us build on our successes of the last year.

Volunteering

As part of my ambition to have 1,000 Lincolnshire volunteers working alongside our employed officers and staff, we are working in partnership with the Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service. Over the last 12 months, Lincolnshire Police has aligned its special constable structure with that for the regular officers, allowing opportunities for increased training and progression. There are now 233 special constables working for the Force. Over the next few years I hope to see this increase significantly alongside the many other volunteer opportunities in and out of uniform.

¹ This crime category includes common assault, assault with injury, harassment, wounding, death by driving, manslaughter and murder.

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

I have a statutory duty to put in place an effective Independent Custody Visitors' Scheme for the county. Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are volunteers drawn from the local community who make unannounced visits in pairs to places of detention to check on the welfare of detainees and the conditions under which they are detained. The purpose of their role is to act as an independent monitor of police custody areas and to comment on whether PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) guidelines are being met.

Scrutiny and challenge takes place at a number of levels:

- with Custody Sergeants at the time custody visits are undertaken so that any immediate issues can be addressed
- at meetings of four local ICV Panels – based in the West, East, South East and South West of the county – with Custody Inspectors and Senior Detention Officers
- at meetings with senior officers of the Force and during quarterly briefings with the Scheme Manager so that I can consider any strategic issues and recurring themes emerging from custody visits and ensure that the voice of ICVs is being heard.

A Fair Deal for the People of Lincolnshire

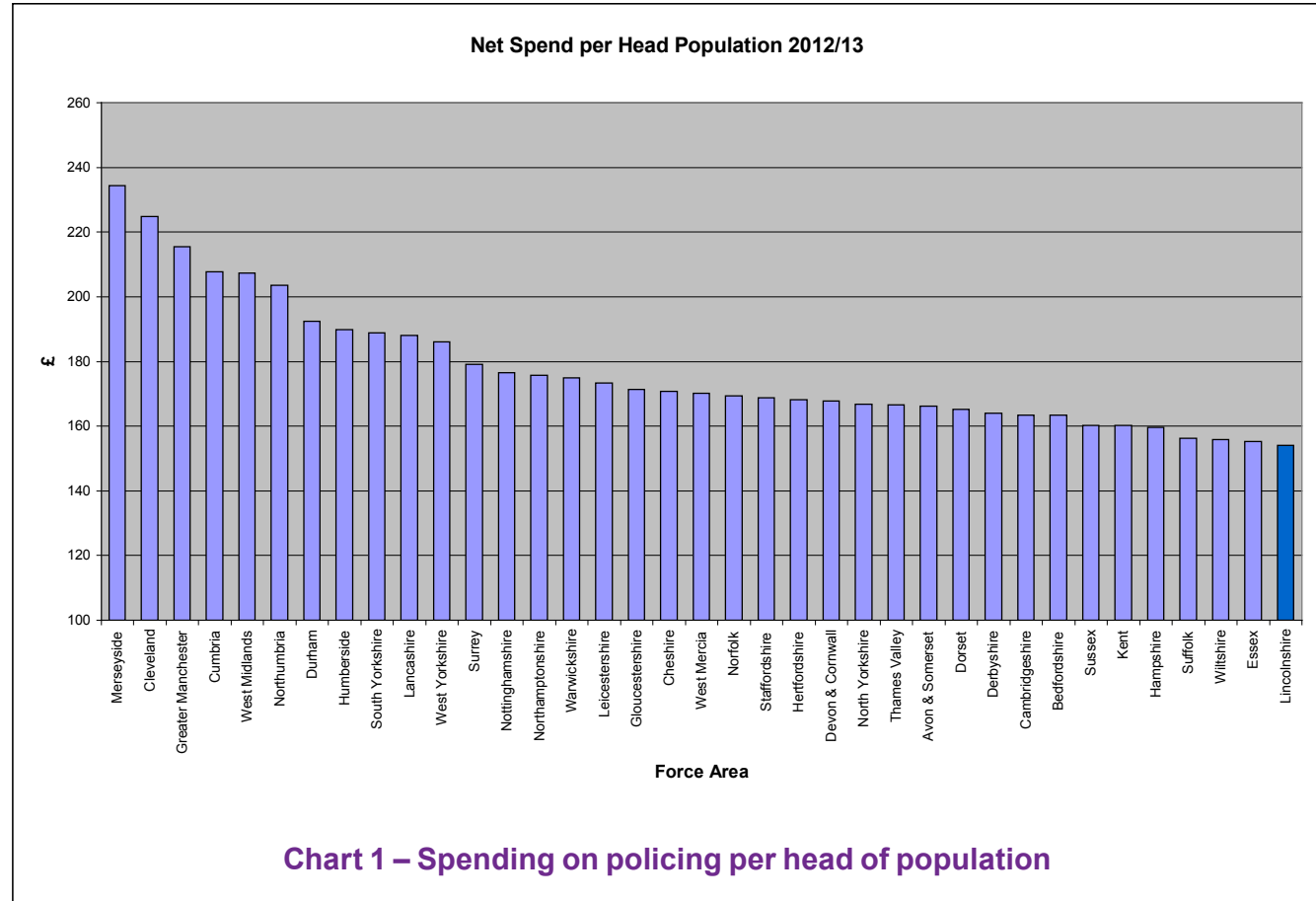
Funding

It is a key commitment of my Police and Crime Plan that I will work with Government to make the case for Lincolnshire getting a better share of the funding we receive directly from the Home Office. The figures are stark.

Spending on policing per head of population in Lincolnshire is the lowest in England at £154 per head of population. See Chart 1.

This is in spite of local people through the Council Tax making an above average contribution to the cost of policing (41% versus the average of 31%).

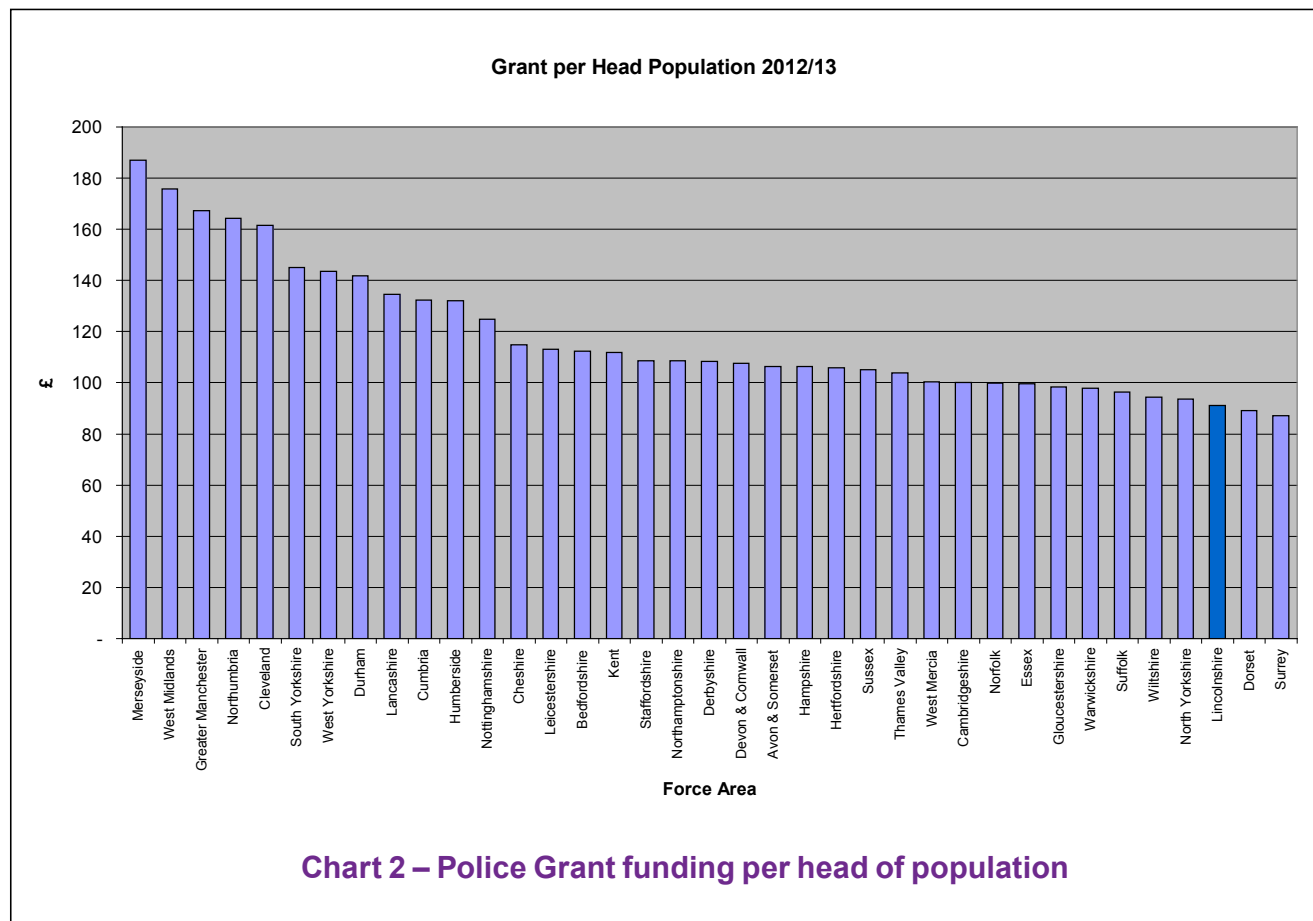
Essex spends the 2nd lowest per head of population at £155 per person, but the people of Essex only contribute 34% of the total cost of policing. If Lincolnshire was funded at the same level as Essex per head of population, more than £825,000 additional funding would be available – enough for 20 additional police officers.



Lincolnshire's police grant funding per head of population is 35th in the English league table of 37 police force areas (excluding London) and there are 8 police force areas where grant per head is at least 50% more than Lincolnshire's grant per head. See Chart 2 below.

To highlight the extent of the funding differential, if Lincolnshire's funding per head of population was commensurate with the contribution made by local people, i.e. top quartile, a further £27m would be available for policing in Lincolnshire. If Lincolnshire's spend per head of population were only at the average for English forces this would imply an additional £17.5m.

Put another way, if all English forces (excluding London) spent at the same level per head of population as Lincolnshire this would produce a saving of in excess of £1bn set against the £5.5bn government grant provided to English forces (excluding London) through central government formula grant.



Openness and Transparency

One of the changes brought about by the reform of police governance is the increased emphasis on openness and transparency. This is something I wholly support. On my website, I publish my own expenses, the salaries of senior staff in my own office and Lincolnshire police, expenditure over £500 and list assets we hold. A fair deal isn't just about what you pay for a service; it needs to be a good service and so I also publish on my website quarterly updates of Force performance together with all my significant decisions.

Value for Money

My partnership with G4S and partnership working with other agencies are key contributors to giving you a fair deal and I say a little more about these arrangements later in this report. But I have also looked at my own budgets. A line by line review of the Force operating budget enabled me to set a budget for 2012/13 that will see 1100 police officers maintained. Unlike many other Commissioners I have not appointed a deputy or assistant commissioners. The staffing levels of my own office have remained at the level I inherited from the former Lincolnshire Police Authority (LPA), indeed I am saving £750,000 over three years compared to LPA's spend.

Police and Services that are There When You Need Them

As set out in my Police and Crime Plan, both I and the Force are committed to ensuring that the police are visible and active in the community. I have halted the reduction in police officers in

Lincolnshire planned by the former police authority, maintaining numbers at 1100 and my plans to increase our numbers of volunteers are underway as is ensuring that all Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) cars carry police livery.

- There were 80,896 emergency (999) calls received in 2012/13. 93% were answered within 10 seconds, which means that the Force successfully achieved the target of 90% for the year.
- 93.7% of all non emergency calls were answered within 30 seconds in 2012/13 – achieving the target of 90%.
- Levels of Victim Satisfaction² showed an increase from 82.8% in 2011/12 to 83.4% in 2012/13. The Force achieved the target to improve on last year's rate.
- Victim satisfaction in key categories of 'time to arrive' and 'kept informed' also showed an improvement in the period April 2012 to March 2013 compared to same period last year, again meeting the target set.
- Response times – the 2012/13 yearly trend for the percentage of urgent urban calls responded in less than 15 minutes shows positive improvement. The end of year rate was 82.2%. The response rates for urgent rural (calls responded to within 20 minutes) has shown ongoing improvements since November 2012. The end of year rate was 79.5%.

Government has continued to consult on its reforms to rehabilitation and the commissioning of victims' services. At the time of writing Government's plans in these areas are still developing, but I have continued to make my views known to Government and speak with local representatives in these sectors such as Victim Support and the Probation service.

² This figure indicates the proportion of surveyed victims of burglary, vehicle crime and violent crime who answered that they were fairly, very or completely satisfied with their experience of the police

3. A Direct Link with the Public

Since taking up office I have received over 1,000 individual items of correspondence. In many ways this is heartening because it shows the value of the reform that created Police and Crime Commissioners - a direct and accountable link with the electorate. The issues raised are varied and numerous but I am pleased to note that the most common topics resonate with those areas I identified for action within my Police and Crime Plan. I am

accessible in person, by phone, email or via my website as much as possible and regularly attend parish meetings across the county. As I mentioned earlier I publish all of my significant decisions and performance data. However during the coming year I will announce plans for how I intend to involve you more in one of my fundamental duties – holding the chief constable to account.

4. Strategic Partnership with G4S

1 April 2013 was the first anniversary of the start of our innovative strategic partnership with G4S. When the Police Authority entered into the contract, G4S committed to saving us £28m over ten years. In the first year we have already exceeded the savings target, achieving a saving in excess of £5m (18%) per year. The contract is clearly working well and aside from the financial benefits, we are seeing significant improvements in service provision in areas such

as the processing of firearms licenses and the time our control room takes to answer calls from the public. Our partnership has also enabled the refurbishment of custody provision in Boston, replacing outdated facilities and increasing capacity. The introduction of the Street to Suite initiative has also freed up officer time from the process of transporting detainees.

5. Working in Partnership

In Partnership With Lincolnshire County Council – Working Together For A Safer Lincolnshire

In February, I signed an agreement with Martin Hill, Leader of Lincolnshire County Council. We already worked closely on Community Safety, with the County Council making a contribution to

the funding of the county's PCSOs, but we felt more could be done. Over the next couple of years, we'll be funding a number of projects that will have a direct impact on the priority areas in my Police and

Crime Plan including anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and re-offending. We are also working together to provide better support to the victims of crime and play a greater role in community safety. Working in partnership in this way means I and the County Council can both make the best use of the resources available, giving local taxpayers even better value for money. Examples of areas where we are jointly funding work include: Integrated Offender Management, Sexual Violence Advisors and Youth Offending.

6. What Next – Looking Ahead

In addition to those on-going initiatives I have already mentioned, I will be focussing on the following topics in the coming months.

Community Safety Funding

In early 2013/14, I was pleased to announce the launch of my Community and Volunteer Fund. This has been specifically set-up to assist small local, community based groups in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and supporting the victims of crime. In particular, I want this Fund to support as many smaller projects as possible, projects that are aimed at younger and older members of the Community and which are supporting victims, witnesses and vulnerable people. In 2013-14 I have set aside £30,000 for this fund and organisations will be able to apply for grants for a minimum of £250 up to a maximum of £1000.

East Midlands Collaboration

In the last year Lincolnshire has continued to see the benefits of the now well established collaboration activity between us and the other police forces and Commissioners across the East Midlands. Through working together we are able to ensure greater resilience at times when demand for specialist policing services is high.

In addition to these smaller grants I will be providing grants to Crimestoppers and Street Pastors in order that the valuable work they do in the county can continue. In partnership with Victim Support I am also continuing funding for victim contact officers for the victims of domestic abuse. My 2013-14 budget also makes provision for funding to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards, Neighbourhood Watch, the Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel, and the property running costs for Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. I will be making further announcements later in the year regarding contributions I will make to drug intervention activity. All of this work ably demonstrates the contribution partnership working is already making in achieving my Police and Crime Plan and the real difference it brings to our communities.

Tackling Street Drinking

In addition to supporting the work of street pastors and the enforcement work of Lincolnshire Police, I will be working with partners to continue to tackle street drinking and the associated anti-social behaviour.

Victims' Services

Government has yet to fully develop its plans around the arrangements for some victims' services to be carried out by Commissioners from 2014. The start date for the change has already been delayed; however I will continue to actively engage with the Ministry of Justice and colleagues within the county to

7. Governance and Accountability

On being elected in November 2012, I adopted a robust governance framework to ensure that systems, processes and controls are in place and are working properly to hold the Chief Constable to account for the efficient and effective delivery of policing in Lincolnshire.

I have a Governance Framework that is structured around three main functions of the force, namely: performance (levels of crime, anti social behaviour incidents, solving crimes, confidence in police), Resources (how money is spent and finances, workforce and human resources, ICT, learning and development, procurement and managing assets) and Professional Standards (complaints and conduct issues).

inform a framework that provides the people of Lincolnshire with the right arrangements.

Greater Public Scrutiny of Policing

I know both I and the Chief Constable can always do more to ensure that you feel we are easily contactable and available to answer your questions. One of my statutory duties is to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan. In the coming months I want to develop ways of making this on-going process more open and accessible by hosting public meetings in various parts of the county which can be streamed via the Internet.

This is supplemented by specific written and oral briefings in other areas of force business.

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) records the stewardship of the organisation to supplement the accounts. It gives a sense of how successfully we have coped with the challenges we have faced and how vulnerable performance is or might be. This statement draws together position statements and evidence on governance, risk management and control, to provide a more coherent and consistent reporting mechanism. You can find the AGS within the Financial Statements document.

An Interim Independent Audit Committee was formed in February 2013; its role is to:

- provide independent assurance to me and the Chief Constable regarding the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment

- provide independent scrutiny of the Force's and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's financial performance
- oversee financial reporting processes

You can find out more about the Audit Committee via my website at www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk and click on 'Transparency'.

8. *Financial Performance*

The budget for policing services in 2012/13 amounted to just over £113 million. I am pleased to be able to set out information that shows how resources were used in relation to my police and crime priorities and how value for money was secured in a document that is produced annually, known as the Financial Statements.

The Financial Statements show the financial affairs during 2012/13 and the financial position as at 31 March 2013; they also include information about governance. The Accounts are issued in draft form in June each year, and only finalised once they have been audited and approved. This happens in September.

I also publish a summary of the accounts which is a shorter, 'easy read' version of the full financial statements that gives the highlight financial messages, an overview of where the money comes from, where it is spent, what we did with the money and what we are worth.

It goes without saying that I am committed to the delivery of good financial management – this is essential to ensure that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.