

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Date: 29th July 2014
Our Reference: AH/kc/2014-0648

Mr Norman Norris
Chairman
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel
East Lindsey District Council
Tedder Hall
Manby Park
LOUTH
Lincolnshire LN11 8UP

By email: John.Medler@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Dear Mr Norris

Report and Recommendations from the Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel on the Annual Report 2013-14

It was a pleasure to present my Annual Report to the Panel and I am grateful for your many complimentary comments about the successes of the last year. You also asked for additional information on a number of issues and made some recommendations, and I am pleased to respond.

Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

You asked about national rankings with regard to crime figures and specifically why they had not been included in the Report.

Firstly, at the start of 2014, the Home Office indicated that they did not encourage the ranking of forces. Secondly, they stated that comparative Force performance data should not be released until the Office of the National Statistics (ONS) published official data. There is also a time lag of 3–4 months associated with the release of this data (e.g. performance data to the end of March is not published until July). Finally, in April 2014, the way that the Home Office records crime 'outcomes' changed. Crime outcomes are now monitored as to whether they are 'resolved', 'un-finalised' (active investigation) or 'no crime'. There are 20 categories in which crime outcomes can be recorded. This does not lend itself to ranking.

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You will also know that in April 2014, the UK Statistics Authority announced that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) crime statistics (based on police recorded crime data) have been found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The issues related to reliability, quality and compliance with standards. The UK Statistics Authority set out 16 requirements to be addressed in order for the statistics to meet national standards. The ONS is working with the Home Office and HMIC to address these requirements.

Rankings are therefore not available but I and the Chief Constable remain committed to our approach of publishing timely quarterly performance updates in a format that is meaningful to our communities.

I note your request for an update on the important work now facing Commissioners in terms of Victims Services. I will provide this at the November meeting. In the meantime, further information is available on my website at: <http://www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/Policy/Victim-Services-Commissioning/Victims-Services-Commissioning.aspx>

You rightly note the arrival of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Management Board of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is leading a significant piece of work in this area; not least the development of arrangements for the Community Trigger. I am sure the CSP will cover this in its next update to you. For my part, I have recently commenced a consultation on the Community Remedy. In terms of reducing alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime, the Chief Constable and I will provide an update for the September meeting as requested.

Volunteering Initiative

I am always happy to provide an update on our successful volunteering project. You have asked for further details of the VIVA audit. This will be provided under separate cover.

A Fair Deal for the People of Lincolnshire and HMIC Reports

You will, I am sure, have seen Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)'s recent report "Policing in Austerity: meeting the challenge". Lincolnshire Police has been graded as 'outstanding' in terms of the extent to which we have an affordable way of delivering policing. I commend both the national report and the Lincolnshire report to you. These are available on HMIC's website. The Chief Constable and I have written to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary Tom Winsor and to the Home Secretary regarding HMIC's findings, both in the context of our success to date and future funding challenges. These letters will be published on my website and I also attach copies with this correspondence.

You raise a couple of points regarding the recent HMIC report "Lincolnshire Police's approach to tackling domestic abuse." The inspection report, available on HMIC's website, includes data on outcomes including the use of out of court disposals in domestic violence cases. Lincolnshire Police's action plan, developed in response to recommendations made by HMIC, is attached to this letter.

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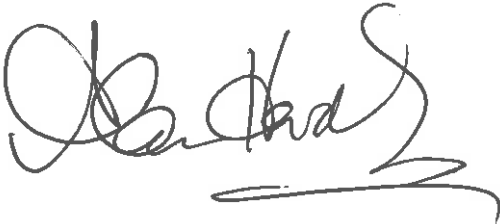
Police and Services that are there when you need them

We have this week received confirmation that the East Midlands application to the Home Office Innovation Fund for funding in relation to proof of concept work for live links and virtual courts was successful. As you know, the Chief Constable is the national policing lead for courts within the ACPO Criminal Justice business area. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of this work over the course of the project.

You reference the important issue of children and adult safeguarding. I would be interested to speak with the Chairs of the Safeguarding Boards to discuss how we properly reflect in future annual reports the work that is carried out in this area.

Thank you again for the diligence with which you have reviewed my Annual Report. I and the Chief Constable remain grateful for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Hardwick', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Attchs: Letter to HMCIC
Letter to Home Secretary
Action Plan for Domestic Abuse Inspection Recommendations

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Lincolnshire Police
Telephone: 01522 558007
Force Website: www.lincs.police.uk

Our Ref: AH/NR/kc/HMIC-2014-014

24th July 2014

HMCIC Mr Thomas Winsor
HMIC
6th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
LONDON
SW1V 1PN

Dear Tom

Following the publication of the *Policing in austerity; meeting the challenge* report and the accompanying Lincolnshire findings, we wanted to take the opportunity to respond and set out our shared views.

Firstly, please express our thanks to HMI Zoe Billingham and her team for what we feel is a balanced report that highlights our many achievements, not least your grading of "Outstanding" in terms of the extent to which we have an affordable way of delivering policing. We were pleased that you have recognised not only the plans we have in place to meet our savings requirements, but also the contribution made to these by collaboration and strategic partnership. Most importantly for us and our communities you also commend us on how successful we have been in increasing the proportion of police officers in frontline roles, despite extremely difficult circumstances.

It is helpful also that you express concerns around our ability to maintain current levels of service beyond 2016. You know these are concerns that we both share.

We have written today to the Home Secretary to invite her to visit us to learn first-hand about the Lincolnshire way of working as well as to discuss our future challenges. This letter, which we have attached, also forms the formal response required of Commissioners within the meaning of Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996. It will be published on the PCC website at <http://www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/Policy/Performance.aspx>

With regard to the future, we were also pleased to see your proposals around convening a debate to consider a national blueprint for policing. This is something we feel we can both add to and would very much like to be involved. Perhaps we could arrange a meeting with you to help further inform how this work might best be achieved?

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Many thanks again for what we both agree was an insightful report for the service as a whole.

Yours sincerely



Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire



Neil Rhodes
Chief Constable

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Lincolnshire Police
Telephone: 01522 558007
Force Website: www.lincs.police.uk

Our Ref: AH/NR/kc/HO-2014-010

24th July 2014

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary

We know that you are very familiar with the modernising and transformational approach we take to policing in Lincolnshire, most notably our landmark five force collaboration in the East Midlands and our strategic partnership with the private sector. In the last couple of weeks the Prime Minister has also thanked us publicly for our hard work in achieving reductions in crime in the face of budget reductions. And only this week, HMIC graded Lincolnshire Police as "outstanding" in delivering affordable policing.

HMIC has commended us for increasing the proportion of police officers in frontline, crime-fighting roles and as a result Lincolnshire remains one of the safest places to live. We have done this whilst achieving substantial savings and remaining the lowest spending Force in the country. Indeed, if all police forces spent at the same level per head of population, around £1bn could be taken out of the national policing bill. We therefore believe there is much that the police service can learn from our affordable model.

Despite all of this, we are very cognisant of the concerns expressed by HMIC that current projections indicate it will become increasingly difficult for us to maintain existing levels of service beyond 2016. We are pleased to see Mr Winsor's proposals around convening a debate to consider a future national blueprint for policing. This is something we will play an active role in. However, for the communities of Lincolnshire the risk of reducing levels of service, and ultimately significantly fewer police officers, needs to be mitigated urgently. When this risk is put in the context of a funding model that places a much greater burden on local taxpayers than other police areas it is unsurprising that Lincolnshire residents feel more than a little unfairly treated.

We have had helpful dialogue over many months with your Ministers and Officials and we now feel the time is right to invite you to Lincolnshire personally and show you first-hand how we currently make things work in the County. With an equitable approach to funding, we believe we have a sustainable, modern and transformational model that could continue in Lincolnshire and be replicated across the Country.

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If your officials would like to contact Karen Collins, PA to the Police and Crime Commissioner, (karen.collins@lincs.pnn.police.uk , Tel: 01522 947192) we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient time and ensure you are able to get the best from a visit to our County.

Yours sincerely



Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire



Neil Rhodes
Chief Constable

cc: HMCIC Mr Tom Winsor
Mr Nick Boles MP
Rt Hon John Hayes MP
Sir Edward Leigh MP
Mr Karl McCartney JP MP
Mr Stephen Phillips QC MP
Mr Mark Simmonds MP
Sir Peter Tapsell MP

DOMESTIC ABUSE ACTION PLAN FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FORCE INSPECTION REPORT MARCH 2014

No /Ref	RECOMMENDATION	FORCE RESPONSE
F 1.	The force should better identify repeat victims of domestic abuse, and develop and implement a question set in the control room, which includes asking the caller about their domestic abuse history and previous contact with the police.	Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation and plan to address this through a number of routes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving identification of repeat victims 2. Improve systems and the use of NICHE for all DA 3. Review of call handler training in conjunction with G4S 4. Researching DA tools for call handlers across forces (best practice model)
F 2.	The force should review the deployment time from call received in the control room to the deployment of an officer.	Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation. A current FCR Demand Management Project is underway by the Chief Inspector FCR. There will be a review of current FCR policies to ensure a change is considered to deliver a threat, risk and harm based approach for call takers – asking the right questions is paramount.
F 3.	The force should implement a system where response supervisors are informed by radio of all domestic abuse incidents as soon as possible, and this action is then recorded on the incident log.	Lincolnshire Police will consider this recommendation and the practicalities of its application. An adequate level of supervision is a priority across the force. As per F2 re Demand Management Project.
F 4.	The force should review the intelligence on domestic abuse held on different IT systems, and implement appropriate interventions in order to better share this intelligence, especially with frontline officers.	As per F1.
F 5.	The force should review the allocation of investigations in order that the most experienced and best equipped investigators are assigned the investigations with the highest risk of harm, rather than just the most serious crimes.	Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation. An outline model has been discussed at Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and a full business case is now being progressed, considering how the force responds to domestic abuse.
F 6.	The force should improve supervision and the reviewing of risk for those who are assessed as being at standard or	Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation.

No /Ref	RECOMMENDATION	FORCE RESPONSE
	medium risk, so that it is clear who is responsible for keeping these victims safe.	Linked to F2. There will be a review of current policies to ensure a change is considered to deliver a threat, risk and harm based approach for call takers – asking the right questions is paramount.
F 7.	The force should review the contact officers and staff have with victims, throughout their involvement with the police, to give one single point of contact who is able to update them and not duplicate contact.	A Detective Sergeant Domestic Abuse within the Public Protection Unit has been appointed providing increased supervision to the specialist Domestic Abuse Officers. Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation. Linked to F5 business case model.
F 8.	The force should review the means by which victims are updated if a perpetrator is released from custody, and ensure that risk assessments are reviewed at this stage.	This recommendation is also captured within the current ongoing work around the Victim's Code across the force.
F 9.	The force should improve intelligence sharing for frontline officers on high, medium and standard risk domestic abuse victims and offenders in their area. They should consider implementing a similar system to, or further develop the force SENTINEL system for anti-social behaviour	Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation. Custody processes are to be reviewed as part of wider force work around perpetrators. Engagement with Custody Management (Criminal Justice) to ensure that all areas are well briefed and processes are fit for purpose. Lincolnshire Police accepts this recommendation. The project to see all DA on NICHE (one system) will improve availability of information across the force. Sentinel is not a solution to DA. NICHE is already being developed to go live June 2014. A force DA problem profile for 2013/14 is being produced for May 2014, and the force is doing this in conjunction with a partnership analyst based in Safer Communities at the County Council to consider the data across the county and agencies.