

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019



Marc Jones
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER
LINCOLNSHIRE – SAFER TOGETHER



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INTRODUCTION



It has been an exciting, fulfilling and at times challenging year for me as Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner.

Whilst long term appropriate and sustainable funding for Lincolnshire Police remains a key focus for me I have this year been successful in providing the Chief Constable with more resources than ever before.

I have refused to allow financial constraints to define the service we deliver to our residents. I have driven an agenda with the Chief to create a force which is amongst the best equipped, most effective and most efficient in the UK.

I am proud of what has been achieved to date in continuing that development and there is much more to come with long

term vision and investment. One huge leap forward in serving our communities will be the delivery of the most advanced command and control system anywhere in the country. This will enable officers to be deployed quicker and be better prepared than ever before.

I am determined in ensuring that officers are freed up from the frustrations of poor IT and the need to spend prolonged periods in buildings rather than in our communities. The roll-out of mobile finger-printing and handheld computers has enhanced the equipment already introduced since I took office in 2016. This has saved thousands of hours of officer time, improving the protection of our residents.

The introduction of new automatic number plate recognition hardware, expansion of the drone unit and additional specialist dogs (trained to find drugs, money, firearms and digital equipment) have all played a part in strengthening the ability of apprehending criminals and successfully putting them behind bars.

As a result of the additional funds provided by local taxpayers, the Chief and I were able to set some further spending priorities and be clear about where that money would be spent. Commitments were made to maximise the front line and invest in vital areas such as replacing pursuit vehicles for roads/firearms units, who face some of the most challenging incidents on a daily basis. The ability to carry the heavy loads required and still out perform those intent on harming our communities is vital to keeping the officers and residents safe.

Finally, I will be unveiling the new tri-service station on South Park in Lincoln later this year. This will be one of the most modern emergency service centres in the country and will unite police with fire and ambulance services for the first time. This will improve interoperability whilst saving hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in running costs, putting even more towards front line services.

Whilst these developments are a success in terms of tackling crime, there will always be some victims and survivors of crime and abuse. As PCC, I am responsible for commissioning local support services for victims of crime. I have made it a priority to provide the best services as possible to support people in coping with, and recovering from, the emotional and/or physical consequences of crime.

During the last 12 months my office has made considerable progress in reviewing and improving the victims' service provided.

I have established the county's first forum to bring together, not only those victim services which we commission, but other victim support providers, to share best practice and identify gaps in services. I have established a model which allows my office to drive forward standards, and ensure victims and survivors are provided with seamless and integrated services.

As a result of the outstanding work of my very small team, I believe that Lincolnshire now has the best victim and survivor services it has ever seen. Starting with the initial contact from Victim Lincs (our 'in house' support service) right through to specialist services supporting survivors of all ages and genders.

Another first will be our new online portal of information for victims and survivors. This will inform victims about their entitlements and let them know what to expect on their journey through the criminal justice system. It will also feature a directory of support services, enabling residents to access support services directly, even if they have chosen not to report the crime to the police.

Despite these achievements, I will not waver from my determination to see Lincolnshire feeling and being safer for all residents. There is always more to do and I am excited for that challenge. I must pay tribute to the efforts of everyone who works so hard and gives so much to protect and serve the people of Lincolnshire. We do not have as many police officers as I would like, nor enough support staff or PCSOs, but my commitment to them and to the county is to work to provide them with the resources they need, the right tools to do the job and to continue the fight for fairer funding.

That work will continue until we see a resolution.



Marc Jones

Police & Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY, POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLAN FOR LINCOLNSHIRE APRIL 2017 – MARCH 2021 AND WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THIS YEAR.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PREVENTION IN PARTNERSHIP

I plan to bring all partners together to work to reduce crime. This includes councils, health services, probation, voluntary and community organisations, the public and the courts. Public money is always precious 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.

Operation Galileo

Last year I reported how providing the force with the right equipment to tackle rural crime had resulted in a 30% drop in hare coursing incidents.

The fight against hare coursing is an important part of our drive to keep rural communities safe.

This year I am delighted to report that our success in this area has continued with just 873 incidents reported in 2018/19 – a huge drop from the 1,965 reported two years ago.

As many residents will know the criminal gangs that are at the heart of this illegal activity commit a host of other offences when they come into our county - threatening farmers, causing criminal damage and creating havoc on our roads.

My investment in new 4X4 vehicles has enabled officers to seize more than 100 dogs and that has proved crucial in turning back the tide on what had become a real problem for rural communities.

The introduction of new drones and quad bikes, supported by my office, have also proved invaluable in tackling the problem.

Road Safety

Last year I announced the launch of a new enhanced Community Speed Watch Scheme (CSW) and the new project is already proving to be a success.

Under the scheme residents are given appropriate training and radar guns to check the speed of passing motorists. Drivers caught



Working with partners is crucial to reduce crime. The more we do together, the safer we will be.

speeding by the volunteers will be sent a warning letter and road safety advice, with repeat offenders getting a visit from police. Already around 27 parishes across the county are operational with the new CSW scheme and a further 36 are pending.

A new Safer Roads Team has also been created and is being deployed around the county to deal with speeding, drink driving and other motoring offences.

Sobriety tags

This project, funded by my office, uses the latest alcohol monitoring technology, also known as 'sobriety tags', to tackle alcohol misuse and associated offending.

The ankle bracelets, which detect alcohol levels in the wearer's sweat, alert the authorities when someone

has breached an abstinence order. They take an average of 48 alcohol content readings each day.

The initial pilot scheme delivered such good results, it was rolled out across the county. A total of 116 people were tagged (37 times in relation to domestic abuse cases) and all but five ended with successful compliance from the offender. Formal evaluation of the scheme is now being undertaken.

Cyber Security

Crucial advice and support was offered to businesses on protecting themselves from cyber attack at a series of workshops and events organised by my office. The events culminated in a Cyber Safe Conference attended by more than 100 business people and public sector leaders – where experts from across the UK gave advice on how to keep your data secure.

Intervention Team to tackle drug addiction and alcohol abuse

Last summer anti-social behaviour and drug addiction problems experienced an unprecedented spike in Lincoln city centre. In response I jointly funded - along with the City of Lincoln Council, LPFT and Lincoln BIG - a new intervention and outreach team to tackle the problem. This dedicated team was tasked with maintaining public safety, whilst tackling the issues of public drug-taking, alcohol consumption, drunken behaviour and begging.

Mini Police

The Mini Police project is a remarkable scheme that has now been extended to more than 100 primary schools across the county



The Mini Police project is helping to create a generation who will understand the positive work the police do and the importance of protecting a community.

thanks to funding provided by my office. Under the scheme, nine to eleven-year-olds are elected to become a member of the Mini Police and talk to residents about how to spot scams, challenge people who choose to break speed limits (with supervision) and educate classmates about topics such as bullying, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the danger around strangers. This project is helping to create a generation who will understand the positive work police do and the importance of protecting a community..

Fly Tipping Round Table

Councils across the county are cleaning up a staggering 20 incidents of fly tipping a day and this number demonstrates the rising tide of illegal rubbish dumping that is blighting Lincolnshire's communities and countryside. Earlier this year I called a special summit to investigate what can be done to tackle the growing menace. Representatives from several agencies from around the county, including the Chief Constable, have now signed a pledge to seek ways to work together to tackle fly tipping.

Heritage Crime round table

I organised and hosted this event in response to concerns about an increase in metal theft, specifically lead theft from church roofs. The meeting brought together experts to share best



I called a special summit to investigate what can be done to tackle the rising tide of fly tipping. Attendees include councils, police, the Environment Agency, National Farmers Union, County Land & Business Association, and drainage boards

practice on how to prevent this crime. As a result of the meeting, I am investigating ways to safeguard churches and historic sites across the county.

Modern Day Slavery

More than 60 cases of modern slavery have been investigated by police in Lincolnshire since 2016, with the numbers of active investigations growing. I organised and hosted a conference designed to help local businesses comply with the law but also to work in partnership with the authorities to eradicate this evil. In addition, we secured external funding to support the delivery of workshops to schools to raise awareness of modern slavery.

Child Sexual exploitation

I have taken the lead in establishing a National Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Network. A round table was held in London involving various national charities and law enforcement groups and I am working with the APCC to establish a formal group and agree funding. The new group would enable joint working to tackle this horrendous crime.

Stop Hate

I have, this year, provided funding to Stop Hate to raise awareness of hate crime and provide a reporting mechanism. The funding supports a 24-hour helpline for victims and witnesses of hate crime.

LISTENING, RESPONDING AND BEING ACCOUNTABLE

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 have given the Deputy PCC a specific remit to challenge and support on engagement and rural community safety. 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 that are not a one size fits all solution. I understand that difficult choices will need to be made and I know that I am directly accountable to the people of Lincolnshire.

Public opinion survey

My office has recently carried out another successful round of comprehensive public consultation.

The research method was established last year using professionally agreed levels of engagement so that the statistical analysis would be robust in sample sizes (covering age range, gender, social grouping and geographical residency.)

This year we set out to achieve the same level of professionalism but with a greater reach and I am delighted that we exceeded our targets once again.

We received a staggering 3,449 fully completed surveys, an increase of 543 (19%) on the 2,906 we achieved in 2017.

Included in the survey results were 495 respondents aged between 16 and 34, 599 aged 35 to 49, 1109 aged from 50 to 64 and 1,248 aged over 65.

Across the districts we were successful in getting a statistically robust representative sample for each – with at least 340 from every single district and many significantly surpassing that number.

The survey is, and will continue to be,

crucial in helping me set priorities and establish new projects and plans to ensure we deliver a policing service our communities want and deserve.

Personal engagement

Once again I have made it a priority to travel the county to meet as many individuals, organisations and groups who are dedicated to making their communities better places to live. During the year I have attended nearly 200 meetings and events across Lincolnshire alone.

I am committed to being accessible to the public through a wide range



My annual survey is crucial in helping me set priorities and establish new projects and plans.

of channels. Over the course of the year I have received over 1,240 pieces of correspondence (excluding routine correspondence from policing bodies), and 36 Freedom of Information (FOI) Requests. In addition, I am an avid user of social media which I use to enhance my public visibility and reach. For example, I have published 6,700 tweets and attracted over 4,800 'followers' since taking office in May 2016. I believe this demonstrates there is an effective link between myself and the public.

Earlier this year I signed up to the YMCA's Sleep Easy event where sponsored sleepers spent the night in the grounds of Lincoln Cathedral to raise money for the Lincoln Nomad Centre.

Representing Lincolnshire on the national stage

I have been appointed as the new national PCC lead for Serious Organised Crime and Serious Violence. Working with others improves local effectiveness and I am able to raise awareness of issues specific to our county and influence national policies to the benefit of the people of Lincolnshire.

Support to keep parades marching on

Remembrance Day parades are a crucial part of our culture and an important way to commemorate and give thanks to those who sacrificed



their lives to protect our freedoms. I know it is important to support the individuals and organisations who work tirelessly to see these important events take place.

I have ensured that free training is provided to parade organisers so that these events are safe and legal. I hope that, by providing the skills needed to manage these events, it may give rise to new parades, in addition to the nearly 80 already established.

Creation of an Independent Panel to oversee crime recording

I responded swiftly and decisively when HMICFRS raised concerns about the integrity of crime recording within Lincolnshire Police. An independent panel was necessary to restore and maintain public confidence in the force's work to record crime and, most importantly to safeguard the victims of crime. The Independent Crime Recording Confidence Panel was established within weeks of the inspectors' report and now meets every two months to oversee the force's work in improving its procedures.

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND THE VULNERABLE

No one chooses or wants to be a victim of crime. If you are a victim I will work with other agencies to ensure the best possible service is available to help you cope and to recover from the experience, and work with partners in the criminal justice system to meet your needs. The court system should deliver timely justice and support those affected by crime so that trust grows that the criminal justice system is on their side. All involved must work together to ensure that those who are more vulnerable to crime are identified and helped to prevent them from becoming victims in the first place.

Support to victims

I have established a provider forum to bring together not only those victim services which we commission, but other victim support providers. This increases professionals' awareness and understanding of other services within Lincolnshire, supports the sharing of best practice and the identification of any gaps in services. Intelligence from this forum feeds into the Victims Commissioning Group.

In addition my office now commissions the following services:

- an outreach service to provide emotional and practical support where needs are complex, or victims are vulnerable.
- support for victims of sexual violence, including an adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) funded in partnership with the NHS (SARC), a

paediatric SARC, a Children and Young People's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CHISVA), Trust House and Rape Crisis.

- Restorative Justice services
- a central portal of information for victims online is currently in development and due for launch



I hosted 'Lincolnshire's Victims Conference' in April, bringing together local providers of support services to victims of crime, professionals and volunteers throughout the county's public and community sector.



later this year. It will provide information about victims' rights, the journey through the criminal justice system, as well as a directory of support services which victims will be able to access directly without having to report the crime to the police

- a new service delivery manager has been appointed with the aim of ensuring victims are provided with seamless and integrated services, and ultimately make sure victims are supported to cope and recover.

Domestic Abuse Conference

Domestic abuse creates deep scars in our communities and, despite much good work, there is still a long journey ahead.

I know that, if we are to make progress in the fight against this problem, that

all agencies must work together effectively.

In November, more than 130 professionals from children's services, charities and policing attending the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse conference, which was organised jointly by my office, Lincolnshire police and the county council. The aim of the event was to ease the sharing of information and knowledge in a bid to improve services for victims in the county.

The event was opened with a specially recorded video from MP Victoria Atkins, Minister for Vulnerability, Safeguarding and Countering Extremism.

Among the speakers addressing the conference were Luke and Ryan Hart, whose father murdered their mother Claire and sister Charlotte in Spalding in 2016.

The fight against scams

Deputy PCC Stuart Tweedale has made remarkable progress in the fight against frauds and scams in Lincolnshire. Stuart joined the campaign Friends Against Scams as one of only 45 SCAMBassadors across the UK.

The role of SCAMBassadors is to use their influence to raise the profile of this problem amongst agencies and local residents in a drive to prevent people falling victim.



Deputy PCC Stuart Tweedale, SCAMBassador

Since then, the deputy PCC has been on a crusade to educate, inform and promote fraud prevention with the public and agencies. Earlier this year the number of people recruited to help fight scams in Lincolnshire reached the 2,000 milestone. There are now 3 SCAMBassadors, 33 Scam Champions and 2,000 Friends throughout the county.

Work in partnership to address growth in fraud

Lincolnshire was one of only two areas chosen to run a pilot scheme to improve collaborative working between organisations on a local level to identify and respond to fraud. The Multi Agency Fraud & Safeguarding Hub (MAFASH) pilot project has been funded by the Home Office and is being delivered by the Joint Fraud Taskforce/National Trading Standards Scams Team. It aims to co-ordinate investigative resources, expertise and intelligence; allow more effective data sharing and improve the quality of care for victims. Lincolnshire was chosen because of the great strides already made in addressing this problem.

Remote video links

Work is currently underway to establish a site in Lincolnshire to allow victims of crime to provide evidence remotely via video link – without the need for them to attend court. A number of potential sites have been identified and work is on-going with the courts and Lincolnshire Police to pinpoint the best site.

Better understand the victims' experience

A meeting between health bodies, my office and the force was convened last Autumn and all parties agreed to develop a system wide mental health programme. My office is now part of a project to create a new mental health hub designed to improve services across the county to those experiencing or approaching mental health crisis. A review of a project, which placed mental health nurses in the police control room, showed the scheme avoided 261 detentions of individuals under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act (1983) and 241

admissions to Accident and Emergency. The time saving to the Force as a result is estimated at 1,436 hours. Following the successful evaluation of the pilot, the PCC and the local lead NHS Clinical Commissioning Group with responsibility for mental health have taken the decision to jointly commission the service for the foreseeable future. In addition, the new service will include two rapid response vehicles which can be dispatched for cases requiring urgent response.

Lincolnshire Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

I have a statutory duty to put in place an effective Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for the county. The primary aim of the Scheme is to increase public confidence in the treatment of persons detained in police custody.

In 2018/19 a total of 185 custody visits were undertaken by volunteers across the county, with 73% conducted on a week day and 27% on a weekend. Of the 389 people who were detained in police custody and available to receive a custody visit, 369 (95%) consented to a visit.

POLICING THAT WORKS

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. The welfare of Lincolnshire Police officers and staff is a key concern for me and a continued and meaningful focus must be maintained to ensure the wellbeing, resilience and reputation of the Force. I will continue to fight for a sustainable future for Lincolnshire Police to ensure we have the money to support effective policing and crime prevention in this county.

Hack the Police

We know that criminals continually develop new ways to harness technology to commit their crimes so it makes sense to enlist our own experts in the fight against them.

Earlier this year I joined forces with Police Rewired, CSCV (Cyber Specials and Cyber Volunteers) and G4S to host an event called Hack the Police – which invited developers, designers, psychologists, researchers and other specialists

to brainstorm new ways of combatting online crime.

This was only the third such event held in the UK, and the first outside London. The event covered issues such as how to use technology to help front line officers and the design of apps to help the public feel safe.

Blue Light collaboration

Lincoln's new joint fire, police and ambulance station on South Park is on track to open in the autumn of 2019, with the first staff expected to occupy the building this summer.

When complete, this flagship project will be the first operational hub between all three emergency services in the country. The collaboration is making savings on running costs and through not maintaining old buildings, whilst improving services to the public. Existing buildings used by the emergency services in Lincoln need millions of pounds spending on them to make them fit for purpose both now and



in the future. The new building will cost less to run than the current police station on West Parade alone.

The project represents a major investment in the future of Lincolnshire's emergency services and has attracted £7m of national government funding. The new space can be used as flexibly as possible to meet future and changing needs.

Drones

Extra funding from Council tax will enable the drone unit to expand to become a drone squadron with coverage extended to the whole county 24/7. The existing drones have already proved invaluable in saving life, locating vulnerable missing people, combatting a range of crimes in hard to access locations and even gathering pivotal evidence to prosecute offenders. The technology frees up valuable officer time which is then available to respond to other urgent calls.

Body worn video

I supported the introduction of officers' body worn video cameras and they have enabled the force to record footage of every incident we attend. It has reduced complaints against officers and made offenders think twice before confronting officers – reducing the number of those off duty through injury and officer time spent investigating complaints.

Handheld computers

Each officer and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) now carries a hand-held computer providing them with the ability to check records, complete forms and crucially stay out of an office and in the community for longer. The new equipment allows officers to file crime and witness statements from the road and saves each officer approximately one hour per ten-hour shift.

Mobile Fingerprint Scanners

Lincolnshire is one of the first forces in the country to introduce the scanners which will avoid officers having to take someone to the nearest police station to obtain fingerprints. They can also be used to quickly identify someone experiencing a medical emergency, so contact can be made with their next of kin.

Command and control

The new command and control system will be the most up-to-date in the UK. In conjunction with new handheld computers it will represent a huge step forward in the effectiveness and efficiency of Lincolnshire Police. It will enable officers to instantly access the system in order to report incidents. It will give control room staff the capability to deploy the most appropriately trained and equipped officers to scenes as quickly as possible.



Our county is one of the first to introduce the new mobile fingerprint scanners.

Improved neighbourhood policing model

The new mobile technology, which supports local officers and PCSOs to be in the community for longer, has allowed the force to develop and employ a new neighbourhood policing model which will allow greater focus on protecting the vulnerable, monitoring potential risks, gathering intelligence and tackling crime.

New pursuit vehicles

Money will be invested in new police pursuit vehicles for the roads/firearms units who are tasked with some of the most challenging incidents in policing on a daily basis. It is vital that the vehicles can carry the heavy loads required of them and still out-perform organised criminals intent on causing harm in our communities. These teams are at the forefront of tackling counter terrorism and incidents involving weapons; every second is a potential life saved or a criminal caught and this investment is a crucial one.

Enhanced dog unit

Extra funding has enabled me to support the recruitment of eight new specialist search dogs to help officers track down evidence of criminal activity.

The dogs will be trained to sniff out firearms, drugs, explosives, cash and even electronic devices. The first two of these dogs will arrive during 2019, with another six set to follow - increasing



the force's capability from the three specialist search dogs which are already trained and operational.

Environmental sustainability

New energy saving lighting installed in Lincolnshire Police's buildings will save £160,000 a year. Work started this year on replacing old fluorescent lighting with energy saving LED lights in 20 locations across the force area. The £350,000 investment is expected to be paid back, as a result of reduced electricity bills, in less than four years.

The force is currently in the process of purchasing ten electric cars and charging points will be installed at five stations across the county. In the last five years the force has cut the CO₂ emissions across its estate by 20%.

ANPR

The investment I have made in the latest Number Plate Recognition systems will enable officers to

trace and arrest offenders as well as ensure that drivers without a licence or insurance can be quickly apprehended and taken off our roads providing a vital tool in improving road safety. The new systems are currently being fitted to force vehicles.

Firearms licensing

I made a commitment to overhaul and invest in the firearms licensing process in Lincolnshire to deliver a better service and assurance of safety for licence holders and the wider populous and much progress has been made in delivering on that commitment.

The development and introduction of the UK's first fully digital portal for applications has reduced errors, increased safety, removed duplication of work and further reduced the time taken to process applications whilst improving safety for the public. The system currently processes 200 different applications a month and the force is now processing grant applications and license renewals within eight weeks – except in exceptional circumstances.

FUNDING

The long term appropriate and sustainable funding of Lincolnshire Police to meet the growing complexity of demand remains a key aspect of my focus.

Following significant efforts by myself and others, during the latter part of 2016/17, the Home Office initiated a process for fundamental review of the national police funding formula. Consultation on the conclusion of this work is currently on hold, as the Government focus on Brexit, but the Policing Minister has indicated his intention to progress consultation alongside the next government spending review, likely to be during 2019.

I have, and will continue to, press hard to get the funding formula reviewed. Previous attempts at reform suggested that Lincolnshire might benefit by around £8 million annually and, until this issue is resolved, the financial security for Lincolnshire policing is uncertain.

Over the past few years I have allowed judicious use of reserves to supplement our income and enhance front line policing resources to keep residents safe. With costs rising and reserves at the prudent minimum, without additional funding, reductions will have to be made to the number of people working in and for Lincolnshire Police with inevitable consequences to the service.

The Chief Constable and I are committed to working together to ensure any impact would be limited, that we continue to invest in innovation to best protect the public and to be prepared to expand numbers and training as soon as funds become available to do so.

I have been heartened and humbled by the incredible support from the public in backing increases in council tax to help fund our front line policing.

In our annual public survey carried out in late 2018 and early 2019, a total of 3,449 people completed the questionnaire with overwhelming support for increased funding.

Around 83% of respondents supporting a funding increase with 68% of those supporting a rise in council tax of more than 11 per cent.

As a direct response, I was able to reluctantly propose a council tax rise from 31p a week for a Band A with an average Band D property owner paying 46p extra per week. As a result, clear plans for protecting the front line and delivering specific and vital projects was announced by the Chief and I to ensure transparency to the public about where their money was making a difference.

My office has also been successful in securing further funding from the Government of £1.8 million for this financial year. The addition of £370,000 from carefully managed but dwindling reserves will allow me to invest in services – including the recruitment of an additional 30 officers this year.

It is my intention to invest some of this revenue in a number of new initiatives designed to help in the fight against crime and the drive to keep our communities safe.

Some of these projects are detailed elsewhere in this annual report and include mini police, an extension to the drone capability, the most up-to-date command and control system in the UK, an improved neighbourhood policing model and an enhanced specialist dog unit.

Despite these positive developments, the future is still uncertain and, with reserves now depleted, the force faces a funding gap which could hit £6.5m by 2021 if current funding levels do not change.

This said, I have a proven record of facing and overcoming these difficult challenges and I remain steadfast in my commitment to Lincolnshire residents to do so again.

Despite this uncertainty and Lincolnshire Police's position as one of the lowest funded forces in the country, I will continue to deliver innovation, continue to support and challenge the force to prevent and detect crime, and work with partner organisations to ensure we are all safer together.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) REPORTS

Background

From May 2018, HMICFRS changed the way in which they inspect forces, moving towards a more risk-based approach. This revised approach consists of a single annual PEEL inspection where HMICFRS inspect the aspects of policing in each force which they consider present the greatest risk of failure. Their assessment is underpinned by data analysis and the ongoing monitoring of forces.

A significant part of the risk assessment for each force will depend on the information gleaned from the Force Management Statement (FMS). Each Force is required to produce a FMS containing a self-assessment evaluating the following four years across four key areas:

- a) The demand likely to be faced by the force;
- b) The condition, capacity, capability, serviceability, performance and security of supply of the workforce and other assets such as ICT;

- c) The forces plan to improve efficiency;
- d) The force's financial income.

The force submitted its first FMS to HMICFRS in May and subsequently published it in September 2018. The first inspection of Lincolnshire Police under the new inspection regime is scheduled for June this year.

Actions

I continue to monitor progress against all the inspectorate's outstanding recommendations through a variety of means, including a regular report produced for the Police and Crime Strategic Board which I chair. I am required by law to publish my response to all force specific HMIC inspection reports within 56 days of their publication. These responses are therefore published on my website at <https://lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/what-our-priorities-are-and-how-we-are-doing/hmic-inspections/>

KEY CRIME AND FORCE PERFORMANCE STATISTICS 2018

There have been a number of developments in the last 12 months which will have, undoubtedly, had an impact on crime figures.

In the summer of 2017 the Home Office changed the way burglary statistics were recorded. The change meant all burglaries that occur within the boundary of a residents' property will count as a residential break-in – even if it is a shed or garage and not the home itself.

The previous system used complicated criteria to determine whether a burglary was categorised as burglary of a dwelling or non-dwelling. For instance, a connecting door from a garage to a home could change whether a burglary counted as a burglary of a dwelling or not.

The change created the appearance of a dramatic increase in home burglaries – when in reality it is simply a change to the way they are categorised. That anomaly has affected figures for the first half of 2018.

In addition, there has been a dramatic change to the way many

other crimes are recorded. Due to other changes the Force now has to record every crime reported by an individual – even historic ones – as separate offences.

For instance, a domestic abuse victim may come forward and report dozens of crimes against a partner going back many years or even decades. Until recently the police recorded and investigated the most recent crimes in the knowledge that older crimes may be impossible to investigate and not increase an offender's sentence.

That has now changed and every single crime must be recorded even when dates and details are sketchy. So, one victim could now report dozens of crimes and they will all be recorded separately.

This has caused, in some categories, the appearance of large spikes in crimes. This gives the impression that there has been a large increase in the number of victims of that crime, when that is not actually the case.

In fact, my focus and commitment, shared by the Force, is to ensure victims are at the centre of all that we do and I

am confident service has not slipped from the high standards we set ourselves.

In the rolling 12 months to the end of December 2018 there were 48,983 crimes recorded which represents a 20.4% increase compared to the previous 12 months. This reflects the national rise seen in police recorded crime figures.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has seen a decrease of 14.9% with 18,074 incidents recorded over the preceding 12 months.

The rise in sexual offences has continued with 1,958 offences recorded in the previous 12 months an increase of 33.0% over the preceding 12 months. This rise is reflected in national crime statistics. It is also important to note that, aside from the context given above, this is partly due to the rising number of historical sex crimes now being reported to the police – a development I will continue to encourage.

There were a total of 3,039 recorded residential burglaries in the 12 month period.

Violence against the person (with injury) has seen a 32.7% increase over the previous 12 months.

The indicator for fraud / cybercrime is based on the nationally published "Action Fraud" statistics. These relate to the number of referrals made to the Force by the national Action Fraud agency for potential further investigation. There has been an increase of 6.8% over the previous 12 months with 2857 incidents referred to the Force. I am pleased to see increased reporting within this area, which is a priority for my office and something that Deputy PCC Stuart Tweedale is especially passionate about.

Over the preceding 12 months to December 2018 there has been no increase in the number of calls for service experienced by the Force with a total of 168,255 being received. In response to urgent rural calls received in the preceding 12 months 68.7% were responded to by officers within 20 minutes, and 74.9% of urgent urban calls within 15 minutes. This represents a slight decline in performance for both rural and urban response times.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire
Lincolnshire Fire & Police Headquarters
Deepdale Lane, Nettleham
Lincoln, LN2 2LT

01522 947192
lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk
www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk

