

# Violence in Lincolnshire

*Review July 2020*

Professionalism | Respect | Integrity | Dedication | Empathy



## Contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. National Crime Recording Standards .....	3
2.1. What are National Crime Recording Standards? .....	3
2.2. How are violent crimes recorded?.....	3
2.3. What are Violence with Injury crimes?.....	4
2.4. What are Violence without Injury crimes? .....	4
2.5. What are Stalking & Harassment crimes? .....	4
3. Crime Data Integrity (CDI) and Inspections.....	5
3.1. How are Police Forces checked for recording accuracy?.....	5
4. How does Lincolnshire compare nationally in regards to violence? .....	6
5. Current trends.....	8
5.1. What are the current VATP trends in Lincolnshire? .....	8
5.2. What do Violence with Injury offences look like in Lincolnshire? .....	8
5.3. What do Violence without Injury offences look like in Lincolnshire?.....	9
5.4. What do Stalking & Harassment offences look like in Lincolnshire?.....	10
6. Other aspects of violence .....	10
6.1. Night Time Economy Violence .....	10
6.2. Knife related Violence .....	11
6.3. Knife Possession Offences.....	12
7. Lincolnshire Police approaches to Violence.....	14
7.1. Domestic Abuse .....	14
7.2. Night Time Economy .....	15
7.3. Drugs and County Lines.....	17
7.4. Working with children and young people.....	18
7.5. Improving Outcomes.....	19

## 1. Introduction

This overview of violence in Lincolnshire is intended to provide context regarding crime levels, highlighting:

- How violent crime is recorded,
- the impacts of changes in recording,
- current trends in violent crime, and
- Lincolnshire Police approaches to reassure communities and tackle crime.

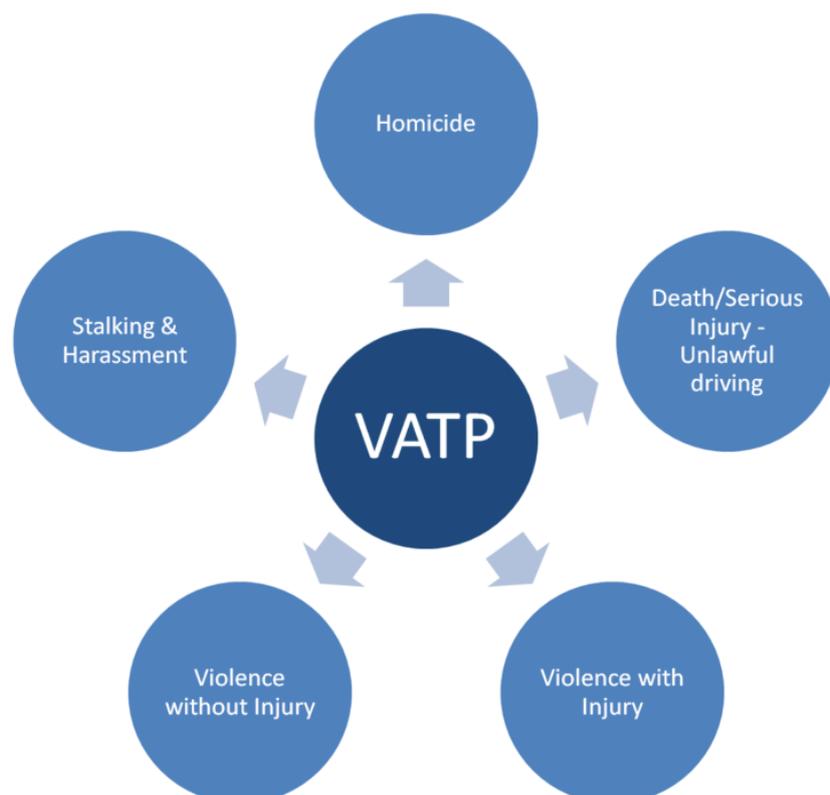
## 2. National Crime Recording Standards

### 2.1. What are National Crime Recording Standards?

NCRS stands for National Crime Recording Standards and has the twin aims of being victim focussed and maintaining consistency of recording across all police forces. NCRS simply requires the police to record sufficient information to justify its classification. It is based on applying legal definitions of crime to victim's reports<sup>1</sup>.

### 2.2. How are violent crimes recorded?

Violence, or Violence against the Person (VATP) recorded crime, is broken down as follows:



<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/116269/ncrs.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/116269/ncrs.pdf)

For the purpose of this report, we will focus on Violence with Injury, Violence without Injury and Stalking & Harassment as these are the majority of VATP crimes recorded in Lincolnshire.

### **2.3. What are Violence with Injury crimes?**

Violence with Injury is when a person is assaulted or injured. The full extent of any injury must be properly documented to allow for informed recording decision-making.

If a person is assaulted, the recorded crime will depend on the level of injury and the intent:

- Minor injuries such as scratches, bruising, black eye or broken nose should be recorded as an Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (AOABH)
- Serious injuries such as open wounds, broken bones, substantial loss of blood, permanent disability or requiring lengthy medical treatment should be recorded as Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) with or without intent (S.20 or S18).

The intent factor of a GBH crime will depend on factors such as the use of a weapon, ferocity and length of time of any assault.

### **2.4. What are Violence without Injury crimes?**

Violence without Injury offences include Modern Slavery, Kidnapping, Child Neglect, Threats to kill and Assaults without injury. If a person is assaulted but there is no injury such as a slap, punch or other attack that leaves no visible mark or injury and does not cause more than a passing moment of pain should be recorded as a Common Assault.

From April 2020, Controlling & Coercive behaviour was moved from the sub category Violence without Injury in to Stalking & Harassment. This has caused a shift in the data and trends as, in line with some other forces, Lincolnshire has backdated this change on the crime recording system.

### **2.5. What are Stalking & Harassment crimes?**

Stalking & Harassment offences include Stalking, Harassment, Controlling & Coercive behaviour and Malicious Communications.

Malicious communications can be a letter, electronic communication or article of any description which conveys a grossly offensive, indecent or threatening message or that is false and known to be false, from one person to another for the purpose of causing distress or anxiety.

Controlling & Coercive behaviour is outlined in the cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse as follows:

- Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

- Coercive behaviour is: a continuing act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim

### 3. Crime Data Integrity (CDI) and Inspections

#### 3.1. How are Police Forces checked for recording accuracy?

HMICFRS carried out a Crime Data Integrity (CDI) inspection on Lincolnshire Police and published a report in July 2018. The HMICFRS CDI report determined that, for the incident categories audited, our compliance with crime recording was, overall, 81.2%. This meant, based on the crimes that were recorded in 2017/18, we should record around 9,600 more crimes per annum to be 100% compliant, or have a 23% increase in recorded crimes. This was also based on the crime recording rules in effect at the time the data was audited (Jun 17 to Nov 17).

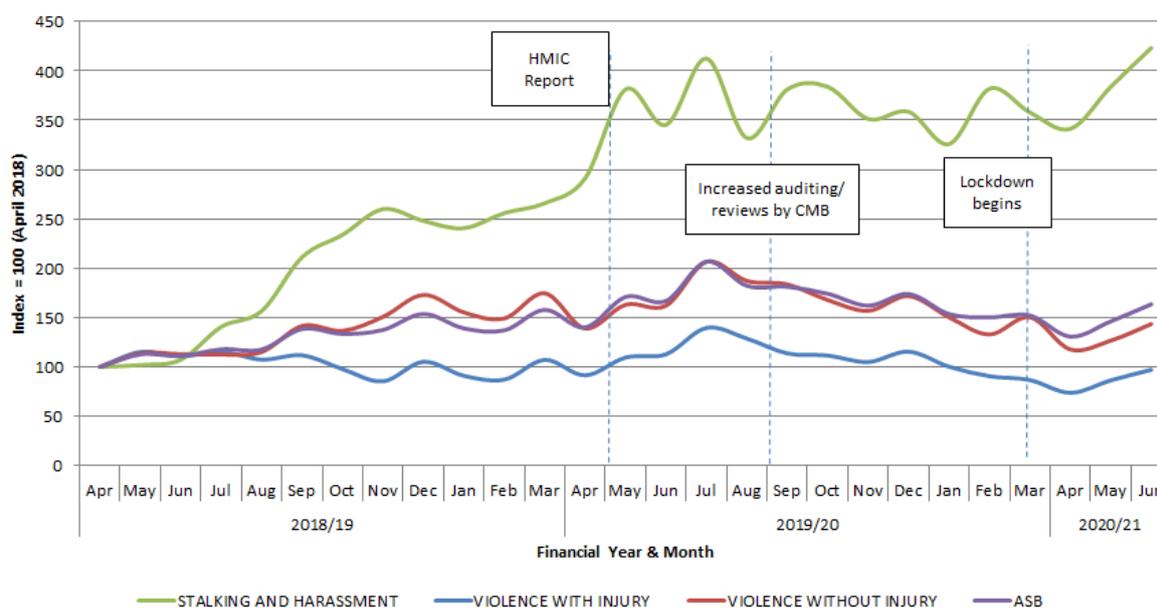
The subsequent push to increase compliance has seen an increase in crimes being recorded as well as shifts in other incident types such as less ASB – malicious communications recorded, as these incidents are now typically recorded as the offence of Malicious Communications under the category of Stalking & Harassment.

Furthermore, as of April 2018, the following NCRS changes to Stalking, Harassment & Controlling and Coercive Behaviour became effective:

*‘Where there is a course of conduct amounting to either stalking or harassment or controlling and coercive behaviour the relevant course of conduct crime (stalking or harassment or controlling and coercive behaviour) should be recorded in addition to the most serious additional notifiable crime reported at the same time (per victim-offender relationship)’*

The impact of this requirement was too difficult to quantify however, anecdotally across forces this caused a 5 to 10% increase alone in recorded crime levels.

**Figure 1: Violent crime trends from April 2018**



In June 2018 the force put into place its CDI action plan in order to increase the compliance with NCRS. This action plan has changed force culture causing a steady rise in the compliance of recording in all areas of crime.

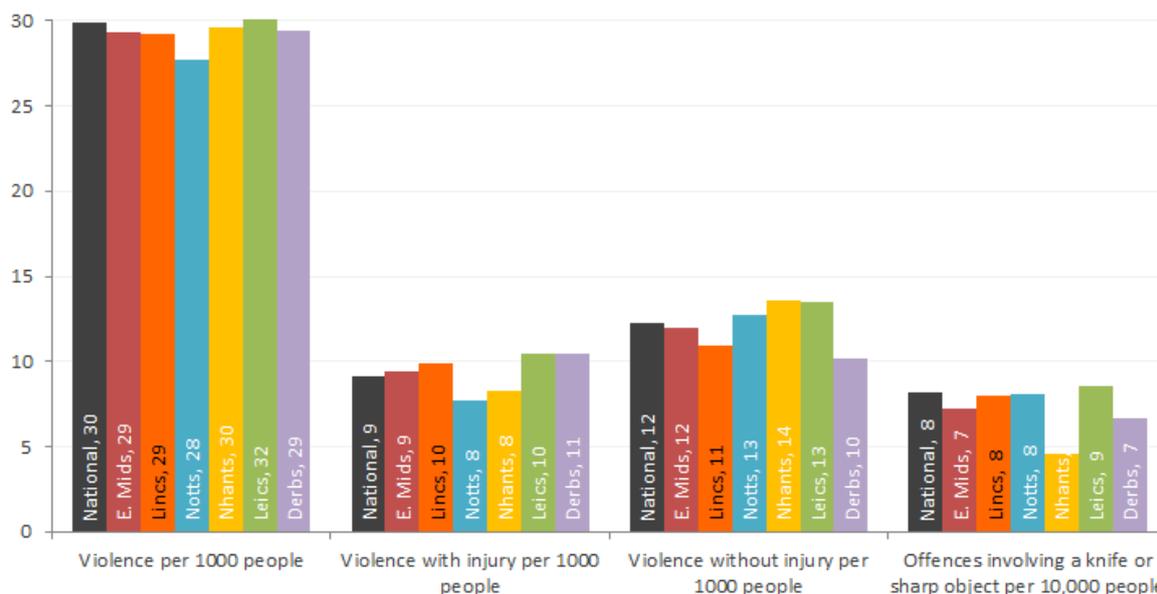
HMICFRS re-inspected the force in late 2019 using data from May to July 2019. The results show that overall compliance with crime recording was at 90.3%, a substantial improvement over the previous 18 months. It also found that the recording of violent offences had risen to a compliance of 87.3%, a significant improvement of 14.6%. The majority of the 12.7% of violent crime which had not been recorded was from either the Violence without Injury or Stalking & Harassment section of violent crime.

This would suggest that, from the data used (mid 2019) the force should still see an increase of about 13% in its violence figures. However, it is difficult to see such a rise in figures due to the occurrence of Covid and the lockdown. Crime reporting saw a noticeable decrease in volume primarily as the night time economy shut down (less violence) along with many shops (less shoplifting etc). It is more important to consider the current compliance with crime recording as opposed to numerical volumes. The force currently uses a predictive model based on HMICFRS findings, showing about 86% compliance. This needs re benchmarking and also more focussed auditing to target and drive improvements, which are currently in progress.

#### 4. How does Lincolnshire compare nationally in regards to violence?

The data below has been sourced from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and covers crime in England and Wales for the 12 month period to March 2020.

Figure 2: National and Regional trends in violence per 1000 people

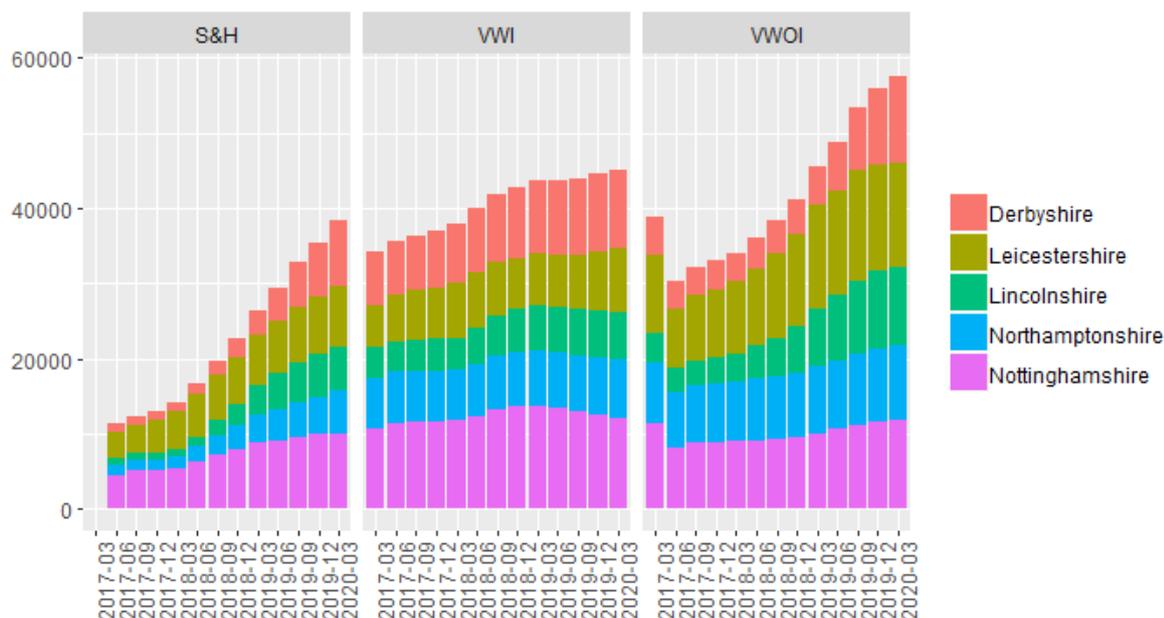


In the 12 month period reported on previously (up until June 2019), Lincolnshire figures were 26 per 1000 people (VATP), 8 per 1000 people (VWI), 11 per 1000 people (VWOI) and 4 per 1000 people (Knife or sharp object offences).

**Lincolnshire is ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the country in terms of the lowest number of VATP offences per 1000 residents. Lincolnshire residents have a 3% chance of being a victim of violent crime.**

The figure below shows the trends across all Forces in the East Midlands since March 2017, and highlights the increased recording of S&H and VWOI offences.

**Figure 3: Regional trends in violent crime from March 2017**



According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), latest trends in violent crime varied across different types of violence. The CSEW showed no change in the overall level of violence in recent years. Conversely, police recorded crime has seen some rises in the higher-harm but less common types of violence, including offences that involve knives or sharp instruments.

Over the 12 month period, Lincolnshire remains below, or equal to, the national average for all types of violent offences

The CSEW indicated a 7% increase in the number of police recorded offences involving knives or sharp instruments. However, this picture is mixed across the different police force areas.

Although recent increases in recorded knife or sharp instrument offences reflect a real rise in the occurrence of these types of crime, improvements in recording practices to better identify the involvement of a knife or sharp instrument is also a factor.

The chance of being a victim of knife crime in Lincolnshire remains very low in comparison with national trends and regional forces.

For more information relating to the CSEW, please see below link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandanddwales/yearendingjune2019#whats-happened-to-the-volume-of-crime-recorded-by-the-police>

## 5. Current trends

### 5.1. What are the current VATP trends in Lincolnshire?

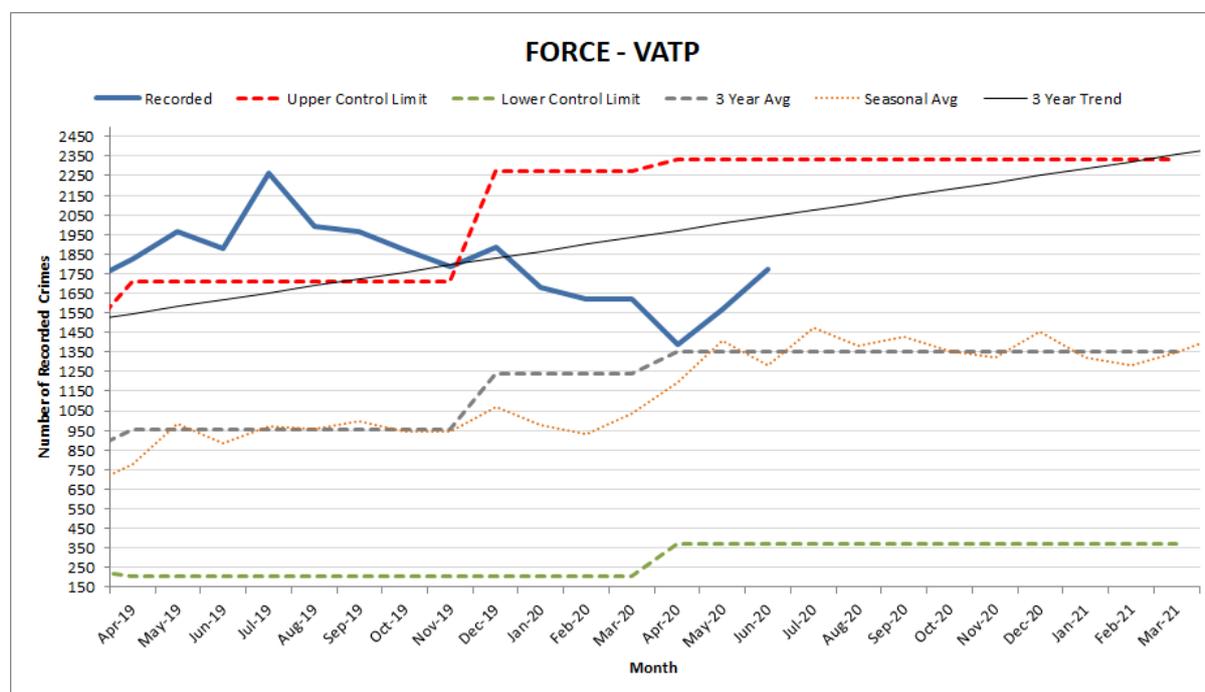
Overall Violence Against the Person (VATP) has seen an **11%** increase when comparing the 12 months from July 19 - June 20 with the previous 12 months:

Figure 4: Violence Against The Person statistics

	Jul 19 - Jun 20	Jul 18 - Jun 19	Volume Change	% Change
<b>VATP</b>	21404	19350	2054	10.61%
<b>Homicide</b>	8	14	-6	-42.86%
<b>KSI - Unlawful Driving</b>	2	13	-11	-84.62%
<b>Violence with Injury</b>	5889	6029	-140	-2.32%
<b>Violence without Injury</b>	8309	7554	755	9.99%
<b>Stalking &amp; Harassment</b>	7195	5740	1455	25.35%

The lockdown for COVID-19 has seen a general reduction in recorded crimes, but despite this, violent offences were declining since the peak in July 2019. Offence levels for June 2020 are still above the seasonally expected levels (based on a three year average).

Figure 5: VATP trends in Lincolnshire



### 5.2. What do Violence with Injury offences look like in Lincolnshire?

Violence with Injury equates to **28%** of all VATP offences. Of the 5889 Violence with Injury offences, the top three are:

- 4897 AOABH offences
- 357 GBH with intent offences
- 327 Dog causing injury to a person offences

**21%** of all violence with injury offences are Domestic Abuse related and occur in a dwelling.

Furthermore, **2%** of all violence with injury (117 offences) are Assaults on Police Officers and/or Emergency Workers

Demographics

58% of Victims are Male of which 42% are between 20 to 39 years of age  
41% of Victims are Female of which 47% are between 20 to 39 years of age

71% of Offenders are Male of which 51% are between 20 to 39 years of age  
28% of Offenders are Female of which 49% are between 20 to 39 years of age

*(1% victims and 1% offenders did not specify a gender or is unknown)*

All Violence with injury offences broken down by hour:

Day of Week	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Weekday (Mon-Fri)</b>	84	93	70	53	42	27	34	65	98	117	133	137	172	151	165	261	212	212	230	213	245	197	188	190
<b>Weekend (Sat-Sun)</b>	95	172	134	100	52	31	27	32	32	45	39	64	72	58	63	86	92	98	107	119	123	94	118	145

**16%** of the offences in the last 12 months have had a positive outcome of which 464 resulted in a Charge, 151 Summoned, 143 Cautions and 127 Community Resolutions. In 44% of offences, the victim declined to, or withdrew, support.

### 5.3. What do Violence without Injury offences look like in Lincolnshire?

Violence without Injury equates to **39%** of all VATP offences. Of the 8309 Violence without Injury offences, the top three are:

- 6784 Common Assaults
- 752 Threats to Kill
- 338 Assault or assault by beating of a constable

**23%** of all violence without injury offences are Domestic Abuse related and occur in a dwelling

Demographics

49% of Victims are Male of which 40% are between 20 to 39 years of age  
50% of Victims are Female of which 46% are between 20 to 39 years of age

69% of Offenders are Male of which 48% are between 20 to 39 years of age  
30% of Offenders are Female of which 49% are between 20 to 39 years of age

*(1% victims and 1% offenders did not specify a gender or is unknown)*

**11%** of the offences in the last 12 months have had a positive outcome of which 567 resulted in a Charge, 94 Summonsed, 118 Cautions and 97 Community Resolutions. In 55% of offences, the victim declined to, or withdrew, support.

#### **5.4. What do Stalking & Harassment offences look like in Lincolnshire?**

Stalking & Harassment equates to **34%** of all VATP offences. Of the 7195 Stalking & Harassment offences, the top three are:

- 2488 Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress (Malicious Communications)
- 1518 Public Order – Harassment without violence
- 1389 Engage in Controlling & Coercive behaviour

#### Demographics

34% of Victims are Male of which 46% are between 20 to 39 years of age  
65% of Victims are Female of which 54% are between 20 to 39 years of age

68% of Offenders are Male of which 50% are between 20 to 39 years of age  
31% of Offenders are Female of which 44% are between 20 to 39 years of age

*(1% victims and 1% offenders did not specify a gender or is unknown)*

**45%** of all Stalking & Harassment offences are Domestic Abuse related

**5%** of the offences in the last 12 months have had a positive outcome of which 220 resulted in a Charge, 45 Summonsed, 48 Cautions and 26 Community Resolutions. In 57% of offences, the victim declined to, or withdrew, support.

## **6. Other aspects of violence**

### **6.1. Night Time Economy Violence**

For the purpose of this briefing, Night Time Economy (NTE) Violence has been defined as any violence that takes place between 21:00 – 04:59 hrs that is non-Domestic Abuse related and has not occurred in a dwelling.

**24%** of all VATP offences are NTE related, and, **34%** of all Violence with Injury offences were NTE related (1792 crimes).

**Lincoln City** has the highest number of offences.

Of all the VATP offences occurring in the NTE, under VWOI crimes, **35%** were Common Assaults, **3%** were assaults against Police Officers and under VWI crimes, **31%** were AOABH offences.

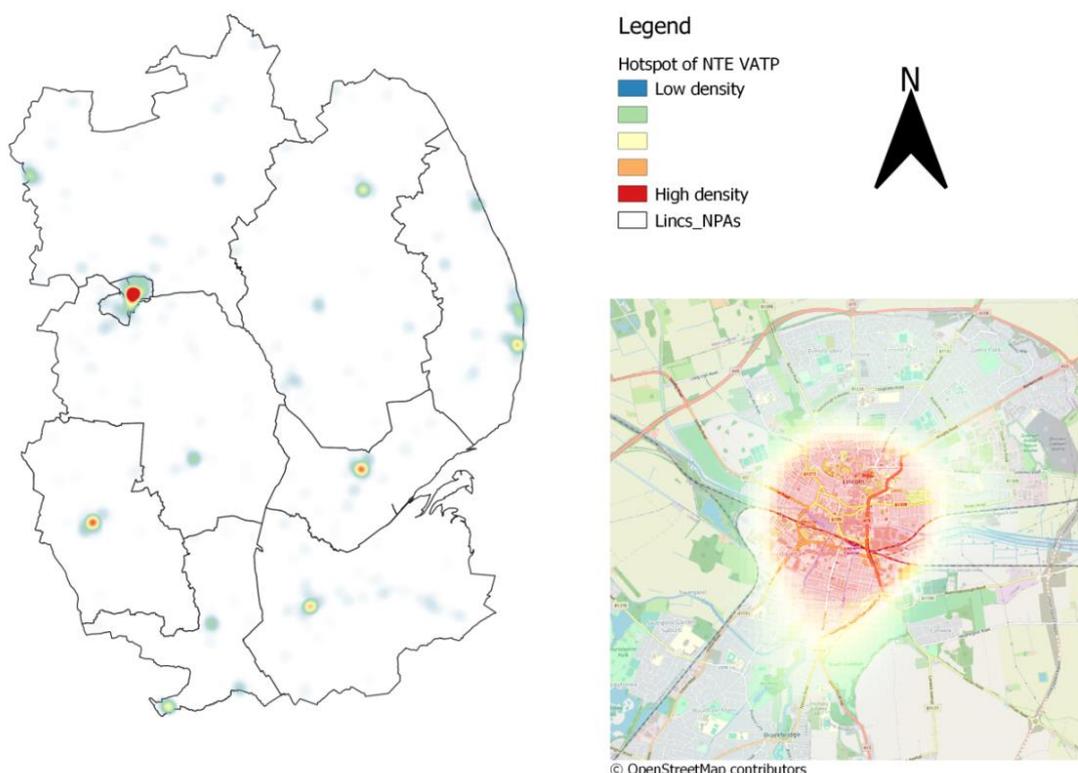
All NTE Violence broken down by hour:

Hour	21	22	23	0	1	2	3	4
Weekday (Mon-Fri)	78	84	80	30	51	37	23	19
Weekend (Sat-Sun)	52	53	74	55	109	94	75	35

The majority of NTE violence offences take place at the weekends between 1:00am and 03:00am.

In **44%** of offences Alcohol was an impact factor and in **7%** drugs was an impact factor.

**Figure 6: Map of NTE violence in Lincolnshire**



## 6.2. Knife related Violence

During 2019 there has been an increase in weapon and knife crime across the United Kingdom and whilst Lincolnshire has been less affected, there has been an increase in offences involving weapons.

Demographics

65% of Victims are Male of which 31% are between 19 to 29 years of age.  
 35% of Victims are Female of which 67% are between 19 to 40 years of age.

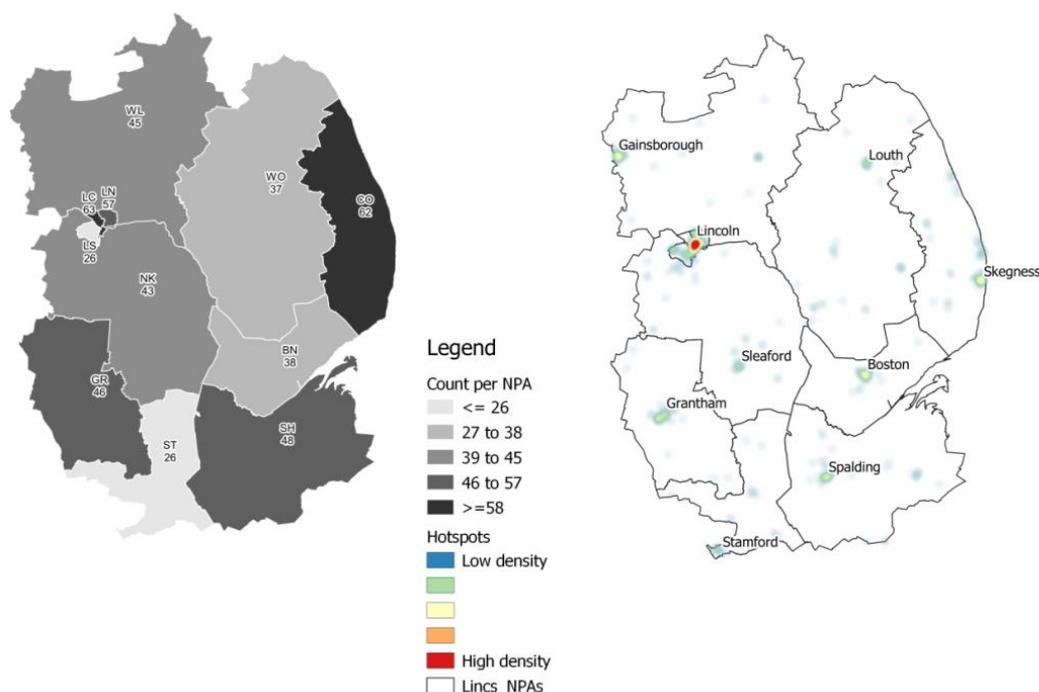
81% of Offenders are Male of which 38% are between 19 to 29 years of age.  
 19% of Offenders are Female of which 38% are between 30 to 40 years of age.

Lincolnshire has seen a **12%** increase in violent knife crime in the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months (July 2019 to June 2020) – from 438 to 491 offences. Locally, these incidents are mainly either assaults to cause injury or serious harm (**57%**) or robberies (**17%**).

**37%** of these usually happen in domestic properties and involve people who know each other.

The below map shows all crimes involving a knife or sharp object recorded in the 12 months up until June 2020. Lincoln City Centre, Lincoln North and the Coast are shown to be the highest volume areas, with locations around Lincoln City Centre, Skegness, Boston and Gainsborough having the higher concentrations of incidents (see hotspots). Populations of these areas are in constant flux, as people travel in for work, leisure or tourism.

**Figure 7: Map of knife-related violence in Lincolnshire**



Of those occurrences where a knife or other pointed object has inflicted a wound or been used to threaten harm, **25%** in the last 12 months have had a positive outcome of which 65 resulted in a charge. In 24% of offences, the victim declined to, or withdrew, support.

**6.3. Knife Possession Offences**

Possession of article with blade or point offences have decreased by **8%** across the county in the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months (July 2019 to June 2020) - from 268 to 247 incidents. During this same period, our police officers carried out **26%** more stop searches for knives or bladed articles – from 200 searches to 251.

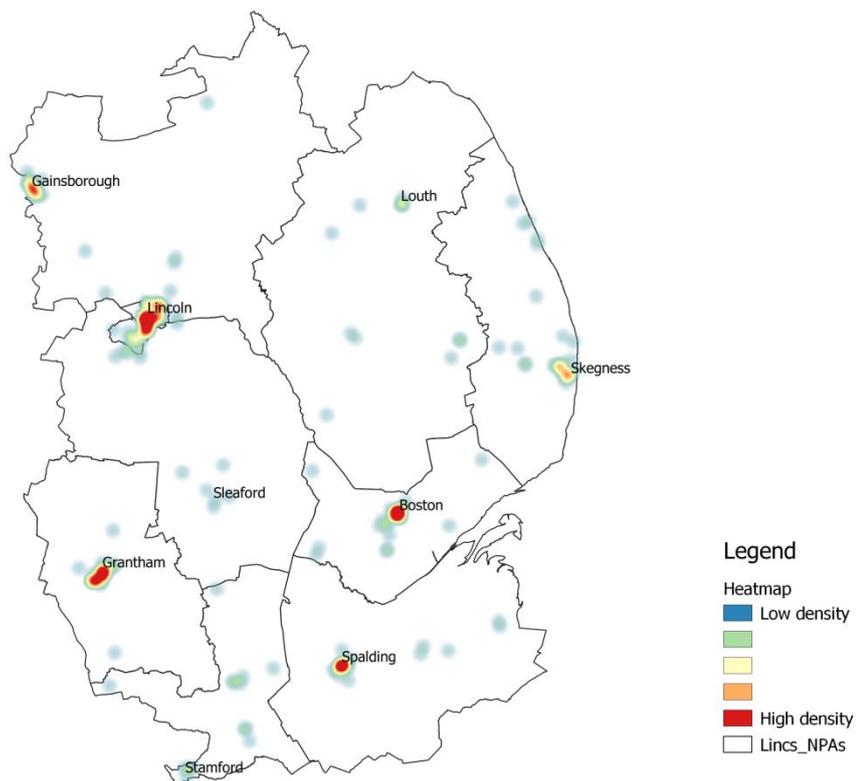
Demographics

88% of Offenders are Male of which 36% are between 18 to 29 years of age.  
11% of Offenders are Female of which 32% are between 30 to 39 years of age.

20% of all Offenders for possession of bladed articles in the period were aged 17 or under

Recorded possession offences are more likely to occur in highly populated areas. The hotspot map for possession offences recorded between July 2019 and June 2020 show concentrations in Lincoln, Boston, Grantham, Spalding, Gainsborough and Skegness. The NPAs of Grantham and Boston accounted for **29%** of all recorded offences in the 12 month period. Lincoln Centre and North account for **23%**.

**Figure 8: Map of knife possession offences in Lincolnshire**



Possession offences in the 12 month period broken down by hour the offence has taken place:

Day of Week	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Weekday (Mon-Fri)	6	4	5	4	2	1	2	2	7	6	6	10	11	9	8	11	7	7	8	12	13	6	7	11
Weekend (Sat-Sun)	4	4	3	3	2	1	0	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	2	5	3	4	3	2	5	6	6	6

**62%** of the offences in the last 12 months have had a positive outcome of which 97 resulted in a Charge, 19 Summoned, 11 cautions and 14 community resolutions. In 1% of offences, the victim declined to, or withdrew, support.

## **7. Lincolnshire Police approaches to Violence**

Lincolnshire Police recognises the recorded increase in violence and the high volume recorded as a proportion of all crime in Lincolnshire. As part of our approach, we have agreed strategic objectives which are:

- To minimise the risk of harm to the communities of Lincolnshire through violent crime.
- To ensure confidence of our communities is not eroded through the increases in violence.
- To ensure that the right outcomes for our victims are achieved (both CJU & Out of court).
- To develop an early intervention & prevention approach to Violent crime where appropriate.
- To engage partners to work together to reduce the harm on our communities.

To achieve these objectives, our plan will cover, and will provide key focus around the following areas:

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Night Time Economy (NTE)
3. Drugs and County Lines
4. Working with children and young people
5. Improving outcomes

We've established Strategic and Tactical groups including the wider Community Safety Partnership, and from these established a plan to cover Protect, Pursue, Prevent and Prepare. This plan has been developed, taking account of experience of Violence Reduction Units across England, along with evidence based practices.

In December 2019 the Violent Crime Reduction Initiative (VCRI) was launched to aid wider understanding of violence in Lincolnshire, with Gold and Silver groups established.

Lincolnshire Police has joined the Violence Reduction Information Network (VRIN) Steering Group, its purpose is to develop a network for knowledge exchange/to disseminate good practice in order to influence policy and practice, design and conduct future research that meets the needs of practitioners and is easily transferable into practice/impact & ensure impact and sustainability of the partnership beyond the initial funding period.

### **7.1. Domestic Abuse**

- The Force continues to hold domestic abuse as a priority, as part of its wider approach to Vulnerability. This includes a Force Domestic Abuse action plan and the development of a Vulnerability Delivery Group, which meets routinely to deliver actions and to continue to develop the Force response to Protecting Vulnerable Persons.

- As part of our response to perpetrators of domestic abuse, working with Respect, Women's Aid and Lincolnshire County Council we have extended our Make a Change programme until March 2023 across the county. This will ensure we continue to provide an early response to perpetrators of domestic abuse, keeping survivors and children at the heart of the intervention. The force continues to work with partners on a wider perpetrator strategy, ensuring that we also focus on targeting of repeat and serial offenders and develop our offender management responses.
- Lincolnshire Police and the OPCC both remain key partners of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership – which also prioritises domestic abuse as a community issue for Lincolnshire. The future developments of the DA Bill are being considered and prepared for as it is finalised in the House of Lords currently.
- Operation Encompass was launched, which helps support children experiencing domestic abuse by ensuring we have effective communication in place with schools to help them safeguard and support children. In January 2020 we launched stage one of Operation Encompass and a review is underway to capture its successes and further improvements that can be identified and delivered in 2021.
- During the first few months of Covid-19 a significant amount of social media posts signposted people to DA services. Our aim was to offer as much information as possible to help victims find help, even amid the lockdown.
- Areas we continue to work on are capturing the voice of the child at domestic incidents, improving evidence led prosecutions, considering DA Matters training for 2021/22 and delivering improvements in how we provide the DV Disclosure Scheme to the residents of our community.
- Looking after our employees who may be enduring or perpetrating domestic abuse, the force alongside the OPCC were both awarded 'Everyone's business' accreditation in April 2020.
- We have also been developing domestic abuse weekly and monthly dashboards (performance report) to enable the force to understand domestic abuse risks and issues and improve our service to victims.
- From January 2020, Stalking Protection Orders have been introduced by Lincolnshire Police and so far, five have successfully been applied for.

## **7.2. Night Time Economy**

- The Licencing department continually monitors any incidents of disorder related to the Night Time Economy and investigates any links with a view to increasing the responsibility of licenced premises for any disorder linked to their premises. Regular licencing checks and under age test purchases are carried out. Currently the team are busy reviewing premises

actions to ensure social distancing and commitment to guidelines. Recently, a premise in Lincoln was closed owing to the Licensee not implementing recommended actions.

- A new NTE profile has been created for Lincoln to assist with Operation Pro-Active, where we see a combination of local officers on foot patrol in the City Centre engaging with licensed premises and revelers, as well as dedicated resources to target crime and criminals in the wider night time economy, such as targeting drink drivers. It is now planned to use the same NTE Review methodology to provide a new force profile that provides more detail around our top geographical locations. East will be launching their Coastal NTE plan ahead of the summer season this week and the NTE Force Management Statement has also been submitted.
- Licensing Officers are responsible for the monitoring and recording of all incidents linked to licensed premises. This is achieved by a daily trawl of all the Control and Command Incidents. Once identified linked incidents are placed on relevant premises log on INNKEEPER system. In the past 12 month period this means officers have checked through approximately 195,000 incidents to retrieve those that can be linked to licence premises.
- Licensing Officers offer intervention at existing licenced premises. This intervention can be derived from numerous sources such as local police officers attending incident at premises, member of public reporting concerns, intelligence, and information from partner agency or self-initiated from monitoring of INNKEEPER system. We follow a set policy for all interventions, with the end result always being the effective resolution of any problems being experienced. If this outcome cannot be achieved we then prepare paperwork for a licence review hearing again in front of the relevant licensing sub-committee. The premises can then face a number of possible sanctions including additional conditions added to licence a period of suspension and ultimately possible revocation of the premises licence.
- Recent examples are disorder at licenced premises following easing of lockdown, multiple premises visited across County – new conditions placed on licences to provide tools for better management of venues, one pub in Lincoln had Designated Premises Supervisor removed and ceased trading immediately following disorder on two weekends and intervention by Licensing Team with Brewery.
- Op California was launched on the East Coast and is a plan to target the link between Night Time Economy violence, the use of drugs and people attending Licensed Premises.
- We have developed a series of presentations that we use to highlight specific areas where we have found knowledge gaps and to raise overall awareness of licensing legislation and what areas the team can help with. We have so far given training to all new Police Officer intakes, PCSO's and Special Constables. Police Cadets across the County have also been given awareness sessions.
- The city centre is covered by high quality CCTV which operators proactively monitor during the NTE.

- Operation Advance was a day of multi-agency visits to multiple premises believed under the control of an organised crime group in Boston. We have also completed work targeting two stores at the centre of anti-social behaviour/street drinking offences in Skegness. Licensing team and local officers utilised hand held metal detectors to check all persons entering NTE venues in Lincoln/Grantham over a three week period again working in partnership with the venues promoting the message to zero tolerance to carrying of any type of weapon and further reassurance that NTE is a safe environment for public.
- For August, we are focusing on the coast with the arrival of so many people during the holiday season. With lockdown restrictions eased significantly we are seeing large numbers head back to the coast, and have a communications campaign linked in with partners to outline what we are doing during this busy season. This involves working with the local press, and social media.
- Operation Unlocked plans have been completed across all areas and have identified reasonable assumptions regarding crime and demand and corresponding responses to the incremental easing of restrictions. A key area for focus has been the restart of the NTE, domestic abuse, safeguarding of children and road safety. This has seen significant partnership work with our local council partners and other agencies to minimize the risk in a surge of crime with the end of lockdown.

### **7.3. Drugs and County Lines**

- Lincolnshire Police are working with Public Health and other key stakeholders to action public health led approaches to reduce the risk of substance misuse.
- As part of the governance and partner working principles, the force holds a monthly county lines coordination meeting to problem solve and coordinate future activity.
- As part of a multi-agency approach, Op Vigilance has commenced in Lincoln aiming to safeguard children and encourage County Lines reporting. A further Lincolnshire specific County Lines campaign is being created in conjunction with Crimestoppers and Fearless. The National Referral Mechanism has now been embedded as part of the Multi Agency Child Exploitation meetings and a Lincolnshire officer will be delivering County Lines inputs to every secondary school in the county as a result of collaborative working.
- Operation Deptford has recently been executed in Lincoln City Centre aimed at reducing drugs, ASB and violence in the St. Rumbold's street area. Five warrants were executed resulting in numerous arrests, large quantities of drugs seized as well as the seizure of a number of weapons.
- Op Firebrick was launched in Grantham to target the threat of violence against vulnerable local people by out of County drug dealers, also known as County lines. This has seen a large number of people arrested and convicted for drug supply and weapons offences.

- Targeted action was carried out in Gainsborough against drug dealers in the town. In the main raids, six men were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. Various defendants have appeared at court. While most of these cases remain in the CJ system, there was some notable success last month when two of the defendants pleaded guilty to charges including conspiracy to supply cocaine and conspiracy to supply crack cocaine.
- In September 2020 a new programme on County Lines and knife crime will be rolled out through the Stay Safe programme.
- Liaison with the Accident and Emergency department at Lincoln County Hospital to fully capture and understand any weapon, particularly edged weapon, related injuries. Lincolnshire Police will recognise any professional limitations placed upon medical staff, but will seek to utilise any information to further develop our understanding of offences, offence locations and emerging injury types.
- Research is being carried out relating to knife crime prevention orders with the hope be able to use these for the first time with some offenders in our County
- Operation Raptor was initially launched on the West, and will be rolled out on East, in response to increases in weapon related offences. This operation has demonstrated Lincolnshire Police's determination to keep the public safe by actively seeking to identify and remove weapons from public places. This has been a successful campaign with over 200 arrests and 150 weapons seized on West and seen engagement with schools, other partners and a focus on intelligence driven activity, such as the execution of search warrants and targeted stop and search.

#### **7.4. Working with children and young people**

- Local Police Teams continue to liaise with schools in their local areas to seek to deliver an education package and input to appropriate years to deter and educate regarding the dangers of knife and weapon crime. The primary message is one of preventing and deterring youngsters from becoming involved in weapon crime before it becomes an issue in Lincolnshire and ensuring an awareness of the impact of such crime is recognised.
- Work is ongoing with 'Futures4me' (Formerly known as Positive Futures/Youth Offending Service) with the aim to identify a common theme of community safety type banner. Futures4Me staff have been trained in knife prevention/awareness and deliver a bespoke intervention package to children who get referred to them. The intervention pack usually gets delivered to the child over a course of 6 sessions and covers laws and consequences, case studies, peer pressure and much more.
- Children and young people dealt with for knife related offences have completed the 'Behind the blade' programme offered by Youth Offending through the Joint Diversionary Panel and work is ongoing to support schools around knife crime.

- The Mini Police aged 9-11 covers basic knowledge of gangs and ‘*what is a weapon?*’ Anything from Pencils and rulers to guns and knives, if used in a manner that would cause harm. All PCSO’s deliver this within the Mini Police program.
- There is an ASB workshop run on the Stay safe Days in secondary schools covering Gangs, Weapons and Knives and also how young people can change the statistics. The consequences of grooming and how young people can be used to carry weapons for criminals are also included. It’s designed to get the youths talking about the topics and challenges their perceptions around weapons and knife crime.
- *Operation Sceptre* - Lincolnshire Police united with forces around the country as part of a national drive to tackle knife crime. ‘Knives Ruin Lives’ week of action took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019. The last national op Sceptre week of action was 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March which coincided with lockdown.

## **7.5. Improving Outcomes**

- A Crime Investigations web page has been initiated on the Force Intranet, and is designed to assist all officers and staff in understanding aspects of Crime Investigations, Investigative career pathways and a variety of policies, guidance and hints/tips all contributing to improving performance and getting Justice for Victims.
- The Force has developed the Improving Investigations 2020 (ii20) guide designed to give an investigator a basic framework for successfully investigating violent crime. This guide aims to provide the basic information that will assist in solving the crime and reducing future risk to a victim.
- As part of our commitment to improving victim focus and satisfaction, the Force has launched a new victim strategy “Putting Victims First”. The strategy is aimed at ensuring we put the victim at the heart of everything we do, ensuring our staff investigating any crime or antisocial behaviour commit to a victims promise on how we will engage with them and also sign post them to support services through Victim Lincs. Creating a brand for the strategy, utilising a survivors story to understand the perspective of a victim, ensuring key messages from Chief Officers and developing victim leaflets and revising internal processes for how information can be shared both physically and electronically for English and foreign nationals, has seen a targeted launch throughout July and into August 2020. Underpinning all of this and ensuring continued improvements a Force Putting Victims First Delivery Group has been established.
- Recent scrutiny has been carried out over our use of a crime closure code that details a suspect has been identified by a victim but the victim does not wish for any further action to be taken against them (known as outcome 16). Taking a victim focussed approach it is important that any victim has a voice with regards any investigation they are involved in, but there is also an overarching need for the police to ensure we are safeguarding victims and the wider public and that we work to break any offending cycle. It has been recognised that

this outcome code has been used more freely over recent months with the concern being if this is being appropriately applied to investigations and whether through being guided by victims we may be missing opportunities to properly safeguard them and the wider public. Key stakeholders from the Force investigation and performance teams have been meeting to scrutinise this outcome code and the processes in place with a view to introducing more scrutiny for each case moving forwards. A statistical review is being completed to fully inform this process and the demand, following which there will be a change in processes to ensure full consideration is given to any such investigation prior to any finalisation.

- Lincolnshire Police continues to encourage referrals to Restorative Justice, with 24 referrals made for cases of Violence. 7 cases are currently ongoing and 4 cases have been completed.
- As well as information readily available on the force intranet we complete one to one sessions with officers throughout the county to ensure they understand the RJ referral process and benefits to victims. We train new officers, PCSOs and specials and are moving to an online presence in the training for new Sergeants and Inspectors. Each year we undertake a week's activities in November, International Restorative Justice Week, which is highlighted through the intranet as well as local press. We have recently completed a refresh of our intranet pages with a video from an Inspector who shares his story about meeting a sexual violence victim who has been through the restorative justice process. In this video the Inspector is candid about his previous misunderstanding not only of the RJ process but also the benefits to all victims. His overwhelming message is the only person who can make a decision about accessing RJ is the victim themselves; officers should not make decisions on victim behalves.