

Police and Crime Strategic Board

Date: 17th June 2021

Chief Constable's Report



1. Performance by exception

1.1 Op Talla – Response to COVID-19

- 1.1.1 Lincolnshire police remain in a strong position in relation to the COVID pandemic, with virtually all of our staff having been vaccinated at least once, and force-wide access to lateral flow testing. The flow testing means we can be proactive in preventing infections within the workplace, and the vaccine helps to block some transmission as well as preventing serious illness.
- 1.1.2 We continue to have very low abstraction rates through COVID (single figures), and there has also been a significant drop in calls for service relating to breaches of the legislation, even at the weekends.
- 1.1.3 The next stage in the unlock plan is scheduled to occur on the 21st June, with the aim of releasing all remaining measures, however due to the current Delta variant of the virus, it is uncertain whether this will occur in full or whether some restrictions will remain in place. At the time of writing therefore we do not yet know whether the guidance will change in relation to the requirement for face coverings, isolation when symptomatic, or whether all travel restrictions will also cease. This will be published as soon as we know.
- 1.1.4 The Covid survey clearly highlighted that of those infected with the virus, many are still facing an uphill struggle with regards to recovery, especially where long Covid has occurred. Op Talla have set up a number of support forums for all staff affected, as well as additional forums for line managers to better understand how to support staff.
- 1.1.5 Due to the sustained low level of infections, and the lack of demand for service from the public, the decision was taken to disband Op Talla, and the welfare team will also be disbanded as of the 14th June.

1.2 Violence

- 1.2.1 Tragically, Lincolnshire recently saw three lives lost from suspected and persons charged with the offences of murder, with both incidents happening within a week of each other in Lincoln and then Louth. The impact upon the family, friends and community is understandably great and in such circumstance it is difficult to reassure the community that such offences do remain rare and Lincolnshire remains a safe place to live. It will hopefully have provided the families and community with some reassurance that a number of people have been charged with these offences and local officers continue to work hard in those communities impacted by such terrible events.

- 1.2.2 With Covid restrictions still due to end next week, which will see the return of the full Night Time Economy, all departments and areas have finalised their plans and resources to minimise the potential impact of alcohol fueled crime and disorder; these plans include foot patrols within our Town Centres, increased mobile patrols across our rural areas and roads, as well as increased investigative capacity. To achieve this our officers will be working 12 hour shifts and a number of teams have seen their rest days cancelled. Officers have demonstrated the upmost flexibility, professionalism and dedication to duty and the people of Lincolnshire.

2. Strategic Delivery

2.1 Strategy Development

- 2.1.1 Chief Constable Haward's vision & strategy commenced on 1st April to ensure we '*Work together to make Lincolnshire the safest place to live, work and visit*' with 3 clear goals to '*Stop Crime and ASB*', '*Protect from harm*' and '*Help those in need*'. These are supported by five stands: People, Partners, Communities, Culture and Capability.
- 2.1.2 On 8th June the Head of Strategic Development held a performance management workshop with senior leaders and front line officers to collectively establish the principles of performance management, what success against the vision looks like and how we start to shape the performance framework which underpins the 3 main strategic priorities. The output from the day will be developed further and start to be monitored through the governance structure.

3. National & Regional

3.1 Criminal Justice

- 3.1.1 In our Magistrate Courts the number of crime cases pending continues to fall with regular reviews of trial availability. There is a planned trial blitz in October with an additional District Judge. The routine traffic process remains a challenge due to the volume of offences from the temporary restrictions at the A1 roadworks but there is extra court space to accommodate this.
- 3.1.2 Reducing the number of crown court pending trials remains a challenge and the region are providing more court space out of county to assist with hearings and reducing the number of Lincolnshire cases. It is not possible to influence the work of the Crown Court in the same way as the Magistrates due to the nature and position of trials. Trials are regularly prioritised particularly those where lives are lost or victims are particularly vulnerable which causes change and delay to other cases.
- 3.1.3 These changes and delays increase anxiety for victims and witnesses and may impact on their willingness to continue to support a prosecution. The Witness Care Unit continues to support victims and witnesses by providing contact and guidance.

4. Good news and Other Points of Interest

4.1 Successful investigations into historical sexual abuse

- 4.1.1 On 3rd June, William Clapham, an 85-year-old from Stamford, who raped and sexually abused girls over seven decades from the 1950s to 2013, was sentenced to 15 years and two months in prison meaning, in all probability, he will never again be a free man. He was also given an extended licence period of two years and placed on the sex offenders' register for life.
- 4.1.2 Graham Partridge, a 63-year-old man from Boston, has been charged with nine counts of historical sex offences against five different women and girls dating back from 1993 to 2017. He was arrested in July last year, and a thorough investigation over the past 11 months led to him being charged on 3rd June. He has been released on police bail with conditions not to have contact with the victims, no unsupervised access to any person under the age of 18, and not to leave the country and to surrender his passport. He is due to appear at Lincoln Magistrates Court on 7th July 2021.

4.2 Rural Crime

Hare coursing

- 4.2.1 Lincs has the National Policing Lead for Hare Coursing, and our long-term work has focussed on Legislation change, which is starting to make real progress – On 12th May the Government announced the Animal Welfare Action Plan, which includes “*introducing new laws to crack down on illegal hare coursing*”. This is a direct result of the work we have been involved in with partners for the past 2 years, and a key step forward.
- 4.2.2 On 17th June we join a roundtable meeting with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) colleagues, chaired by Rebecca Pow MP (Under-Secretary DEFRA) to progress Legislation changes linked to Hare Coursing.
- 4.2.3 On 19th July we are hosting a meeting of the 20 Operation Galileo forces at Grantham to coordinate action against the key offenders across the country for the 2021/22 Season.

Rural Community Safety Plan

- 4.2.4 The force Rural Community Safety Plan has been agreed by Partners and signed-off by Chief Officers and we are now drawing together delivery plans against each of the objectives. We will measure success through:

Stop Crime and Criminals

- Target Offenders causing greatest harm to our Rural Communities – Reduce Op Galileo incidents
- Reduced Theft of plant and farm equipment
- Reduced Arson offences

Protect our Heritage, Wildlife and Environment

- Reduced Heritage Crime and specifically theft of metal
- Reduced Wildlife Crime
- Reduced Fly Tipping

Help those in Need

- Reduced repeat victims of Domestic Abuse and increase perpetrators brought to justice

A copy of the plan can be found here [rural-community-safety-plan-2021-23.pdf \(lincs.police.uk\)](https://lincs.police.uk/rural-community-safety-plan-2021-23.pdf)

4.3 Successful Safer Streets Funding Bid for Ingoldmells

4.3.1 Lincolnshire has been successful in being awarded £245,000 from the latest government Safer Streets funding, with a primary focus on improving safety for women and girls, following the murder of Sarah Everard.

4.3.2 A joint application by the Police and Crime Commissioner Marc Jones, Lincolnshire Police and East Lindsey District Council secured the money for new safety measures including CCTV, lighting and a crime prevention app. The funding will also pay for a full review of routes and pathways to see where additional measures such as security fencing, improved lighting or other physical design features could improve public safety.

4.4 Road Safety

4.4.1 Since the release of Lockdown we have seen a return of traffic to pre-lockdown levels and subsequently we have also sadly seen a number of fatal collisions on our roads. We continue to work closely with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) in the areas of enforcement and prevention. The Force ran a campaign around speeding in April, which achieved good engagement with the public and there have been increased patrols on our roads including the use of Police motorcyclists in response to the increase in traffic. There has also been the national seat belt campaign which we have participated in and had the use of the Highways HGV for Operation Tramline that focuses on capturing offenders using their mobile phones on the A1.

5. Forward Look

5.1 Horizons Programme - Officer Uplift

5.1.1 Recruitment continues in order to increase our officer numbers as part of the National uplift programme. The latest recruitment window opened on the 27th May 2021 with a focus on attracting applications from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, those who have English as a second language, those who are already residents on the east coastal areas and from female applicants.

Two cohorts of 30 student officers will commence their training in September and October respectively, with a further 60 students starting in March 2022 as planned.

5.2 Horizons Programme – Operating Model

5.2.1 The force has agreed where it will prioritise the additional posts achieved from the national uplift, there will be an increase to our frontline Response teams which will be phased over the next 12 to 18 months providing additional support to local policing, creating capability for more pro-active policing and provide greater resilience to support our existing frontline officers.

- 5.2.2 Additional growth will be seen in local Neighbourhood policing teams and we will be increasing our capability to protect our communities with the creation of a Rural Crime Action team, a new multi-disciplinary team to providing problem solving, proactive capability and investigative support to tackle and reduce community and rural crime. The team will be linked to and support our existing Neighbourhood Teams and provide a greater and more flexible capability to support local problems, with capacity to investigate the wider criminality of travelling criminals as well as providing reassurance and confidence to our rural communities.
- 5.2.3 We will re-establish a dedicated Roads Policing Team who will provide pro-active capacity to help reduce fatal/seriously injured incidents, deter criminal use of the roads and support local policing response. With over 50 deaths and 360 serious injuries on our roads each year this is an area of priority.
- 5.2.4 In addition we will be increasing officer numbers to tackle Digital and On-line crime, with more officers joining our Digital Forensic Unit where we have seen an inexorable rise in the demand placed upon policing by the advance in digital technology and finally, growth in the team who dedicate themselves to the investigation of offences occurring online which involve the abuse of children which is an ever increasing high risk area of policing.

5.3 Future Services Programme

- 5.3.1 The Future Services Programme was initiated following the decision in 2020 not to extend the Service Delivery Agreement with G4S. The key outcome for the Programme is *“to ensure a positive and smooth transition from the Strategic Partnership with G4S to a new, sustainable operating model for Lincolnshire Police”*
- 5.3.2 The Programme board have recognised the opportunity presented by the completion of the Service Delivery Agreement, and therefore the scope of the programme extends beyond the transfer of services currently operated by G4S and the vision for the programme is to achieve the following:
- Creation of a unified 'one family' culture within the organisation, partners and community, supported by improvements to morale and performance for all aspects of wellbeing.
 - Improved performance against performance requirements, achieving 'outstanding' quality of service, within the provision of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
 - The support of improved operational capability, capacity and outcomes
 - The capability to anticipate and effectively respond to dynamic policing challenges and mandated requirements.
- 5.3.3 The programme scope includes a total of sixteen service areas that are currently provided by G4S. Decisions in principle have been made to insource these service areas apart from some that require further exploration for options for delivery e.g. insourcing, collaboration or outsourcing.
- 5.3.4 The Programme will ensure that options are developed for each service area, and that this is aligned to an overarching plan for future organisation design & development. The initial activity for the programme will focus on the most time critical activity that is aligned to the termination of the Service Delivery Agreement.
- 5.3.5 The welfare and wellbeing of all staff will be carefully managed throughout this period of change and the programme team are working closely with G4S and Unison in this area.